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**ENGLISH CONFUSED
ABUSED AND MISUSED
WORDS**

**ENGLISH - ROMANIAN
DICTIONARY**

Cuprins

OMAGIU PROFESORULUI LEON LEVIȚCHI.....	5
CUVÂNT ÎNAINTE	7
IS ENGLISH A MOST VERSATILE LANGUAGE?	12
ABREVIERI.....	21
A	23
B	35
C	51
D.....	83
E.....	94
F.....	101
G	114
H.....	122
I.....	132
J.....	137
K.....	138
L.....	141
M.....	152
N.....	164
O.....	166
P.....	168
Q.....	188
R.....	190
S.....	203
T.....	223
U.....	238
V.....	240
W.....	242
X.....	254
Y.....	255
Z.....	256
SURSE UTILIZATE.....	257

IS ENGLISH A MOST VERSATILE LANGUAGE?

Is English one of the most versatile languages? Is it true that its most diverse and flexible potential of communication and of rendering reality can be any of the following: funny, hilarious, explicit or awkward, ambiguous, abused and/or misused?

Below are examples of caveats that invite any learner and/or user of English to be aware, careful and to get knowledgeable enough to be able to take the right decisions!

Only the English could have invented this language !!

- Let's start with a box, and the plural is boxes, but the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes!
- You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice, yet the plural of house is houses, not hices!
- If the plural of man is always called men, then shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen, or that of dam, dem? ... or if we have one goose, 2 geese; can we also have one moose, 2 meese, or one index, 2 indices?
- If I speak of my foot and show you my feet, if I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
- If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth? ... and if the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth?
- Then one may be that, and three would be those, yet hat in the plural would never be hose, and the plural of cat is cats and not cose!
- We speak of a brother and also of brethren, but though we say mother, we never say methren; then, if a father could be a pop, how come that a mother isn't a mop?!
- The masculine pronouns are he, his and him, but imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!
- There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
- Mind you: English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France.
- Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads (which aren't sweet) are meat.
- Why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.
- Is not true that in English your house can burn up as it burns down, that... you fill in a form by filling it out and that an alarm goes off by going on?
- We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
- Why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?
- Is it not strange that in English people recite at a play and play at a recital? ... and does it seem normal to be able to make amends but not one amend?

- the English ship by truck, but send cargo by ship! They also have noses that run and feet that smell and they park in a driveway and drive in a parkway!!
- If teachers taught, why don't preachers praught?
- If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- If we have a bunch of odds and ends, and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?
- Why for the English a house can burn up as it burns down? an alarm goes off by going on?... and why do they fill in a form by filling it out?!
- If people from Poland are called Poles, then people from Holland should be called Holes... and the Germans, Germs?!
- How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?
- English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible and...why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick'?

So, do you think that English is easy?! Just read the following all the way to the end ... and, then, decide for yourselves!

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce .
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse .
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert..
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present .
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row .
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong for me to wind the sail.
- 18) I shed a tear. upon seeing the tear in the painting
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Now, here is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word; this is 'UP':

- It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**?
- At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**?
- Why do we speak **UP** and why are the officers **UP** for election and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report?
- We call **UP** our friends... and we use it to brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver; we warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen.
- We lock **UP** the house and some guys fix **UP** the old car.
- At other times, the little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses.
- To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed **UP** is special.
- A drain must be opened **UP** because it is stopped **UP**.
- We open **UP** a store in the morning but we close it **UP** at night. We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP** !
- To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look **UP** the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost a quarter of the page and can add **UP** to about thirty definitions. If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with a hundred or more.
- When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out we say it is clearing **UP**. When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things **UP**. When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry **UP**. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP**, for now my time is **UP** so...
- It is time to shut **UP**!

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English pronunciation !

Dearest creature in creation,
Study English pronunciation.
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like corpse, corps, horse, and
worse.
I will keep you, Suzy, busy,
Make your head with heat grow dizzy.
Tear in eye, your dress will tear.
So shall I! Oh hear my prayer.
Just compare heart, beard, and heard,
Dies and diet, lord and word,
Sword and sward, retain and Britain.
(Mind the latter, how it's written.)
Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as plaque and ague.

But be careful how you speak:
Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;
Cloven, oven, how and low,
Script, receipt, show, poem, and toe.
Hear me say, devoid of trickery,
Daughter, laughter, and Terpsichore,
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles,
Exiles, similes, and reviles;
Scholar, vicar, and cigar,
Solar, mica, war and far;
One, anemone, Balmoral,
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel;
Gertrude, German, wind and mind,
Scene, Melpomene, mankind.
Billet does not rhyme with ballet,

Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet.
 Blood and flood are not like food,
 Nor is mould like should and would.
 Viscous, viscount, load and broad,
 Toward, to forward, to reward.
 And your pronunciation's OK
 When you correctly say croquet,
 Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve,
 Friend and fiend, alive and live.
 Ivy, privy, famous; clamour
 And enamour rhyme with hammer.
 River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,
 Doll and roll and some and home.
 Stranger does not rhyme with anger,
 Neither does devour with clangour.
 Souls but foul, haunt but aunt,
 Font, front, wont, want, grand, and grant,
 Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger,
 And then singer, ginger, linger,
 Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and
 gauge,
 Marriage, foliage, mirage, and age.
 Query does not rhyme with very,
 Nor does fury sound like bury.
 Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth.
 Job, nob, bosom, transom, oath.
 Though the differences seem little,
 We say actual but victual.
 Refer does not rhyme with deafer.
 FeOffer does, and zephyr, heifer.
 Mint, pint, senate and sedate;
 Dull, bull, and George ate late.
 Scenic, Arabic, Pacific,
 Science, conscience, scientific.
 Liberty, library, heave and heaven,
 Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven.
 We say hallowed, but allowed,
 People, leopard, towed, but vowed.
 Mark the differences, moreover,
 Between mover, cover, clover;
 Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,
 Chalice, but police and lice;
 Camel, constable, unstable,

Principle, disciple, label.
 Petal, panel, and canal,
 Wait, surprise, plait, promise, pal.
 Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair,
 Senator, spectator, mayor.
 Tour, but our and succour, four.
 Gas, alas, and Arkansas.
 Sea, idea, Korea, area,
 Psalm, Maria, but malaria.
 Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean.
 Doctrine, turpentine, marine.
 Compare alien with Italian,
 Dandelion and battalion.
 Sally with ally, yea, ye,
 Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, and key.
 Say aver, but ever, fever,
 Neither, leisure, skein, deceiver.
 Heron, granary, canary.
 Crevice and device and aerie.
 Face, but preface, not efface.
 Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.
 Large, but target, gin, give, verging,
 Ought, out, joust and scour, scouring.
 Ear, but earn and wear and tear
 Do not rhyme with here but ere.
 Seven is right, but so is even,
 Hyphen, roughen, nephew Stephen,
 Monkey, donkey, Turk and jerk,
 Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.
 Pronunciation (think of Psyche!)
 Is a paling stout and spikey?
 Won't it make you lose your wits,
 Writing groats and saying grits?
 It's a dark abyss or tunnel:
 Strewn with stones, stowed, solace, gun-
 wale,
 Islington and Isle of Wight,
 Housewife, verdict and indict.
 Finally, which rhymes with enough,
 Though, through, plough, or dough, or
 cough?
 Hiccough has the sound of cup.
 My advice is to give up!!!

(English Pronunciation by G. Nolst Trenité)

The relevance of the context in translation

Time flies like wind.

1. time = noun; flies = verb; like = conj. >> Timpul zboară ca/precum vântul.
2. time = verb; flies = noun; like = conj. >> Cronometrează muștele precum (cronometrezi) vântul.
3. time = adj.; flies = noun; like = verb >> Muștelor timpului (dacă așa ceva există!) le place vântul.

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Here is a sample of a real situation. For the users of English it should read as a caveat and a warning as it may create hilarious yet most unpleasant cases of WORDS CONFUSED, ABUSED AND MISUSED.

Chinese Hotel Hospitality Example of a welcome letter/advertisement, in a Chinese hotel:

GETTING THERE

Our representative will make you wait at the airport.

The hotel bus runs along the lake and you will feel pleasure in passing water.

You will know the hotel is near, because you will go round the bend. As you come into the hotel, our beautiful manager will offer welcome drinks and then have intercourse with all new guests.

THE HOTEL

This is a family hotel, so adultery and children are welcome.

Nurses are available in the evenings to put down your children.

Guests are invited to mate in the bar and expose themselves to others.

It is good to have intercourse with others and become fast friends.

But, please note that ladies are not allowed to have their babies in the bar.

With our help, they can be delivered in the baby center.

We organize social games so, no guest is ever left alone to play with himself.

YOUR ROOM

Every room has excellent facilities for your private parts.

In winter, every room is on heat.

Each room has a balcony offering views of outstanding obscenity.

All your needs are from room service. Please feel free to ring for the chambermaid and take advantage of her.

HOSPITALITY

When you leave us at the end of your holiday, you will struggle to forget it.

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The English dictionary has never been able to clearly define the difference between the words "**COMPLETE**" and "**FINISHED**." However, in a recent linguistic contest held in London, England, and attended by some of the best linguists in the world, a gentleman named Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese, was the clear winner. His final challenge was to explain the difference between **COMPLETE** and **FINISHED** in a way that is easy to understand. His answer was received with a standing ovation lasting over 5 minutes and it entitled him to receive an invitation to dine with the Queen. For his answer, he also won a trip to travel around the world in style and a case of 25 year old Eldorado rum...His astute answer was:

"When you marry the right woman, you are "COMPLETE", but, when you marry the wrong woman, you are "FINISHED"... And if the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are "COMPLETELY FINISHED"!"

Are you a LEXOPHILE ?

(lexophile) is a term used to describe those that study and are interested in words and/or word puns, mainly for the sake of making people aware of possible confusions and misunderstandings).

Here are some such "awareness raising" examples:

- You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish! (*tune a fish*).
- To write with a broken pencil is pointless! (*without a point; with no purpose*).
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A. ! (*spelling*).
- Isn't it obvious that the best day to go to the beach is Sunday?! (*sun day*).
- Whenever I get my phone bill, I realize that talk is not cheap!
- If you want to work overtime, do you put the clock under your desk?!
- You know for sure that a drink is good, only when a little swallow tells you! (*the bird; gulp/sip*).
- If we breathe oxygen in the daytime, do we breathe nitrogen at night?! (*night – nitrogen*)
- Is a person a cannibal if he/she is fed up with people?! (*full of ; having enough of/no more bearing/standing...*).
- Do you think that a leopard can change its spots if it moves to another place?! (*spot; place*).
- Can astronauts land on the moon when it is full?! (*full moon; no more room*).
- Isn't it true that Egyptian children are surely the best in the world, because they highly respect their mummies?! (*embalmed corpse; she parent*).

- Is it true that, of all creatures, a horse is the only one that always goes to bed with his/its shoes on?! (*the bony lower extremity of a horse leg; human article of dress*).
- Do you think that rulers are those objects that have things in common with kings or emperors?! (*measurment instrument; the act of ruling/governing*).
- Why do saws or combs have teeth but no mouths?!
- Is it true that you can never believe a person in bed, just because he/she is lying?
- Are nightmares horses that keep late hours?! (*mare; night*).
- Could the wheels of a car be the laziest parts, because they are always tyred ... and are all tyres retired when they get old?! (*tired; tyre*)
- Do we keep a ruler on a book, while reading, just because we want to get the story straight?!
- If you want to have a “dry look” do you put your head in the dryer?!
- No one can jump higher than a house, just because a house cannot jump!
- Scientists always look for things twice, just because they research everything! (*research; re-search/surch many times*)
- Is it true that all books must always have the same colour only when they are read?! (*to read; red*)
- For ants/aunts, the best place to go for a meal is, undoubtedly, a restaurant!
- Are accountants ants/aunts that can count ... and is an ignorant a stupid ant/aunt ...or a foreign ant/aunt, important?!
- Is there any resemblance between an engaged girl and a telephone, just because they both have rings?
- Is the shortest month of the year May, because it has only three letters...or can a gladiola be the happiest flower of all ... or Friday the hottest day of the week?! (*glad; happy; fry*).
- If an icicle falls on a man’s head it surely knocks him cold!
- If you want a month off do you tear the calendar?!
- Is a cuckoo clock a crazy one?! (*to go cuckoo*).
- It’s very likely for a bucket not to be well when it is a little pale! (*pale; pail*).
- If you help an old lemon cross the street is it a lemonade?! (*lemon; to ade/help*).
- Do we make a cigarette lighter by taking out the tobacco?! (*lighter; gr.comp. of light*).
- Is Columbus the kind of bus that discovered America?!
- Is Mimi the perfect name for a selfish woman?! (*me*).
- Is the starfish the most famous of all?!
- Is it true that your breath is the hardest to catch, the faster you run?!
- Is a poor friend always better that a rich one, just because a friend in need is a friend indeed?!
- Can you tell the difference between two trees if you listen to their barks?! (*bark; to bark*).
- Do people hate to go to dentists because they are boring?! (*boring; to bore*).
- Is it safe to sit on a safety pin?!
- Does a clock/watch get nervous when it is wound up?!
- If you are a chess fun, keep away from squirrels, because they eat chestnuts! (*chess nut*).

- Could you call the life story of a car an autobiography?!
- Could the wife of a hippie be called Mississippi?!
- When they meet, is it OK for two blind persons to say to one another: “Nice to see you”?
- Is the parachute school the one you have to drop out, in order to graduate?
- If a person had a great fall does it mean that the person wanted to make up for a bad summer?!
- Are lunar ticks insects that live on the moon?! (*tics; lunatics*).
- Are blood vessels boats that vampires take when they want to cross the ocean?!
- Is the infantry that branch of the army that babies join?! (*infant*).
- Would a nightingale be a knight caught in a windstorm?! (*gale; night; knight*).
- If you want to mail a circular do you need a round envelope?!
- When the wind makes trees rock, do they become petrified?!
- Because both have pages, are books like kings?!
- Can we say that the longest word in English is *miles*, just because between the first and the last letter there is a mile?!
- Are libraries the biggest buildings in the world, just because they have the most stories?! (*story; storey*).
- Are people smarter mainly during daytime, as everything is brighter when the sun shines?!
- If you want to sleep like a log, do you put the bed into the fireplace ... and if you want to catch up your sleep do you run around the bed?!
- Do bankers look at the sky because they want to see if there are changes in the weather?!
- When the butcher grabbed the pig by its tail, was the pig right to say: “that’s the end of me”?!
- Were The Dark Ages very “dark”, just because they had more knights?! (*night; knight*).
- Is the leek the most dangerous vegetable to have on board of a ship?! (*leek; leak*).
- If all the people in a country bought a pink car, would they have a pink carnation?! (*car; nation; carnation*).
- Do windows squeak when they are opened, because they have panes ... and do mice need oiling because they squeak?! (*pane; pain*).
- All horses have six legs, just because they have forelegs in front and two behind! (*fore legs; four legs*).
- Are playing cards like wolves because both belong to a pack?!
- If there are 99 people on a boat and it turns over, is it true that only 66 of them remain?!
- If you are an adult, the difference between a coat and a baby is that the former you wear and the latter you were! (*to wear; were*).
- Is a bride always unlucky on her wedding day, because she does not marry the best man?
- Can we say that Atlas was the biggest thief in the history of mankind, just because he held up the whole world?!
- The best time to buy a thermometer is winter because, then, it is lower!
- Because he wanted to have a hot time, he put the clock into the oven!
- The batteries were given out free of charge!

A

a [ei] = litera A/a	a [ə / ei] (art. nehot.) = un/o
a lot > <i>vezi</i> > allot	
a part > <i>vezi</i> > apart	
a while [ə'wail] = o scurtă perioadă/interval de vreme (<i>nu se scie împreună</i>)	awile >> <i>formă greșită!</i> while (conj.) = pe când, în timp ce, cât timp; și; pe câtă vreme; dar, însă; deși, cu toate că;
abdicate ['æbdɪkət] (v.) = a abdica, a renunța la, a se lepăda de	arrogate ['ærəʊgeɪt] (v.) = a-și aroga/atribui ceva cu impertinență/îngâmfare; a atribui pe nedrept; abrogate ['æbrəʊgeɪt] (v.) = a abroga
ablative ['æblətɪv] (s.) = cazul ablativ în limba latină; (adj.) = referitor la cazul ablativ	ablative [æb'leɪtɪv] (adj.; med.) = susceptibil de extirpare/îndepărtare/amputare; (teh.) = detașabil, care poate fi separat/detașat de; (fig.) = zăpăcitor, alienant
abrogate > <i>vezi</i> > abdicate	
absence ['æbs(ə)ns] (s.) = absență, neparticipare; absență, zăpăceală, lipsă de atenție	absents ['æbs(ə)nts] (s.) = pl. absent (<i>vezi absent</i>) absents [əb'sents] (v.) = pers. III sg. prez. to absent (<i>vezi absent</i>)
absent ['æbs(ə)nt] (adj.) = absent, lipsă; distrat, absent; (v.) [əb'sent] = a absenta de la ceva (to absent oneself from)	absentee ['æbs(ə)n'ti:] (s.) = absent, persoană care absentează
absentee > <i>vezi</i> > absent	
absents > <i>vezi</i> > absence	
absolvent [əb'sɒlvənt] (s.) = persoană care iartă/scutește	graduate ['grædʒu:ɪt] (s.) = absolvent al unui institut de învățământ superior; (adj.) = licențiat, titrat, diplomat; de licențiat, de calificare superioară; graduate ['grædʒu:ɪt] (v.) = a promova, a absolvi un institut de învățământ superior; a promova, a acorda diplomă de absolvire; (metr.) = a grada; a diviza, a doza, a împărți
abstinence ['æbstɪnəns] (s.) = abțință; cumpătare, moderație	abstinents ['æbstɪnənts] (s.) = pl. abstinent = abstinent, persoană moderată/cumpătată
abstinents > <i>vezi</i> > abstinence	
abstract ['æbstrækt] (s.) = rezumat, sumar, prospect, compendiu; (adj.) = abstract, abscons, dificil	abstract [əb'strækt] (v.) = a separa, a despărți de; a extrage din; a face un rezumat; a abstractiza; a înstrăina, a fura

abstracts ['æbstrækts] (s.) = pl. abstract (<i>vezi abstract</i>)	abstracts [əb'stræktts] (v.) = pers. III sg. prez. to abstract (<i>vezi abstract</i>)
abstruse [æb'stru:s] (adj.) = confuz, abscons, abstrus	obtuse [əb'tju:s] (adj.) = obtuz, care pricepe greu; mărginit, redus
abuse [ə'bju:s] (s.) = abuz, exces; ultragiu; maltratare; insultă, invectivă, vorbă de ocară, batjocură; tratament impropriu	abuse [ə'bju:z] (v.) = a abuza, a face abuz de, a folosi în mod abuziv; a batjocori; a ultragia; a maltrata; a profera injurii la adresa cuiva; a aplica un tratament impropriu
abuses [ə'bju:siz] (s.) = pl. abuse (<i>vezi abuse</i>)	abuses [ə'bju:ziz] (v.) = pers. III sg. prez. to abuse (<i>vezi abuse</i>)
accede [æk'si:d] (v.) = a consimți, a accepta; a ajunge la/a ocupa o poziție	exceed [ik'si:d] (v.) = a depăși, a întrece;
accent ['æks(ə)nt] (s.) = accent, subliniere, scoatere în evidență	axseed ['æks'si:d] (s.); (bot.) = mazărice
accents ['æks(ə)nts] (s.) = pl. accent (<i>vezi accent</i>)	accent [æk'sent] (v.) = a accentua, a sublinia, a scoate în evidență
accept [æk'sept] (v.) = a accepta, a admite, a fi de acord; a lua asupra sa; a recunoaște, a primi, a-și asuma răspunderea pentru	accents [æk'sents] (v.) = pers. III sg. prez. to accent (<i>vezi accent</i>)
accepter [æk'septə:] (s.) = persoană care acceptă ceva	except [ik'sept] (v.) = a excepta; (loc. prep.) = cu excepția
acceptor > <i>vezi</i> > accepter	acceptor [æk'septə:] (s.); (chim.; el.) = acceptor, element/substanță care se poate combina cu o alta sau cu o particulă; (teh.) = circuit care combină inductanță și capacitanță într-o anumită serie, astfel încât să fie în rezonanță cu o anumită frecvență; (fin.) = persoană care acceptă o cambie
access ['ækses] (s.) = acces, intrare; permisiune	access ['ækses] (v.) = a accesa, a avea acces la;
	axis ['æksis] (s.) = ax; axă; (teh.) = osie
	excess [ik'ses] (s.) = exces; abuz; surplus, prisos;
	assess [ə'ses] (v.) = a aprecia, a evalua, a estima;
	outburst ['aʊt,bɜ:(r)st] (s.) = acces, izbucnire, ieșire emoțională
accesses ['æksesiz] (s.) = pl. access (<i>vezi access</i>)	accesses ['æksesiz] (v.) = pers. III sg. prez. to access (<i>vezi access</i>);
	assesses [ə'sesiz] (v.) = pers. III sg. prez. to assess (<i>vezi access/assess</i>);
	excesses [ik'sesiz] (s.) = pl. excess (<i>vezi access/ excess</i>)