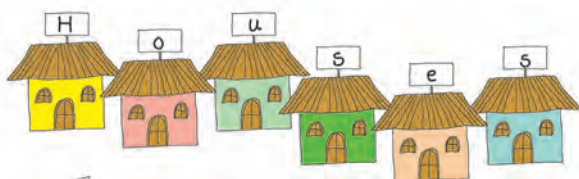


12. Why English is so Hard...

We'll begin with a box, and the
plural is boxes;
But the plural of ox should be
oxen, not oxes.



You may find a lone mouse or a
whole lot of mice,
But the plural of a house is houses,
not hice.



If the plural of man is
always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan
be called pen ?



And I speak of a foot,
and you show me your feet,
But I give you a boot;
would a pair be called beet ?

That one may be that,
and three may be those,
Yet the plural of hat
would never be hose.





The masculine pronouns are he,
his and him,
But imagine the feminine she,
shis and shim !



So our English,
I think you will all agree,
Is the trickiest language
you ever did see.



Things to do :

1. Answer the following questions :
 - (a) What makes English the trickiest language ?
 - (b) Write the singular of the following :
* oxen * mice * men * feet.
 - (c) Write the plurals of :
* boot * house * that * pan.
2. Make a list of other tricky examples you know. Keep adding to your list.
3. List the funny words you find in this poem.
Example : hice.
4. A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a 'naming' word.
For example, we use 'he', 'his', 'him' in place of 'John', 'John's' and 'to John' respectively.
Write what you will use for 'Mary', 'Mary's', and 'to Mary' in the following sentences :
 - * Mary is my friend.
 - * This is Mary's notebook.
 - * I want to retun it to Mary.