Basic English Becomes World Politics

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advertisement, have less covering power. These have a place in Basic because it would be hard, if not impossible, to do without them. Ogden's great and surprising discovery was the fact that English may be clearly, smoothly and expertly used with a very small number of those names of acts and operations listed in schoolbooks as "verbs." In the normal talk of most persons of education, about 4000 common ones come into play. To take the place of these 4000, Basic has 18 whose power to do the work of all the others seems past belief till one goes into their range of sense expansion in detail. These 18 are: come, get, give, go, keep, let, mako, put, seem, take, be, do, have, say, see, send, may and will.

When these elastic little servants are used, separately or joined in word structures like give up, put off, get over, they say everything normally covered by more complex, Latin-rooted ornaments of the language. There is no exchange of common knowledge, news, or everyday union which may not be made

Latin-rooted ornaments of the language. There is no exchange of common knowledge, news, or everyday opinion which may not be made clear with Basic's 850 words. And quality of writing is not over-greatly damaged by its narrow limits. The reading of it may give no more trouble than the reading of these last three paragraphs which—up to the word paragraphs—have been written in Basic English.

With the single exception of Chinese, Eng-lish is the only major language from which a basic clixir can thus be distilled. Professor

Richards (now at Harvard, and Basic's most active exponent in the U.S.), estimates that at least 2000 words would be required to create any kind of a useful basic French or Spanish. Tortuously inflected languages like German and Japanese would demand even more. The reasons why English—richest, most intellectual, and perhaps most delicate of all languages—contains this inner voice, rest in the history of the British Isles.

"Seldom Awkward, Often Eloquent"

Although the chief claim made for Basic is that it would enable people all, over the world to communicate with one another in a relatively-rich and easily-acquired medium, enthusiastic advocates say that it need never be awkward and can often be eloquent. The fundamental rule, they say, is that bad English is bad Basic, good English good Basic. And to show what the possibilities are in eloquence and dignity, Life gives the Basic version of Lincoln's address at Gettysburg, which we reprint elsewhere, along with the original, for purposes of comparison.

There is, in fact, a library of Basic works by Shaw, Stevenson, Swift and Tolstoy; at least one play by Shakespeare; and best known of all, a Basic New Testament. Here is the Lord's Prayer in Basic (from St. Matthew):

Cayer in Basic (from St. Matthew):
Our Fether in heaven, may your name be kept holy. Let your kingdom come. Let your pleasure be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us this day bread for our needs. And make us free of our debts, as we have made those free who are in debt to us. And let us not be put to the test, but keep us sale from the Evil One.

Arguments Against

So much for the advocates. Let us now return to the New Statesman for some irreverence:

some irreverence:

With one half of the claim put forward for Basic English we are in complete agreement. It is a very easy language for a foreigner to learn. Two weeks of hard work, as its inventor, Mr. Ogden, reckons, might suffice. The pupil's pronunciation might leave something to be desired. He might be tempted to translate the idioms of his mother-tongue into it, with disconcerting effects. But a quick-witted Englishman, let us say Mr. Churchill, landing, for instance, at Syracuse, would understand the first Sicilian who brought him fruit and wine with a careful little address in Basic English. Here is a good beginning. But we are not so sure that the Sicilian would understand Mr. Churchill with equal ease. All

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OPERATIONS,	THINGS				1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		QUALITIES	
100 ETC.	400 GENERAL			200 PICTURABLE		100 GENERAL	50 OPPOSITES	
COME GET GIVE	ACCOUNT ACT	EDUCATION EFFECT	METAL MIDDLE	SENSE SERVANT	ANGLE ANT Apple	KNEE	ABLE ACID	AWAKE BAD
GO KEEP	ADDITION ADJUSTMENT	END ERROR	MILK MIND MINE	SEX SHADE	ARCH	KNOT LEAF	ANGRY AUTOMATIC	BENT BITTER
LET Make	ADVERTISEMENT AGREEMENT	EVENT EXAMPLE EXCHANGE	MINUTE MIST	SHAKË SHAME SHOCK	ARM ARMY BABY	LEG Library Line	BEAUTIFUL BLACK BOILING	BLUE CERTAIN COLD
PUT SEEM	AMOUNT AMUSEMENT	EXISTENCE EXPANSION	MONEY MONTH	SIDE SIGN	BAG	LIP	BRIGHT	COMPLETE CRUEL
TAKE BE DO	ANIMAI	EXPERIENCE EXPERT	MORNING MOTHER	SILK SILVER	BALL BAND BASIN	MAP MATCH	BROKEN BROWN CHEAP	DARK DEAD
HAVE SAY	ANSWER APPARATUS APPROVAL	FACT FALL	MOTION MOUNTAIN	SISTER Size	BASKET BATH BED	MONKEY MOON	CHEMICAL CHIEF	DEAR DELICATE
SÉE SENO	ARGUMENT ART ATTACK	FAMILY FATHER FEAR FEELING	MOVE MUSIC NAME	SKY Sleep Slip	BEE	MOUTH MUSCLE	CLEAN CLEAR	DIFFERENT
MAY WILL	ATTEMPT ATTENTION	FEELING FICTION	NATION NEED	SLOPE SMASH	BELL BERRY BIRD	NAIL NECK NEEDLE	COMMON COMPLEX CONSCIOUS	DRY FALSE FEEGLE
ABOUT ACROSS	ATTRACTION	FIELD FIGHT	NEWS NIGHT	SMELL Smile	BLADE	NERVE NET	CUT	FEMALE FOOLISH
AFTER AGAINST	BACK BALANCE	FIRE FLAME	NOISE NOTE	SMOKE SNEEZ e	BOARD BOAT BONE	NOSE NUT	DEPENDENT EARLY	FUTURE GREEN
AMONG AT	BASE BEHAVIOUR	FLIGHT FLOWER	NUMBER OBSERVATION	SNOW	BOOK	OFFICE ORANGE	ELASTIC ELECTRIC	LAST
BEFORE BETWEEN	BELIÉF BIRTH BIT	FOLD FOOD FORCE	OFFER OIL OPERATION	SOCIETY SON	BOTTLE BOX BOY	OVEN PARCEL PEN	EQUAL FAT FERTILE	LATE LEFT
DOWN EROM	BITE	FORM FRIEND	OPINION	SONG SORT SOUND	BRAIN BRAKÉ	PENCIL PICTURE	FERTICE FIRST FIXED	LOOSE LOUD
FROM IN OFF -	BLOW BODY	FRONT	ORGANIZATION ORNAMENT	SOUP SPACE STAGE	BRANCH BRICK	PIG PIN	FLAT FREE	MIXED NARROW
ON OVER	BRASS BREAD	GLASS GOLD	OWNER PAGE	START	BRIDGE BRUSH	PIPE PLANE	FREQUENT	OLD OPPOSITE
THROUGH TO	BREATH BROTHER	GOVERNMENT GRAIN	PAIN PAINT	STATEMENT	BUCKET BULB	PLATE PLOUGH	GENERAL GOOD	PUBLIC ROUGH
UNDER UP	BUILDING BURN BURST	GRASS GRIP GROUP	PAPER Part Paste _	STEEL STEP	BUTTON CAKE CAMERA	POCKET POT POTATO	GRÉAT GRÉY HANGING	SAD SAFE
WITH AS FOR	BUS:NESS BUTTER	GROWTH GUIDE	PAYMENT PEACE	STITCH STONE STOP	CARD	PRISON	HAPPY HARD	SECRET SHORT SHUT
OF TILL	CANVAS CARE	HARBOUR HARMONY	PERSON	STORY STRETCH	CARRIAGE	RAIL	HEALTHY	SIMPLE SLOW
THAN	CAUSE CHALK	HATE HEARING	PLACE PLANT PLAY	STRUCTURE Substance	CHAIN CHEESE	RECEIPT RING	HOLLOW IMPORTANT	SMALL SOFT
THE ALL	CHANGE CHANGE	HEAT	PLEASURE Point	SUGAR SUGGESTION	CHEST	ROD ROOF	KIND LIKE	SOLID SPECIAL
ANY EVERY	CLOTH COAL COLOUR	HISTORY HOLE HOPE	POISON POLISH	SUMMER SUPPORT SUPPRISE	CHURCH CIRCLE CLOCK	ROOT SAIL SCHOOL	LIVING LONG MALE	STRANGE Thin
NO OTHER SOME	COMPORT COMMITTEE	HOUR HUMOUR	PORTER POSITION POWDER	SWIM SYSTEM	COAT	SCISSORS SCREW	MARRIED MATERIAL	WHITE WRONG
SUCH THAT	COMPANY COMPANISON	ICE IDEA	POWER	TALK TASTE	COLLAR COMB	SEED SHEEP	MEDICAL	
THIS	COMPETITION	IMPULSE INCREASE	PRINT PROCESS	TAX TEACHING TENDENCY	CORD	SHELF Ship	NATURAL NECESSARY	
HE	CONNECTION	INDUSTRY	PRODUCE PROFIT	TEST .	CURTAIN	SHIRT	NEW NORMAL	SUMMARY
WHO	COOK COPPER COPY	INSECT INSTRUMENT INSURANCE	PROPERTY PROSE PROTEST	THEORY THING THOUGHT	DOG DOGR	SKIN SKIRT SNAKE	OPEN PARALLEL PAST	OF
BECAUSE BUT OR	CORK	INTEREST INVENTION	PULL PUNISHMENT	THUNDER	DRAIN DRAWER	SOCK	PHYSICAL POLITICAL	RULES
IF THOUGH	COUGH	IDOM	PURPOSE Push	TIN TOP	DRESS	SPADE SPONGE SPOON	POOR POSSIBLE	PLURALS
WHILE	COVER CRACK	JELLY JOIN JOURNEY	QUALITY QUESTION	TOUCH TRADE	EAR EGO	SPRING SQUARE STAMP	PRESENT PRIVATE	IN '6'
WHEN WHERE	CREDIT	TOWA TODGE	RAIN RANGE	TRANSPORT TRICK	ENGINE EYE	STAMP STAR STATION	PROBABLE QUICK	DERIVATIVES IN 'ER', 'ING', 'ED' FROM 300 NOUNS
WHY AGAIN	CRUSH CRY CURRENT	KICK KISS KNOWLEDGE	RATE RAY REACTION	TROUBLE TURN TWIST	FACE FARM FEATHER	STATION STEM STICK	QUIET READY RED	
EVER FAR FORWARD	CURVE DAMAGE	LAND LANGUAGE	READING REASON	UNIT	FINGER FISH	STOCKING STOMACH	REGULAR RESPONSIBLE RIGHT	ADVERBS IN 'LY' FROM
HERE NEAR	DANGER Daught er	LAUGH LAW LEAD	READING REASON RECORD REGRET	USE VALUE VERSE	FLAG FLOOR	STORE STREET	BOUND	FROM QUALIFIERS.
NOW	DAY DEATH	1 EARNING	RELATION	VESSEL VIEW VOICE	FLY	SUN TABLE TAIL	SAME SECOND	DEGREE
STILL THEN	DEST DECISION	LEATHER LETTER	RELIGION REPRESENTATIVE REQUEST,	WALK	FORK FOWL FRAME	THREAD THROAT	SEPARATE SERIOUS SHARP	MORE AND MOST
THERE TOGETHER	DEGREE DESIGN DESIRE	LEVEL LIFT LIGHT	RESPECT" REST REWARD	WAR WASH WASTE	GARDEN GIRL	THUMB TICKET	SMOOTH STICKY	QUESTIONS
WELL ALMOST ENOUGH	DESTRUCTION	LIMIT	RHYTHM Rice	WATER WAVE	GLOVE GOAT	TOE TONGUE	STIFF STRAIGHT	AND DO
EVEN LITTLE	DETAIL DEVELOPMENT DIGESTION	LINEN LIQUID LIST	RIVER	WAX	GUN HAIR	TOOTH TOWN TRAIN	STRONG SUDDEN	OPERATORS #
MUCH NOT	DIRECTION DISCOVERY DISCUSSION	LOOK LOSS LOVE	ROLL ROOM RUB	WEATHER WEEK	HAMMER HAND HAT	TRAIN TRAY TREE	SWEET TALL THICK	PRONOUNS CONJUGATE
ONLY QUITE	DISEASE	MACHINE	AULE.	WEIGHT WIND WINF	HEAD HEART	TROUSERS UMBRELLA	THICK TIGHT TIRED	IN FULL
SO VERY TOMORROW	DISGUST DISTANCE DISTRIBUTI ON	MAN MANAGER MARK	RUN SALT SAND	WINTER WOMAN	HOOK	WALL WATCH WHEEL	TRUE VIOLENT	MEASUREMENT NUMERALS, CURRENCY,
YESTERDAY NORTH	DIVISION	MARKET MASS MEAL	SCALE SCIENCA	WOOD	HORSE HOSPITAL	14/14/15	WAITING WARM	CURRENCY, CALENDAR,
SOUTH EAST_	DRINK DRIVING	MEAL MEASURE	SEA SEAT SECRETARY	WORD WORK	HOUSE ISLAND	WHISTLE	WET WIDE WISE	GALENDAR, AND INTERNATIONAL
WEST PLEASE	DUST EARTH	MEASURE MEAT MEETING MEMORY	SECRETARY SELECTION SELF	WOUND WRITING	KEA KELLFE TEMET	WING WIRE WORM	YELLOW YOUNG	TERMS IN ENGLISH FORM.
YES	EDGE	m EMUN Y	der.	YEAR	, net	11 VIIII		
								AT THE GATHOLDS WAS SAVING IT

THE BASIS OF BASIC ENGLISH are these 850 words arranged in a system, designed by Basic's inventor. It classifies nou "things, general" and "things, picturable," adjectives as "qualifies" and their "opposites." Under "operations" are listed Basic's 18 and an assortment of prepositions, conjunctions and other structural words