

# The language of 2moro

By Martin Beckford

- 1 TRADITIONAL spellings could be killed off by the internet within a few decades, a language expert has claimed.
- 2 The advent of blogs and chat rooms meant that for the first time in centuries printed words were widely distributed without having been edited or proofread, said Professor David Crystal, of the University of Wales, Bangor. As a result, 1. Within a few decades, the spellings favoured by many internet users could replace the current, more complex versions, he said. It could mean that internet slang – such as "2moro" instead of "tomorrow" or "thx" for "thanks" – may enter into mainstream publications.
- 3 Prof Crystal, a pioneer of language theory, explains that 2. "The vast majority of spelling rules in English are irrelevant," he said. "They don't stop you understanding the word in question. If I spell the word rhubarb without an 'h' you have no trouble understanding it. Why do we spell it with an 'h'? Because some guy in the 16th century said it was good to put an 'h' in to remind us of the history of the word."
- 4 Prof Crystal stressed that 3. "Kids have got to realise that in this day and age, standard English spelling is an absolute criterion of an educated background," he said. "You're not going to get certain types of job if you don't spell well."

**Web words** Some Examples:

1. *Teh*: what started out as a common mis-spelling of "the" is now written deliberately by some internet users and used sarcastically in phrases such as "teh interweb" to imply ignorance.
2. *U*: short for you.
3. *Pls*: shortened version of please.
4. *Pwned*: said to have first appeared on the popular role-playing game World of Warcraft when a player mis-typed "owned". The word has come to mean being dominated by someone or something, though it is difficult to pronounce.

*The Daily Telegraph, 2010*

## Tekst 10 The language of 2moro

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Drie van de onderstaande vijf zinnen (a, b, c, d en e) zijn uit de tekst weggelaten.

- a many spellings bear no relation to meaning or pronunciation
- b the internet would not lead to a complete breakdown in spelling rules
- c there has been a huge movement over hundreds of years to change English spelling
- d the teaching of traditional English spelling should not be abandoned
- e writers spell words differently and their versions could enter common usage

2p 37 Noteer achter elk nummer op het antwoordblad de letter van de zin die op die plaats is weggelaten.

*Let op: je houdt twee van de vijf zinnen over.*

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### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.