

**Page 4**

- 1- Twin Rivers, P 157
- 2- Twin Rivers, P 158
- 3- Empire of the Arabs, p 246
- 4- History of the Arabs, P 419

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- 1- Empire of the Arabs, P 257
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- 4- History of the Arabs, P 293
- 5- Empire of the Arabs, P 244

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- 1- London Museum guide book, London, U. K.
- 2- Empire of the Arabs, P 257

## Notes About Essay Two

A story of an Arab Caliph : al-Mansur (754-775)

### Page 1

- 1—Philip Hitti, History of the Arabs, Macmillan St. Martin's press, 1937 p 317
- 2—Seton Lloyd, Twin Rivers, Oxford University press, London 1961, p 155
- 3—Sir John Glubb, the Empire of the Arabs, Hodder and Stoughton, London 1963 p 259
- 4—Stephen Hemsly & Longrigg & Frank Stoakes, Iraq, Ernest Benn Ltd, London 1958, p 61
- 5—Twin Rivers, p 155
- 6—Empire of the Arabs, p 258

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- 1—History of the Arabs p 307
- 2—Ed. Bernard Lewis Islam and the Arab World, Alfred A Knoph
- 3—History of the Arabs p 311

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- 1—Empire of the Arabs, p 258
- 2—History of the Arabs, p 309
- 3—Iraq, p 61
- 4—History of the Arabs, p 291
- 5—History of the Arabs, P 337
- 6—Empire of the Arabs, p 258

### **Notes About Essay One**

#### **A Story of an Arab Caliph: Abu al- Abbas (749-754)**

##### **Page 1**

- 1- Philip Hitti, History of the Arabs, Macmillan St. Martin's press, 1937,
- 2 - Sir John Glubb, the Empire of the Arabs, Hodder and Stoughton, London 1963 . p 176

##### **Page 2**

- 1- Empire of the Arabs, P 176
- 2- History of the Arabs, p 285
- 3- History of the Arabs, p 285
- 4- History of the Arabs, p 285

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- 1- History of the Arabs, p 286
- 2- Seton Lloyd, Twin Rivers, Oxford University press, London 1961, p 157
- 3- Empire of the Arabs, p 228
- 4- History of the Arabs, p 288
- 5- Empire of the Arabs, p 233
- 6- Empire of the Arabs, p 228
- 7- History of the Arabs, P 288
- 8- Twin Rivers, p 155
- 9- Empire of the Arabs, p 227

	Com.		Eq.		Pos.	
	Sequential	Non-sequential	Sequential	Non-sequential	Sequential	Non-sequential
Proper Nouns	571	14	66	2	44	11
Elsewhere	1568	75	138	14	59	78
Category Total	2139	89	204	16	103	89
Total Number	2640					

(7). See footnote 2.

### III. CONCLUSION AND FINAL REMARKS ON THE APPLICABILITY OF RULES

#### 3.1 Remarks:

After setting down the five rules, the following remarks can be made:

- a. The rule hypothesised does not apply to words ending with *er* and inflected by *s*, e.g., *sister* /sistə/: *sisters* /sistəz/, though having the sequence V + r + C.
- b. When a compound word, consisting of two free morphemes, the occurrence of /ə:/ across such two morphemes is not possible. Yet it is possible for this sound to occur in one or both of them, e.g., *year-book* /jə:buk/.
- c. No instances of the sequence *eart* has been found to form /ə:/ except in *Kearston* as an equivalent to the common: /kiətn/ and /kə:tn/, (7).
- d. Instances of a + r + consonant have not been found to form /ə:/, thus breaking the general rule and having usually /a:/ instead e.g., *hard* /ha:d/, *garden* /ga:dn/.

#### 3.2 Conclusion:

The rule hypothesised, i.e., V + r + C showed that 2446 out of 2640 cases conform to it. This means that orthography is 92 43/66 % dependable in determining rules for the occurrence of /ə:/. The following table shows how frequent /ə:/ occurs sequentially and non-sequentially in proper nouns and elsewhere in the EPD.

## 2.2 Non-sequential Cases:

With regard to this type, only 194 instances have been found; 88 instances have *er(r)* (*e*), *ir(r)*, *ur(r)*, (*e*)(*a*), *ear*, *are* word finally, e.g.,

*her* /hə:/

*were* /wə:/

*whir* /wə:/

*compare* /kəmpɛə/ or /kən'fə:/ (possible)

*burr* /bə:/

*slur* /slə:/

*year* /jə:/

Thirteen instances contain the letter *y*, (6) e.g.,

*myrrh* /mə:/

*Byrd* /bɜ:d/

*Kyrle* /kɜ:l/

*myrmidon* /mə:mɪdən/

*Byrne* /bɜ:n/

*myrtle* /mə:tl/

*syrtis* /sɜ:tɪs/

The remaining 95 instances are mainly borrowings from French, e.g.,

*Greuze* /grə:s/

*colonel* /kə:nl/

*coiffeur* /kwa:fə:/

*masseuse* /mæ'sə:z/

*Loeb* /lə:b/

*fauteuil* /fəutə:i/

- 
- (6) *The letter y may behave like a vowel and form the following sequences:*  
*yrd, yrg, yrl, yrm, yrn, yrs, yrt, having /ə:/ in four instances in proper nouns and other nine elsewhere.*

# Rule V

	b	11			31	1	2	45
	c	14			21			35
	d	13	1	1	19			34
	f	2			14			16
	g	25			56	3	1	85
	k	8		1	7			16
	l	9			24			33
u+r+	m	5			11	3	1	20
	n	37	6	1	64		3	111
	p	1			19	1		21
	s	21	1		45		2	69
	t	15	1	1	31			48
	v	1			20	2		23
	w	2						2
	z	1			2			3

Category Total No.	165	9	4	364	10	9
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Final Total No.	561
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# Rule IV

	In Proper Nouns			Elsewhere			Rule
	com.	eq.	pos.	com.	eq.	pos.	Total Number
o+r+	c	1					1
	d	3		17			20
	k	6		60			66
	l			8			8
	m	1	1	13			15
	n			2			2
	s	5		9			14
	t	48	20	2	17	1	88
<hr/>							
Category Total No.	64	20	3	126	1		
<hr/>							
Final Total No.				214			

# Rule III

	b	3			3
	c	6	1	44	51
	d	4		27	31
	g	7	1	5	13
	j	1			1
	k	18		6	24
	l	3		12	15
i+r+	m	1		15	16
	n	1		1	2
	p			3	3
	q			1	1
	s	2		15	17
	t	4		38	42
	v	2			2
	w	1			1
	z	2			2
<hr/>					
Category Total No.	55	1	1	167	
<hr/>					
Final Total No.				224	
<hr/>					

# Rule II

		In Proper Nouns			Elsewhere			Rule
		com.	eq.	pos.	com.	eq.	pos.	Total
								Number
ea + r +	c				7			7
	d	2			4			6
	g	1						1
	l	2			12			14
	m	3			1			4
	n	6			8			14
	p	1						1
	s	3		1	4			8
	t(5)		1		18			19
Category Total No.		18	1	1	54			
Final Total No.					74			

- (5) The only example found is *Kearton* which is either pronounced /kiətn/ or /kə:tn/. Other 18 instances have the sequence ea+r+ th; *hearth* is an exception.

# Rule I

	In Proper Nouns			Elsewhere			Rule Total Number
	com.	eq.	pos.	com.	eq.	pos.	
b	10	2	2	43	8		65
c	18	2	2	95	27	12	156
d	12		7	27	8	1	55
f	1			28	2	3	34
g	29		3	37	1	3	73
j				6	3		9
k	8		3	8	2		21
l	13	4	2	16	12		47
e + r + m	27	4	2	137	13	9	192
n	49	8	2	80	12	3	154
p	6			33	7	3	49
q				1			1
s	30	3	2	123	10	9	177
t	48	8	7	129	10		202
v	9	3	1	90	11	5	119
w	5	1	1	1	1		9
x	2						2
z	2		1	3		2	8
Category Total No.	269	35	35	857	127	50	
Final Total No.	1373						

Secondly, each of the three classes was classified into:

- a. Sequential (following the hypothesis) or
- b. Non-sequential (not following the hypothesis).

Thirdly, each of the two types was classified into /ə:/ occurring in:

- a. Proper nouns,
- b. Elsewhere.

## II. RULES AND FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE

### 2.1 Sequential Cases:

It has been found out that 2446 out of 2640 instances conform to the rule hypothesised. These sequential cases may be put into the following five rules:

where the *r* is dropped and the vowel made into /ə:/, (3) e.g.,

*bird* /bə:d/

*curtain* /kə:tn/

*herb* /hə:b/

*world* /wə:ld/

#### 1.4 Objectives of This Study:

The aim of this paper is twofold:

- a. To find out the number of occurrences of /ə:/ in RP depending on the lexical items presented in isolation in the EPD.
- b. To find out how far orthography is dependable in setting down rules for all /ə:/ occurrences.

#### 1.5 Method of Work:

This article presents a synchronic study showing rules determining the occurrence of /ə:/ orthographically. It only secured the corpus of data analysed here from the EPD. Thus, all the utterances that contained /ə:/ were examined and classified into:

- a. Common pronunciation (com.)—which is the first transcription given by Jones, e.g., *firm* /fə:m/.
- b. Equivalent pronunciation (eq.)—which is an equal variant to the common one where (ə) or (ə:) is heard, e.g., *survive* /sə(:)vaiv/, (4)
- c. Possible pronunciation (pos.)—means that (ə:) is one of other less common alternatives (always enclosed by square brackets), e.g., *perspective* /pə 'spektiv/ [pə:' s—].

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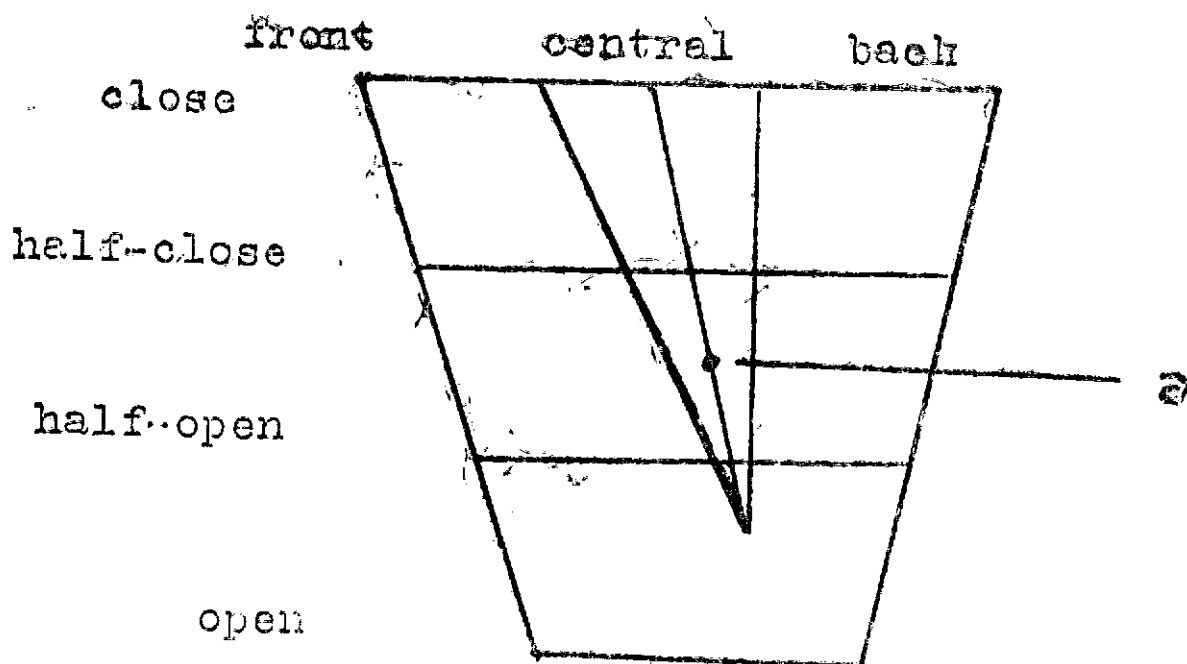
(3) *Stress placement and number of syllables have not been taken into consideration.*

(4) *One exception to this is Kearton /kiətn/ or /kə:tn/ where /ə:/ does not alternate with /ə/.*

Jones' *English Pronouncing Dictionary* (EPD)—13th edition, revised by A.C. Gimson, and examine all the words that have /ə:/ to formulate any rule(s) possible to govern the pronunciation of this sound.

### 1.2 /ə:/ Described and Diagrammed:

It is a mid, central, long, unrounded vowel. In terms of tongue position, /ə:/ "is articulated with the centre of the tongue raised between half-close and half-open, no firm contact being made between the tongue and the upper molars; the lips are neutrally spread," (2)



Approximate tongue-position of /ə:/

### 1.3 Basic Hypothesis:

Before undertaking this study, I presupposed, while teaching phonetics to first-year students, English Section-College of Education in the University of Mosul, that /ə:/ is to a large extent pronounced in RP whenever there is a sequence of:

Vowel + r + Consonant

- 
- (1) Also symbolised /ɜ:/ by A.C. Gimson, *An Introduction to the Pronunciation of English*, 2nd Ed., Edward Arnold, London 1970, P. 119.
  - (2) *Ibid.*, P. 122.

# RULES DETERMINING THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ENGLISH/ə:/ORTHOGRAPHICALLY

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June, 1977

## ABSTRACT

A frequency count was made of all the occurrences of /ə:/ in Daniel Jones' English Pronouncing Dictionary (EPD) and it was found that the distribution of this sound is governed by a set of rules that can be deduced from the English orthography.

2446 cases conformed to the rule hypothesised, i.e., V + r + C, and were put into five rules, whereas 194 instances did not conform to the hypothesis and were treated as exceptions or nonsequential.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Problem:

One of the difficulties of the English sound system encountered by Arabic-speaking learners is its vowels, namely those which have no counterparts in their native language. One of these vowels is the so-called "schwa long", phonemically symbolised /ə:/.(1) And since /ə:/ has no equivalent in Arabic, it has been observed that Arab learners of English tend to substitute the Arabic /i/, and sometimes /e:/, for it. For example, *purpose* /pə:pəs/ and *Verdict*/və: dikt/ or *Abercrombie* /æbə:krʌmbi/ are pronounced /pirpis/, /ve: rdikt/ and /æbe: rkrɔ: mbi/, respectively.

Bearing in mind the difficulty that the Arab learner of English encounters in producing the RP /ə:/, I felt a need to go through Daniel