

When the English tongue we speak (version A)

Lord Cromer 1902

When the English tongue we speak
Why is break not rhymed with weak?
Won't you tell me why it's true
We say sew, but also few?
And the maker of a verse
Cannot rhyme his horse with worse?
Beard is not the same as heard,
Cord is different from word,
Cow is cow, low is low,
Shoe is never rhymed with foe.
Think of hose and dose and lose,
And think of goose and yet of choose,
Think of comb and tomb and bomb,
Doll and roll and home and some.
And since pay is rhymed with say,
Why not paid with said I pray?
Think of blood and food and good;
Mould is not pronounced like could.
Why is done, but gone and lone -
Is there any reason known?
To sum it up, it seems to me
That sounds and letters don't agree.

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Why is **break** not rhymed with **weak**?
Won't you tell me why it's **true**
We say **sew**, but also **few**?
And the maker of a **verse**
Cannot rhyme his **horse** with **worse**?
Beard is not the same as **heard**,
Cord is different from **word**,
Cow is **cow**, **low** is **low**,
Shoe is never rhymed with **foe**.
Think of **hose** and **dose** and **lose**,
And think of **goose** and yet of **choose**,
Think of **comb** and **tomb** and **bomb**,
Doll and **roll** and **home** and **some**.
And since **pay** is rhymed with **say**,
Why not **paid** with **said** I **pray**?
Think of **blood** and **food** and **good**;
Mould is not pronounced like **could**.
Why is **done**, but **gone** and **lone** -
Is there any reason known?
To sum it up, it seems to me
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