

ENGLISH IS TOTALLY NUTS!

The English language has developed over many centuries, influenced by the Germans, Dutch, Celts, and Vikings, not to mention the languages of Europe – Latin, Greek, Italian, and French. As English spread across the world many countries – America, Australia and New Zealand for example – all developed their own unique and quirky versions of words, pronunciations and spelling!

English is therefore a hotch-potch of languages all mashed up together and when you start to break it down a bit and look at it in more detail, it truly makes no sense at all! When teaching someone else to read or write, helping them learn the alphabet, grammar, and commonly used words, you soon realise English is a complete nightmare and is in fact, totally nuts!

While the English alphabet only has 26 letters, the English language has 44 sounds. Below I have listed these 44 sounds (or phonemes) together with a number of other things which prove that English is completely nuts. In fact, when you take a closer look at our crazy language, you can't believe anyone ever learns to read, write, or speak English!

The sounds and letters of the English language

The English alphabet is made up of 26 letters, 21 of which are known as consonants and the other five are called vowels (A, E, I, O, and U). Generally speaking (although this is not always the case!), consonants only have one sound, in other words they are always pronounced the same, regardless of what letters are beside it. Two major exceptions are the letters C and G which both have a hard sound and a soft sound. On the other hand, the vowels each have two sounds, a long sound and a short sound (and as you'll soon see even more besides!). Then, just to make it really confusing, the letter Y can be both a consonant and a vowel!

The hard C sound is found in words such as *cat*, *car*, and *complicated* and the soft C sound is found in words such as *city*, *cent*, and *celebrate*. Sometimes *both* sounds are found in the same word as in *cycle*, *circus*, and *accent*. The hard G sound is found in words such as *green*, *goat*, and *gamble* and the soft sound is found in words such as *giraffe*, *genius*, and *gentlemen*. Again some words have both the hard and soft G sounds in them as in *garage*, *geography* and *gigantic*.

There are more examples below, but the long vowel sounds can be found in words such as *angel*, *evil*, *ice*, *over*, and *unicorn*. Short vowel sounds can be found in words such as *apple*, *egg*, *insect*, *opera*, and *upside-down*. Once again many words contain both sounds as in *alligator*, *even*, *insecticide*, *opossum*, and *unusual*. Then there's always the *schwa* sounds!

The *schwa* sound is actually the most common vowel sound of all, where the vowel does not make either it's short or long sound, but is like a reduced sound, or a lazy sound – Australians are champions at this! It's where the vowel makes an 'uh' sound, for example in the words *again*, *elephant*, *tennis*, *bottom*, and *medium*.

The 44 sounds that make up the English language

To make learning English even more difficult, many of these sounds also depend on where you live as to how they are pronounced!

1. A as in *Amy* (where the A has a *long* sound – the same *sound* is also found in the words *paid*, *reign*, *great*, *eight*, *straight*, *gauge*, *they*, *play*, and *croquet*)

2. A as in *Amber* and *Aaron* (where the A has a *short* sound)
A can also have an 'ar' sound as in *amen*, *glass*, and *almond* (Although this depends on you live and how you pronounce things!)
A can also have an 'or' sound as in *water*, *call*, and *walrus*
A can have an 'air' sound as in *parent*, *canary*, and *area*
A can also have a *short* E sound as in *any* and *many*
A can have a *short* O sound as in *wand*, *watch*, and *swan*
A can even have a *short* I sound as in *village*, *cabbage*, and *package*! (again this depends on you live and how you pronounce things!)
A can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *a*, *amount*, *asleep*, and *zebra*
3. B as in *baby* and *gobble*
C as in *cabin* (where the C has a *hard* sound which is the same as the K sound)
C as in *city* (where the C has a *soft* sound which is the same as the S sound)
4. D as in *duck* and *daddy*
5. E as in *enormous* (where the E has a *long* sound – the same *sound* is also found in the words *feet*, *meat*, *niece*, *receive*, *people*, *phoenix*, *quay*, *key*, *lady*, and *ski*)
6. E as in *egg* (where the E has a *short* sound – the same *sound* is also found in the words *any*, *leopard*, *bury*, *bread*, *friend*, *heifer*, *aesthetic*, and *said*)
E can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *the*, *enemy*, and *elephant*
ED can also have a D sound as in *returned*, *blamed*, and *filled*
7. F as in *face* and *toffee*
PH also have as F sound, as in *elephant*, *phase*, and *phantom*
GH can also have an F sound as in *rough*, *tough*, and *enough* (but not in *ghost* or *ghoul*!)
8. G as in *green* and *wiggle* (where the G has a *hard* sound – the same *sound* can also be found in the words *ghost* and *guest*)
G as in *giant* (where the G has a *soft* sound which is the same as a J sound)
9. H as in *happy* (the same sound is found in the word *who*)
10. I as in *ice* (where the I has a *long* sound – the same *sound* is also found in the words *sky*, *pie*, *guy*, *rye*, *island*, *aisle*, *height*, and *high*)
11. I as in *igloo* (where the I has a *short* sound – the same *sound* is also found in the words *England*, *women*, *busy*, *build*, *sieve*, and *gym*)
I can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *family*, *animal*, and *accident* (again I think this depends on where you live and how you pronounce things)
12. J as in *jug* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *badger*, *soldier* and *exaggerate*)
13. K as in *king* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *cat*, *sick*, *acclaimed*, *Christmas*, *bookkeeper*, and *bouquet*)
14. L as in *lemon* and *dolly*
15. M as in *mud* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *yummy*, *comb*, *palm*, and *hymn*)
16. N as in *nap* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *sunny*, *know*, *gnat*, and *pneumonia*)
17. O as in *open* (where the O has a *long* sound – the same *sound* can be found in the words *own*, *toenail*, *playdough*, *sew*, *brooch*, *beau*, and *loan*)
18. O as in *Oliver* (where the O has a *short* sound – the same *sound* is also found in the words *swan* and *honest*)
O can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *other*, *dinosaur*, and *company*
19. P as in *pudding* and *puppy*
Q has a K+W sound as in *queen* (the same *sound* can be found in the word *walkway*)

- Q can also sound like K+U as in *queue*
 Q can also have a K sound as in *bouquet*
20. R as in *rabbit* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *hurry*, *wriggle*, and *rhyme*)
21. S as in *sunny* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *messy*, *race*, *science*, and *psychic*)
 S can also have a 'sh' sound as in *sugar* and *sure*
22. T as in *tummy* and *dotty*
 ED can also have a T sound as in the word *dipped*, *wrapped*, and *hopped*
 TH which usually has a 'th' sound, can also have a T sound as in the word *Thomas*
23. U as in *unicorn* (where the U has a *long* sound like Y+U combined as in *you*, *beauty*, *queue*, *feud*, *tissue*, *few*, *barbecue*, and *vacuum*)
24. U as in *upside-down* (where the U has a *short* sound – the same *sound* is also found in the words *trouble*, *honour*, and *blood*)
 U can also have a long 'oo' sound as in *rumour*, *ruin*, and *illusion*
 U can also have a short 'oo' sound as in *bush*, *sugar*, and *cushion*
 U can also have a *schwa* sound (which is a weaker 'uh' sound – the *unstressed* version of the *short* U sound) as in *upon*, *succeed*, and *support*
25. V as in *van* and *savvy*
 F can also have a V sound as in the word *of*
 PH can also have a V sound as in the word *Stephen*
26. W as in *wonderful* and *whale* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *queen* and *choir*)
 X can sound like K+S as in *fox* (the same *sound* can be found in the word *rocks*)
 X can also sound like E+K+S as in *x-ray*
 X can also sound like G+Z as in *exam*
 X can also sound like Z as in *xylophone*
27. Y as in *yellow* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *hallelujah* and *onion*)
 Y can also sound like a *long* I as in the word *sky*, *cry*, *tyre*, and *July*
 Y can also sound like a *short* I as in *gym*, *pyramid*, and *mystic*
 Y can also sound like a *long* E as in the words *body*, *pony*, and *lady*
 Y can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *analysis*, *vinyl*, and *syringe*
28. Z as in *zig-zag* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *drizzle*, *his*, and *scissors*)
29. AIR as in *chair* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *care*, *bear*, *prayer*, *where*, and *their*)
 AI can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *captain*, *mountain* (although again I think this depends on where you live and how you pronounce things)
30. AR as in *car* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *laugh*, *sergeant*, and *heart*)
 AR can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *appear*, *collar*, and *sugar*
31. AW as in *dawn* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *ball*, *poor*, *pour*, *pore*, *sauce*, *war*, *board*, *bored*, *bought*, and *taught*)
32. CH as in *cheap* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *watch*, *future*, and *righteous*)
 CH can also have a 'sh' sound as in *machine* and *niche*
 CH can also have a hard C sound (a K sound) as in *psychology*
33. EAR as in *hear* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *beer*, *pier*, and *here*)
 EAR can also have an 'ar' sound as in *heart* or a 'er' sound as *heard*
 EA can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *ocean*
 ER can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *letter*, *teacher*, and *another*

34. IR as in *bird* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *hurt*, *heard*, *herd*, *journey*, *myrtle*, and *word*)
35. OO as in *foot* (the same short 'oo' *sound* is also found in the words *put*, *wolf*, and *could*)
36. OO as in *moon* (the same long 'oo' *sound* is also found in the words *dew*, *due*, *shoe*, *fruit*, *through*, *group*, *who*, *manoeuvre*, and *tune*)
OO can also have a *short U* sound) as in *flood* and *blood*
37. OR as in *cork* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *talk*, *door*, and *caught*)
OR can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *doctor*, *manor*, and *sailor*
OU can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *famous*, *colour*, and *valour*
38. OW as in *cow* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *mouse* and *bough*)
39. OY as in *toy* (the same *sound* is also found in the word *avoid* and *buoy*)
40. SH as in *sheep* (the same *sound* can be found in the words *ocean*, *sure*, *machine*, *station*, *conscience*, and *special*)
41. TH as in *thin*, *toothache*, and *moth* (called a *voiceless* or *unvoiced* sound, which can be found at the beginning, middle or the end of a word)
42. TH as in *that*, *mother*, and *bathe* (called a *voiced* sound, which can also be found at the beginning, middle or the end of a word, but if at the end an 'e' is added)
43. NG as in *ring* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *sink* and *tongue*)
44. ZH as in *beige* (the same *sound* is also found in the words *treasure*, *azure*, and *vision*)

I have no idea where the URE sound (as in *pure*, *cure*, and *tour*) fits in that list!

Is that a U kind of sound an OO sound or even a Y sound?

By the way sounds are known as *phonemes*
but when the same sound is spelt differently they're called *graphemes*.

Many letters have lots of different sounds!

The letter A which has nine different sounds! A long sound as in *ape*, *able* and *angel*; a short sound as in *apple*, *ant* and *acrobat*, but then the letter A can also have an 'ar' sound as in *Amish*, *father*, and *banana*; an 'or' sound as in *waterfall*, *stall* and *walnut*; an 'air' sound as in *area*, *carer*, and *variant*; a short E sound as in *many* and *any*; a short O sound as in *wand*, *watch* and *swan*; a short U sound (a *schwa* sound) as in *again*, *asleep* and *zebra*; some even suggest the letter A can even have a short I sound as in *village*, *cabbage*, and *package*! (again many of these pronunciations depend on where you live!)

The letters AI have a long A sound like in *paid*, *raid*, and *maid* but *said* has a short E sound!

The letter C has a *hard* sound or a *soft* sound as in *car* and *city*, but *cello* has a 'ch' sound!

The letters C+H make a 'ch' sound as in *chocolate*, but in *machine* they have a 'sh' sound!

'ch' can also have a hard C sound like in *psychic*

The letter E has a *long* sound and a *short* sound as in *emu* and *egg*; E can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *problem*, *necessary*, and *department*

The letter G has a *hard* sound or a *soft* sound as in *guitar* and *giant*, two Gs together can have a hard sound like in *giggle* but then in *exaggerate* the two Gs sound like a J!

The letter I has a *long* sound and a *short* sound as in *ice* and *igloo*; I can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *university*, *ability*, and *radical* The letters 'OO' can sound like *foot* and *stood* (with a *short* sound); or *doom* and *gloom* (with a *long* sound); or *floor* and *door* (with an 'or' sound); or *flood* and *blood* (with a short U sound)

The letter O has a *long* sound and a *short* sound as in *over* and *opera*; O can also have a *schwa* sound (an 'uh' sound) as in *towards*, *police*, and *person*.

The letter U has a *long* sound and a *short* sound as in *uniform* and *umbrella*; U can also sound like a *short* I as in *busy*; or a long 'oo' sound as in *truth*; or a short 'oo' sound as in *push*; or a *schwa* sound ('uh') as in *campus*

The letter X sounds like K+S in *fox*, E+K+S in *x-ray*, and Z in *xylophone*!

The letter Y can sound like the Y in *yellow*, or a *long* I as in *sty*, or a *short* I as in *gym*, then in *cycle* the Y has a *long* I sound, but in *bicycle* it has a *short* I sound! To top it all off there are words like *onion* which has a Y sound with no Y at all!

The letters 'OUGH' sound like 'off' as in *cough*, or 'uff' as in *enough*, or 'ow' as in *bough*, or 'or' as in *bought*, or 'oh' as in *though*, or 'oo' as in *through*!

The letters AUGHT have an 'ort' sound in *caught*, *taught*, *daughter*, but *laugh* has an 'ar' sound! (Although that also depends on where you live because some pronounce it 'larf' others pronounce it as 'laff'!)

There are words with silent letters you don't pronounce at all!

The letter A is silent in words like *artistically*, *musically* and *physically*

The letter B is silent in words like *comb*, *lamb*, *thumb*, *plumber*, *debt*, and *doubt*

The letter C is silent in words like *muscle*, *ascend*, *disciple*, *scent*, and *science*

The letter D is silent in words like *Wednesday*, *sandwich*, *hedge*, and *handkerchief*

The letter E is silent in words like *change*, *love*, *like*, and *please*

The letters CH are silent in *yacht* (and the A is pronounced as an O!)

The letter G can also be silent when combined with an N like in *design*, *assign*, *gnat* and *gnaw*, but in the case of *gnu* you pronounce both!

The letter H is silent in words like *hour*, *ghost*, *mechanic*, and *heir*

The letter I is silent in words like *business* and *parliament*

The letter K is silent when combined with an N like in *knock*, *knit*, *knot*, and *know*

The letter L is silent in words like *almond*, *half*, *chalk*, *should*, *could*, and *would*

The letter N is silent in words like *column*, *autumn*, and *hymn*

The letter P is silent in words like *cupboard*, *coup*, *raspberry*, *psychic*, and *pneumonia*

The letter S is silent in words like *island* and *aisle*

The letter T is silent in words such as *watch*, *castle*, *butcher*, *listen*, and *soften*

The letters TH are silent in the word *asthma*

The letter U is silent in the words like *biscuit*, *guard*, *guess*, and *guilt*

The letter W is silent in the word *two* (yet not in the words *twice*, *twelve* and *twenty*!), also in words like *wrap*, *write*, *answer*, and *wrinkle*

There are some rules to follow in English – but then we don't follow them!

'I before E except after C' – unless you're talking about the words *weird*, *seize*, *forfeit*, *weigh*, and *neighbour*, etc., or the word *glacier* when the I and E do come after C!

GH have an F sound as in *enough*, *tough*, *rough*, *cough*, *laugh*, but that's not the case in *bough*, *dough*, *though*, or *through*, and definitely not the case in *ghost* and *ghoul*!

Past tense is really crazy in English, often it involves putting 'ed' on the end of a word and is pronounced with a D sound e.g. *played*, *showed*, and *called*. Sometimes it has a T sound e.g. *dipped*, *walked*, *liked*, and *bumped*. Then sometimes it's pronounced as 'ed' e.g. *counted*, *shouted*, *folded*, and *moulded*!

Sometimes past tense has nothing to do with putting 'ed' on the end of a word. If the past tense of *walk* is *walked*; *play* is *played*; and *bark* is *barked*, then why isn't it *go*, *goed* (instead it's *went*); or *break*, *breaked* (here's it's *broke*); *buy*, *buyed* (here it's *bought*); *think*, *thinked* (here it's *thought*); or *sting*, *stinged* (here it's *stung*)!

Past tense can also involve changing the 'i' to an 'a' e.g. *sit*, *sat*; *sing*, *sang*; *drink*, *drank*, so why isn't it *bite*, *bate* (instead it's *bit*); *bring*, *brang* (here it's *brought*); or *think*, *thank* (again it's *thought*); and why isn't *sting*, *stang* (because again it's *stung*)!

Then there's *see* and *saw* – 'I can *see* you' (present tense), 'I *saw* you' (past tense). Yet the past tense of *free* isn't *fraw*, and *agree* isn't *agraw*!

Then there's *then* and *than* which have nothing to do with past tense at all! *Than* is not the past tense version of *then* they are just two different words!

Then there's this crazy thing we do with *that* and *had*, we use them twice! e.g. 'She knew *that that* was exactly what she wanted'; 'He *had had* many opportunities to change'

Plurals are also totally nuts in English and I mean really, really crazy!

Sometimes you add an 's' e.g. 'One duck, two ducks'

Sometimes you add an 'es' e.g. 'One bus, two buses'

Sometimes an 'f' become 'ves' e.g. 'One wolf, two wolves, one leaf, two leaves' (but not always e.g. 'One chef, two chefs, one Chief, two Chiefs'!)

Sometimes a 'y' becomes 'ies' e.g. 'One puppy, two puppies, one baby, two babies' (but not always e.g. 'One boy, two boys, one day, two days'!)

Sometimes if a word ends in 'o' you add 'es' e.g. 'One potato, two potatoes, one tomato, two tomatoes' (but not always e.g. 'One photo, two photos, one yo-yo, two yo-yos!')

Sometimes if a word has 'oo' it becomes 'ee' e.g. *goose* – *geese*; *tooth* – *teeth*; *foot* – *feet* (but *moose* does not become *meese*; *booth* does not become *beeth*; and *hoot* does not become *heet*!)

Sometimes if a word ends in 'us' then you change it to an 'i' e.g. *fungus* becomes *fungi*; *cactus* becomes *cacti*; then when it comes to octopus and platypus you get to choose – either *octopi* and *platypi* or *octopuses* and *platypuses* – both are fine!

Sometimes if a word ends in 'is' you change it to 'es' e.g. *crisis* becomes *crises*; *thesis* becomes *theses*; *oasis* becomes *oases*; and *analysis* becomes *analyses*

Sometimes if a word ends in 'on' you change it to 'a' e.g. *phenomenon* – *phenomena*

Sometimes you don't change anything at all e.g. 'One *sheep*, two *sheep*'. The same goes for *fish* (there's no such word as *fishes*); *moose* (there's no such word as *mooses*); *scissors* (there's no such word as *scissorses*); *rice* (there's no such word as *rices*); and *you* (despite popular opinion and despite how many people you hear say it every single day **there is no such word as *YOUS*** repeat **there is no such word as *YOUS*** the following sentences are **WRONG** no matter how many people you are speaking to. It's like nails down a chalkboard!

'What do *yous* want?'

'Where are *yous* going?'

'What are *yous* up to?'

'How are *yous* getting there?'

Sometimes plurals are completely different e.g. *child* becomes *children* not *childs*; *person* becomes *people* not *persons*; *mouse* becomes *mice* not *mouses*, but oddly enough *house* doesn't become *hice* it's *houses*!

Then there are words that are spelt the same but pronounced differently!

Homographs – are words that have the same spelling but different meanings and pronunciation

Here are just a few examples:

He *wound* the bandage around the *wound*
The *Polish* girl put *polish* on the table
Have you *read* this book, it's a great *read*
She took a *bow* wearing a pretty *bow*
He played the *lead* role and *lead* the whole performance
The *wind* on the beach helped him *wind* down
The vast *desert* was a good place to *desert* his old car
At the last *minute* he saw the *minute* mosquito
He made it a point to *refuse* to remove all her rubbish and *refuse*
The school *project* was to *project* shadows on a screen
The idea was for the bride to *entrance* and delight when she made her *entrance*
They had a big *row* over who would *row* the boat
When she saw the *tear* in her new dress she shed a *tear*
The farmer's old *sow* stood and watched him *sow* seeds
He was *close* enough to *close* the door
The old *house* was a good place to *house* the cows
He showed her how to *use* the machine, she then made good *use* of it
It was hard to *live* through the *live* performance it was so bad!

There are words that are spelt differently but pronounced the same!

Homophones – are words that have different spelling but sound the same

Here are just a few examples:

I can *see* the *sea*
She *read* about the girl in the *red* dress
He was born and *bred* a baker and made the best *bread*
I'd rather *die* than *dye* my hair bright green
I might dye a *piece* of cloth and make a *peace* sign
He *threw* the ball *through* the tunnel
Will that new *reel* make a *real* difference?
Let's all *pray* we don't become *prey*
The *principal* was a man of *principle*
It was an astounding *feat* how he moved his *feet*
It was my *fate* to come to this *fete* today
There was delicious *fare* at the *fair*
The *boy* swam out to the *buoy*
Which witch are we talking about?
She *made* the *maid* take a day off
I do wish you wouldn't *whine* about the *wine*
They served such *plain* food on the *plane*
He *led* the way to the *lead* pipes
She told a long *tale* about the monkey's long *tail*
I can't *bear* to see your *bare* bottom!

Not to mention *paw, poor, pour* and *pore*; *or, oar*, and *ore*; *cent, scent* and *sent*; *so, sow* and *sew*; *their, they're* and *there*; *to, too* and *two*; *holey, holy* and *wholly*; *vein, vain* and *vane*; *for, fore* and *four*; *cite, site* and *sight*; *write, rite* and *right*; *by, buy* and *bye*!

There are words that are spelt the same, pronounced the same, but have different meanings!

Homonyms – are words that have the same spelling and the same sound but different meanings

Here are a few examples:

She carried a *compact* little *compact* to hold her make-up

It would be a *lie* to say I will *lie* with you

Getting a *fine* was a *fine* way to start the day

The *row* boats were all in a *row*

She would *discount* the importance of getting a *discount* on the price

The *object* of the meeting was to discuss the weird new *object* they found

We will need to *clip* her hair shorter before she can wear that *clip*

He came *second* by just one *second*

The girl with *fair* hair was a delight to see at the *fair*

She wore a head *band* like the drummer in her favourite *band*

I shall *ring* you about the *ring* my wife wanted

He became quite *well* again after drinking the water from the *well*

The scientist read the *current* data about the rivers *current*

He accidentally hit the little *bat* with his cricket *bat*

He *saw* how the carpenter was using the *saw*

Then there's these weird words that make no sense at all!

One has no W but you pronounce it with one, *two* has a W but you don't pronounce it at all!

Was has no O or a Z yet you pronounce it with both!

Of has no V but you pronounce it as if it has

Choir has no W but you pronounce it as if it has

Colonel is spelt co-lo-nel but is pronounced ker-n'uh'l with a schwa

Pharaoh has Ph as an F sound, the AR has an 'air' sound, the A is silent and so is the H!

Worse – rhymes with *curse* and *purse*, but not *horse*!

Worcestershire – is a county in England which many mispronounce as wor-ses-ter-shy-er but in England it's pronounced w'uh'-st'uh'-sh'uh', where the o is a schwa, the rce is silent, the 'er' is a schwa, the 'ir' is a schwa, and the final e is also silent!

Pineapples have no pines or apples in them and *hamburgers* have no ham in them!

Guinea Pigs are not from Guinea nor are they pigs!

Finally, there is the game of cricket. It may be hard to believe, but to someone who understands cricket, the following makes perfect sense! In cricket there are two teams, one in and one out, each player in the in team goes out, then when he's out he comes back in, then the next one goes out, until he's out, and so on until they are all out. Then the side that was out comes in and the side that's been in goes out, and tries to get those coming in, out! Sometimes you get players still in and not out. When both sides have been in and out (including the not outs), then that's the end of the game!

Like I said – English is totally nuts!