

I take it you already know
 Of *tough* and *bough* and *cough* and *dough*?
 Others may stumble, but not you,
 On *hiccough*, *thorough*, *lough* and *through*?
 Well done! And now you wish, perhaps
 To learn of less familiar traps?
 Beware of *heard*, a dreadful word
 That looks like *beard* and sounds like *bird*,
 And *dead*: it's said like *bed*, not *bead* –
 For goodness' sake, don't call it *deed*!
 Watch out for *meat* and *great* and *threat*
 (They rhyme with *suite* and *straight* and *debt*).
 A *moth* is not a moth in *mother*,
 Nor *both* in *bother*, *broth* in *brother*,
 And *here* is not a match for *there*,
 Nor *dear* and *fear* for *bear* and *pear*.
 And then there's *dose* and *rose* and *lose* –
 Just look them up – and *goose* and *choose*,
 And *cork* and *work*, and *card* and *ward*,
 And *font* and *front*, and *word* and *sword*
 And *do* and *go*, and *thwart* and *cart* –
 Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
 A dreadful language? Man alive!
 I'd mastered it when I was five!

tough	zäh
bough	Ast
cough	husten
dough	Teig
hiccough	Schluckauf
thorough	gründlich
lough	der See (in Ireland. Otherwise 'Loch')
bead	Perle
deed	Tat, Urkunde
great	groß, großartig
threat	Bedrohung, Gefahr
suite	Garnitur, Suite
straight	gerade
debt	Schulden
broth	Brühe
dose	dosieren
choose	(aus)wählen
ward	(Kranken)station, Stadtbezirk, Schutzbefohlene(r)
font	Taufstein, Schriftsatz, Quelle
thwart	etwas entgegenwirken, jemdm. in die Quere kommen
cart	Karre