

Hailsham speedwriting system: key

1. It is partly a phonetic system, relying on context. Thus *fθ* can mean ‘further’ or ‘father’, sentences apart (3 July 1975 diary). In the same document ‘ret’ means ‘retire’ and ‘retd’ means ‘returned’ (ditto).
2. Endings in “tion” sometimes abbreviated phonetically with a closing ‘j’: eg, “nvgj” for “navigation”. [*This is standard speedwriting in fact.*]
3. Generally abbreviation rather than phonetics the basis of the system, however.
4. Sometimes a single character is saved: eg, ‘gt’ for ‘get’. Some very limited reductions: ‘unhelpf’, for example.
5. Vowels are dropped where possible within a word, except at the beginning.
6. The use of Greek letters is surely a personal addition to the original speedwriting system? [*Yes.*]
7. The purpose of using the system appears to have been secrecy as much as speed.
8. A radical abbreviation is sometimes practised in the midst of less radical ones, probably for additional secrecy.
9. Sometimes the same word is abbreviated in different ways, e.g. ‘authority’ can be “authy” or “auθy”.

Terms used as in Speedwriting dictionary are in red

ab ^t	about [12 Nov 74 diary]
acc	according [11 De 75 diary]
agst	against [11 De 75 diary]
aps	appears [70-71 diary (4)]
arg	argue [11 De 75 diary]
authy	authority [11 De 75 diary]
auθy	authority [29 Jul 75 diary]
b	but [29 Jul 75 diary]
b	be [11 De 75 diary]
bft	benefit [11 De 75 diary]
cd	could [11 De 75 diary]
ddlk	deadlock [70-71 diary (4)]
diffy	difficulty [11 De 75 diary]
δθ	death [3 Jul 75 diary]
dw	down [1 Oct 76 diary]
e	he [1 Oct 76 diary]
em ^y	?emergency [11 De 75 diary]
estb ^d	established [11 De 75 diary]
f	for [11 De 75 diary]

fam	family [3 Jul 75 diary]
fθ	further [3 Jul 75 diary] OR
fθ	father [3 Jul 75 diary]
gt	get [29 Jul 75 diary]
gv	?give (“gv n” meaning “give in”?) [29 Jul 75 diary]
hps	happens [All Souls election, 1/1/12 (513)]
hw	how [1 Oct 76 diary]
jjt	judgment [3 Jul 75 diary]
ks	?because [70-71 diary (4)]
lkj	election [1 Oct 76 diary]
mi	might [1 Oct 76 diary]
mj	motion [1 Oct 76 diary]
mpt	important [1 Oct 76 diary]
mθ	mother [3 Jul 75 diary]
n	in [3 Jul 75 diary]
navigby	navigability [11 De 75 diary]
nec ^y	necessary [11 De 75 diary]
ngj	?negotiation [70-71 diary (4)]
nvgj	navigation [11 De 75 diary]
o	of [29 Jul 75 diary]
oppties	opportunities [3 Jul 75 diary]
pmount	paramount [11 De 75 diary]
ppo	purporting? [1 Oct 76 diary]
psn	person [1 Oct 76 diary] [Speedwriting Dictionary used this]
pub	public [11 De 75 diary]
qfi	qualify [29 Jul 75 diary]
qfication	qualification [29 Jul 75 diary]
regul ⁿ	regulation [11 De 75 diary]
ret	retire [3 Jul 75 diary]
retd	returned [3 Jul 75 diary]
ξd	should [12 Nov 74 diary]
ξdv	?should've [70-71 diary (4)]
Sc	Scottish [11 De 75 diary]
sd	said [12 Nov 74 diary]
shd	should [11 De 75 diary]
spk	speak or speaker [29 Jul 75 diary]
Ś	st [traffic statement]
Śt	steel [traffic statement]
t	the [29 Jul 75 diary]
tb	to be [70-71 diary (4)]
θ	th [29 Jul 75 diary]
θa	that [29 Jul 75 diary]
θr	there [70-71 diary (4)]
θrd	?there'd [70-71 diary (4)]

θs	these [traffic statement]
θos	those [traffic statement]
u	you [29 Jul 75 diary]
unhelpf	unhelpful [11 De 75 diary]
unsucc	unsuccessful [3 Jul 75 diary]
v	
vo	vote [1 Oct 76 diary]
vS	?vested [11 De 75 diary]
w	?with [29 Jul 75 diary]
w	will [11 De 75 diary]
wa	what [All Souls election, 1/1/12 (513)]
wd	would [12 Nov 74 diary]
wh:	which [11 De 75 diary]
wk	work [29 Jul 75 diary]
wξ	?wish [29 Jul 75 diary]
xpc	?expect(ed) [70-71 diary (4)]
y	?yes [29 Jul 75 diary]
y	year [29 Jul 75 diary]
ys	years [29 Jul 75 diary]