

# The High Cost of Orthographic Disadvantage

## What's an orthography?

The spelling system a nation uses.

Orthographic complexity dictates how hard it is to learn to read and write. English is one of the world's hardest orthographies - it's damaging for at-risk children. Most nations use highly regular spelling - their at-risk children have strong success.

**Kid in regular orthography nations take just months to read and spell well.**

**+** Many have adult-level accuracy from Grade 1.

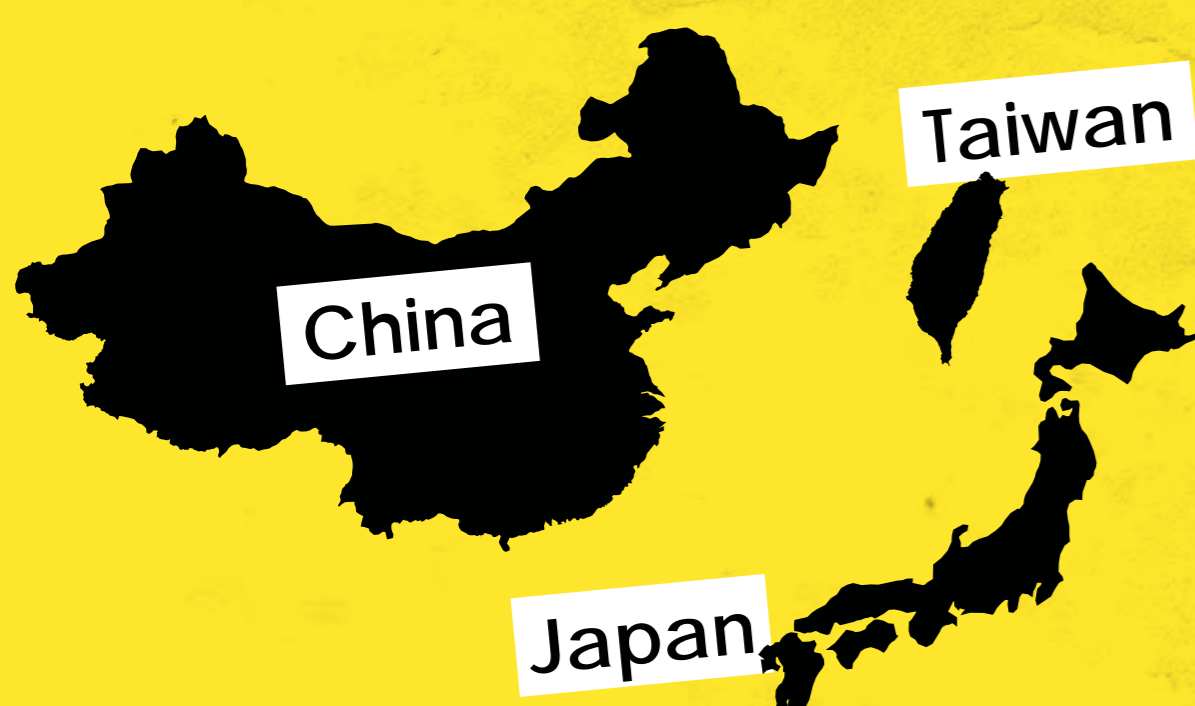
**VS**

**Kids in Anglophone nations take ≥ 6-9 years to read and spell well.**

**+** Many children & adults have major difficulties.

Orthographic Impacts	Awesome Foursome <b>Them!</b> 😊	Awful Foursome <b>Us!</b> 😞
EARLY LITERACY DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy &amp; Rapid</li> <li>• Low Cognitive Load</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult &amp; Slow</li> <li>• Massive Cognitive Load</li> </ul>
TEACHING AND LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal Difficulties</li> <li>• Maximised Literacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximised Difficulties</li> <li>• Impeded Literacy</li> </ul>
SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time-Rich Schools</li> <li>• Low Support Needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very Time-Poor Schools</li> <li>• Very High Support Needs</li> </ul>
ACADEMIC LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowered Subject Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impeded Subject Learning</li> </ul>

## How can Australia fix this?



Do as Taiwan, Japan and China do and implement a beginners' orthography! They changed to 2-Stage early literacy in the 1940-50s with overwhelming success!



**It's research time!**  
We need to explore English beginner orthographies, e.g. ITA and Flexispel.

For more information visit [www.susangalletly.com.au](http://www.susangalletly.com.au)