

ACCIDENTAL TAUTONYMS

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Whether you call them repeaters, double-ups, reduplications, or technically, tautonyms, words like **FROUFROU**, **HINAHINA** and **GUITGUIT** are fascinating. From **ATLATL** to **ZOOZOO**, and **KAVAKAVA** to **TUCUTUCU**, from **DIVIDIVI** to **QUINAQUINA**, and **RIRORIRO** to **CHIQUICHIQUI**, they all catch your eye.

My favorite tautonyms are the 'accidental' repeaters, words such as **TESTES**, **PALPAL**, **VALVAL**, **SESSES** and the lovely **HOTSHOTS** that are 'visual' but not 'aural' doubles.

Actually, in some compound examples the two halves are pronounced almost identically. For instance, with a word like **LIPSLIPS** there is very little difference whether it is LIP + SLIPS or LIPS + LIPS.

Here is a small collection of these intriguing 'accidental' tautonyms. Four-letter examples like **ANAN**, **ISIS**, **MEME** and **iTIT** (a musical breast implant for women who are sick of men staring at their breasts and not listening to them) have not been included, nor have words like **BERBER**, **MURMUR** and **TARTAR**.

Those with no source shown are personal coinages. I'm sure readers can add to this list.

References

EDD English Dialect Dictionary, Joseph Wright, 1970 ed.

Net Internet (using Google search program)

OED Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd ed., 1989

UD Urban Dictionary [www.urbandictionary.com] (Net)]

Web2 Webster's New International Dictionary, 2nd ed., 1961

AGASAGAS novels typically focusing on middle class families in British country houses (hyphenated in the *Oxford Dictionary of New Words*, 1971).

'The best-selling **Agasaga** author - still glamorous at 61 - was gloomily revising her target.'

[www.dailymail.com, Yes, every little helps at Tresco's, 25 Jan 2004 (Net)]

ANTICANTIC opposed to something being 'cantic' (slanted).

CANSCANS images from a scanner on the production line at a canning plant; x-rays of the buttocks (slang).

CAPECAPES views of or from a cape.

'Miss Hughes, a colonist of Provincetown, has assembled a group of landscapes of Cape Cod - **capescapes**.' [*Arts* magazine, 1935, p34]

CIDERCIDER one who commits **cidercide**, suicide by drowning in a vat of cider. Compare **sewercide**, death by falling in a sewer, and **suicider**, one who commits suicide.

COOPSCOOPS implements for scooping up droppings from a (chicken, etc.) coop.

CREWSCREWS multiple coerced acts of sexual intercourse with one woman by members of a crew, compare **gangscrow** (slang).

CUFFSCUFFS scuff marks on the cuffs of sleeves or trouser legs.

DEEDEE one to whom something is deeded, or for whom a deed is done.

'The person they had done the deed for, the **deedee**, spun a wheel with a cash amount on it.'

[sting.spsu.edu, The Sting Online, The Histories that Matter: Game Shows, The Wheel of Fortune, 22 Aug 2005 (Net)].

ENTENT an old form of 'intent'. [OED]

EXTEXT a text message from an ex-boyfriend, ex-girlfriend, ex-wife, etc. [UD]

EXTRADEXTRAD of writing, beyond the 'dextrad', that which progresses from left to right.

HACKSHACKS slang for hospitals (**hack shack** in online 'Surf Dictionary', www.mintsurfer.com).

'Are you sure you don't need to go to the **hackshack**?' [www.veritaserum.com, Forums, Everything Harry Potter - Book 7, Movie 5 News, Rumors, 4 Feb 2008 (Net)]

HAGSHAGS ugly women seen purely as sex objects (British slang).

'She...has shifted from being a faghag to a **hagshag**.' [forums.thestranger.com, Book about Madonna's life, 19 Mar 2007 (Net)]

HAWSHAWS people with the surname **Hawshaw**, which appears three times in U.S. telephone books. [Net]

HESHES pl. of **hesh**, a male homosexual. [*Cassell Dictionary of Slang*, Jonathon Green, 1998]

HIPSHIPS pl. of **hipship**, the state of being 'hip' or cool, trendiness (compare 'hardship').

HOPSHOPS shops selling home brewing supplies.

'The Grein raid in Chicago was the first move under what Commissioner Doran claimed as a nation-wide drive on **hopshops**.' [*Time* magazine, Bottles & Barrels, 19 May 1930]

INTERINTER to bury in-between (other bodies).

INTERSINTERS of powdered metals, while interlaid, makes cohesive by the combined action of heat and pressure (sinters).

INTINT the name of various glass and hair tinting enterprises. [Net]

KIDSKIDS flat objects used by children to skid down slopes.

'There are loads of decent slopes, which will be perfect for us to go skidding down on the **Kidskid**.' [www.itsmymarket.com, Norfolk Single Dad, July 2007 (Net)]

KILLSKILLS skills used by snipers, soldiers, hitmen, etc., to take out a given target in a single move.

'The gunslinger's **killskills** sent shivers through Fall Dog's spine - he had taken out both rider and horse in a single shot.' [UD]

KINKIN of a cough: choking, convulsive, 'kinking'. [EDD]

LACKSLACKS a joky name for someone not wearing pants, e.g. Dr **Lackslacks** (the Red Guy) in 'Cow and Chicken', an American animated TV series. [Net]

LIMESLIMES slimy green Halloween mini-cocktails.

'**Limeslime** eyeball jello shooter, with lichee-red maraschino eyeball floating in it.' [www.eatertainment.com, Eyeball Shooter, 2008 (Net)]

LINGLING fastening with shoemakers' thread (linge). [*Chambers's Scots Dictionary*, A Warrack, 1952]

LIPSLIPS slips of the lips, similar to slips of the tongue.

'How many more opportunities for "**lipslips**" are bound to occur on the parts of all the posturers for the White House.' [www.odwyerpr.com, Honick: Bombing Obama, 14 Feb 2007 (Net)]

MYTHSMYTHS old form of 'mythsmiths', myth-makers.

'I am a **Mythsmyth** and the future starts now.' [www.mythsmyth.com, Myth No More, 21 Jun 2007 (Net)]

NITENITE a resident of Niten, Indonesia.

NONANONA not belonging to the Anona genus of tropical plants.

PANSPANS West Indian jasmine shrubs that grow as big as apple trees, in Scottish poet James Grainger's major work 'The Sugarcane' (1764).

'That town, embowered in the different shade, of tamarinds, **panspans**, and papaws,...'
[*Caribbeana: an Anthology of English Literature in the West Indies, 1657-1777*, T W Krise, 1999]

PEAKSPEAKS different kinds of **Peakspeak**, language from the TV show 'Twin Peaks'.

'**Peakspeak** (lexicons of language spoken on the show, favorite quotations) - was heard daily at office and at school.' [*Full of Secrets: Critical Approaches to Twin Peaks*, David Lavery, 1995, p7]

PHOSPHOS short for '**Phospho** sodas', over the counter saline laxatives.

'The **phospho** is salty and the strong OJ disguises the taste pretty well.'

[www.healthboards.com, The night before a colonoscopy, 12 May 2006 (Net)]

POLYPOLY a market condition characterized by the fewness of sellers where this has a direct effect on prices. [*Blacks Law Dictionary*, 2007]

PORTSPORTS a social/sports club based in Portland, Maine, U.S. [Net]

POTSPOTS places where people smoke cannabis (pot).

'The roof would make a good **potspot** eh?' [UD]

PRINTSPRINTS urgent runs to the office printer, especially to print personal documents before someone else sees them. [**print sprint** in UD]

REPREP to prep (prepare) again, particularly for surgery.

'Time and cost will be saved by eliminating the need to **reprep**.' [*Endoscopic Spine Surgery and Instrumentation*, D H Kim, et al, 2004, p174]

RESTREST in linguistics, an old-fashioned variant of 'restressed', compare **blest**, **undrest**, etc.

'The form mo, with close o, represents a **restrest** weak-stress form.' [Phonology of the Cilentan Dialect, L A Ondis, *Language* journal, Dec 1934 (Net)]

RETTRETTE a female flax retter (soaker), compare **usherette**, **farmerette**, etc.

RETRET rehandling of a subject (obsolete). [OED]

SEMIASEMIA partial asemia, loss of power to express, or understand, symbols or signs of thought, compare **semicoma**, **semi-aphasia**.

TABLETABLE able to be produced in tablet form.

'**Tabletable** formulations and tablets produced therefrom.' [www.freepatentsonline.com, 2008 (Net)]

TICKSTICKS sticks used to keep a musical rhythm.

'Clapsticks, or **ticksticks**, are being used by didgeridoo players to keep a certain rhythm.'

[dragonworshipper.googlepages.com, Behind the scenes: Percussion, 2008 (Net)]

TIESTIES pl. of **tiestie**, variant of 'teistie', the black guillemot (bird). [OED]

TONESTONES supposedly, 'sensing' stones (e.g. in a cemetery).

'She found a **tonestone** and sat on it.' [www.macabremenace.com, Macabre Daze -Not Daddy's Little girl, 11 dec 2007 (Net)]

TOPSPOTS devices attached to the magnetic fuel level indicators in aircraft fuel tanks.

'This AD [airworthiness directive] results from several in-service incidents of wear and detachment of **topstops** from the magnetic fuel level indicators.' [www.scribd.com, U.S.

White House Federal Register: 06-2850, 27 Mar 2006 (Net)]

TRIATRIA pl. of **triatrium**, as in the rare condition 'cor **triatrium**', where a person has 'triatrial heart', with three atrial chambers. (tri + atria, pl. of 'atrium')

TRIKESTRIKES instances of being hit by children riding tricycles, compare **birdstrikes**.

TUFFSTUFFS slang for **Tuff Stuff** brand tape recorders, properly two words, but used generically in the citation.

'Haven't you noticed all the scholkids with their **tuffstuffs**, cardboard boxes and cans of Mr. Sheen. [Stealth Magazine, www.stealthmag.com, 9 Jun 2006 (Net)]

UNDERSUNDERS separates or breaks insufficiently.

UNGUNG in '**ungung** ho', not gung ho, not keen or enthusiastic.

'The present leadership seem to be very **ungung**-ho to work with Malaysia.'

[www.geocities.com, Bridging the causeway gap, 2008 (Net)]

UNSUNS removes or blocks out the sun. [Web2]

UPPERSUPPERS ones who dine at the 'top table'; meals served there, or in the 'upper berth' on a ship or train.

'**UPPERSUPPER** a meal served to persons in the upper berths of combination

dining/sleeping cars [on a train], perhaps.' [*The American Mathematical Weekly*, Jun-Jul 1988, Letters to the Editor]

UPSUPS sups up, consumes. [Web2]

VERVER one who displays 'verve'.

WINGSWINGS mechanisms for fitting the wings into, on the fuselage of model swingwing jets.

'I had to sand channels in them for the push rods for the **wingswing**.' [myhobbycity.com, F-14

Tomcat (from movie Top Gun), 28 may 2008 (Net)]

WORDSWORDS words used as weapons.

'No disciplines without disciples somewher crossing their **wordswords** and cutting off each other's ears.' [*Open Book/Livre Ouvert*, Geoffrey Bennington, 2004, p12]

XIANXIAN of or relating to the town of Xianxi, China.

YISHYISH somewhat **yishy**, perhaps a cross between 'yucky' (or 'yicky') and 'squishy' ['the girl... made a **yishy** face' (Net)], compare **squishyish** [Net quotes]