

# How 2 Shor10 English Texts

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## Humoristic Proposal of a “Mathematically Oriented Reform” of English Orthography

*Rolf Windenberg*

Graphical Illustration:

*Rico W. Hasselfang*

*(alias: Sascha Wolfinger)*

Shaker Media

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Shaker Media GmbH • Postfach 101818 • 52018 Aachen  
Telefon: 02407 / 95964 - 0 • Telefax: 02407 / 95964 - 9  
Internet: [www.shaker-media.de](http://www.shaker-media.de) • E-Mail: [info@shaker-media.de](mailto:info@shaker-media.de)

## Preface – The way to this book

The idea to shorten texts in order to reduce the effort of writing has always been very fashionable. Among other options, this has led to the invention and common use of stenography. However, stenography is demanding a significant learning effort. Therefore, people have always been looking for convenient alternatives requiring far less learning expenditure.

An example for a completely different approach to shorten texts is represented by the kind of writing which is popular, not only in the writing of our younger generation. Formulations such as “CU” or “C U” (for “see you”), “U R ...” (for “you are ...”), “coffee 2 go” (for “coffee to go”), “T 4 U” (for “tea for you”), “2 4 1” (for “two for one”), etc have already been integrated into everyday language.

Some time ago, when I tried to find some means to achieve students’ relaxation in the courses I am teaching as a professor of Computer Science, the idea came to my mind to invent a mathematically oriented reform of the German language. In this approach, suggested as a new way of writing texts, I did not only use numbers and single letters pronounced as in the alphabet, which is already prevalent nowadays. However, I decided to also make general use of well-known mathematical symbols, such as: +, −, •, /,  $\sqrt{\quad}$ , etc. At the beginning, I applied my orthographical reform to the German language only and published the results in a book entitled “Um etliche Ecken ged8” (Shaker Media, 2012). During several public presentations of the book in reading events, there were a lot of suggestions to me to try to apply the rules of my reform of orthography to the English language, too. Finally, I was unable to resist this exciting new challenge. The current book is the result of my corresponding efforts and shows a new proposal for a mathematically oriented reform of English orthography.

Fortunately, I have been able to win over the illustrator Rico W. Hasselfang, who had already illustrated the first book “Um etliche Ecken ged8”, and again created numerous humoristic illustrations for the new book. These illustrations hopefully do cheer up the reader when he or she tries to find out the meaning of the large set of text examples contained in the book. I am very grateful to have had Rico illustrating *all* the tricky pages of the book!

Let me finish by hoping that this book may become used by you, as its readers, getting acquainted and finally becoming experts with the mathematically oriented reform of English orthography in a comfortable and amusing way – sometimes by means of “thinking around several corners”. However, the effort should be worthwhile since hopefully the feeling of challenge might end up in delight and amusement.

So, dear reader, to quote Star Wars here: “May, the 4<sup>th</sup> B with U!” when you try to solve (at least most, if not all of) the riddles of this book, which are grouped according to the different levels of difficulty – from beginners up to geniuses.

Rolf Windenberg

(alias: Nigel Fred Brown)

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