

## SPELL(VI)

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### NAME

spell — find spelling errors

### SYNOPSIS

spell [ -v ] [ -b ] [ -x ] [ file ] ...

### DESCRIPTION

*Spell* collects words from the named documents, and looks them up in a spelling list. Words that neither occur among nor are derivable (by applying certain inflections, prefixes or suffixes) from words in the spelling list are printed on the standard output. If no files are named, words are collected from the standard input.

*Spell* ignores *nroff/troff*, *tbl* and *eqn* (I) constructions. The process takes several minutes.

Under the *-v* option, all words not literally in the spelling list are printed, and plausible derivations from spelling list words are indicated.

Under the *-b* option, British spelling is checked. Besides preferring *centre*, *colour*, *speciality*, *travelled*, etc., this option insists upon *-ise* in words like *standardise*, Fowler and the OED to the contrary notwithstanding.

Under the *-x* option, an extra spelling list of peculiar local words is consulted in addition to the main spelling list.

The spelling list is based primarily on Kucera and Francis, *Computational Analysis of Present-Day English*, as a standard for currency, and the Merriam Webster *New International Dictionary*, 2nd edition, for legitimacy. Other sources include lists of chemical elements, states, countries and provinces, capital cities, major cities, given names in Kucera and Francis, the most common surnames in a large phone book, the first 200 of Fortunes's 500, common names in the index of E. L. Palmer, *Fieldbook of Natural History*, selected names from Bulfinch's mythology, selected Bell System Practices, Bell Laboratories technical papers and manuals, the *Federalist* papers, random literary fragments, etc.

Pertinent auxiliary files may be specified by name arguments, indicated below with their default settings. All are in the order produced by 'sort -uf'. Copies of all output plus words suppressed by the extra spelling list are accumulated in the history file. The stop list filters out misspellings (e.g. *thier* ⇒ *thy-y* + *hier*) that would otherwise pass.

### FILES

W=/usr/lib/w2006: list of common words for primary filtering

D=/sys/dict/spellinglist

S=/sys/dict/astop: American stop list

/sys/dict/bstop: British stop list

/usr/bin/deroff, /usr/lib/spell[0123]: programs

H=/sys/dict/spellhist: history file

X=/usr/dict/local: extra spelling list

### SEE ALSO

typo (I), sort (I)

### BUGS

The spelling list's coverage is uneven; new installations will probably wish to monitor the output for several months to gather local additions.

British spelling was done by an American.