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SAY IT RIGHT

by Denyse Tessensohn

Pronunciation

This has been commented on before but bears repeating with a longer explanation: you pronounce a word, correctly or incorrectly.

The noun form is proNUNciation, not proNOUNciation. The adjective is pronounceable, and refers to a word or name that is not difficult to say, for example: "My name is easily pronounceable as "finch" even though it is spelt "ffynch".

Poor English: School education don't have this.

Standard English: This is not in the school's regular programme.

We will answer some of your spoken English language questions in this column, and a book prize will be awarded occasionally for the question, anecdote or suggestion most useful to our readers. Email us at sayitright@newstoday.com.sg