

Correspondence

From Mr K. Tillema, Ontario, Canada:

Editor

Our present socially acceptable spelling is unteachable, mind-stunting, handicapping and deceiving. It stifles common-sense, blocks reading, represses literacy, promotes delinquency, and squanders energy. It impedes typing, obstructs *alfabetic* voice printing, causes mispronunciation and retards learning.

The 40 sounds in English have more than 500 different spellings. Each vowel sound has an average of 18 different spellings. English spelling is malignant, lawless, erratic, mal-evolved, pseudo-historical, antiquated and time-wasting. You *ar* invited to join the efforts to revise the current conventional spelling with sound spelling.

From Mr Rex Reynolds, Gonubie:

I did not greatly enjoy the television programme 'The Dingleys', but I found it a little unreasonable that the critic of our local newspaper should condemn the characterization as 'simplistic'.

The politicians and journalists who are seeking to bring this pretentious word into vogue seem to imagine that it is a smart substitute for simple, naive or unsophisticated, though it seems to have no advantages over them and, if anything, tends to blur the useful shade of difference in meaning between them.

If 'simplistic' serves any useful purpose, it is as a missile word intended to mean 'not as clever as I am'.

In fact it means, or used to mean (for OED describes it as now rare), 'pertaining to herbs or simples' — and what could be more appropriate to the Dingleys?