TRANSPOSING 4-LETTER WORDS

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In Transposing Rates (WW87195), Jeff Grant listed the 24 transpositions of the four letters AEST. He said "Although some of the terms and references are rather obscure, it is an accomplishment unlikely to be equalled with any other set of four letters". This is a challenge which appears to have lain dormant for 20 years. Here, I offer other sets of 24 transpositions.

The maximum 24 words are most likely to be produced from 2 vowels plus 2 consonants. Trial and error dictated that the 2 consonants should be S and T, not least because there are words which begin with TS as well as words which begin with ST. This cannot be said for many consonant pairings. Excluding doubled pairings (aa, ee, ii, oo, uu), there are 10 different pairings possible with the 5 major vowels AEIOU: ae, ai, ao, au, ei, eo, eu, io, iu, ou. Jeff covered the AE pairing.

I found the maximum 24 words for 8 of the other 9 pairings, and 20 words for OSTo. The 4 gaps can be filled using Google but all 4 words appear to be misspellings of other words.

One example is offered for each letter arrangement although more than one example may have been found. Abbreviations and acronyms are not admitted.


Locations are taken from The United States Board on Geographic Names.
Non-locational, unreferenced items can be found using Google.

AIST a populated place in Austria
AITS islets, especially ones on a river, as the aits or eyots of the river Thames, UK (OED)
ASIT a'sit - to sit, settle, remain sitting (OED)
ASTI in Piedmont, source of the sparkling white wine Asti Spumante (OED)
ATIS vf oat n. (OED)
ATSI a Burmese language
IAST see gillie - a1529 citation (OED)
IATS l'at and Ban Hui lat are populated places in Lebanon and Thailand respectively - hence Iats
ISAT Northumberland dial. set - see set v. 3d c1205 citation (OED)
ISTA Punta Ista is a point in Chile
ITAS tropical South American fan palms (OED)
ITSA a populated place in Egypt
SAIT vf seat n. (as in a court - seat of session). See seat 3c. 1532 citation (OED)
SATT vf. suitte - Hindu widow who immolates herself on husband's funeral pile (OED)
SIAT Latin makes water - see sye v. (OED).
SITA OHG side n., either of the 2 lateral surfaces or parts of the trunk in persons or animal (OED)
STAI vf. stay v., to cease moving, halt (OED)
STIA a populated place in Italy
TAIS vf take v. - see 3b beta. c1375 citation (OED)
TAISI Tasi Bum is a mountain in Burma
TIAS thorny Chinese shrubs (OED)
TISA a populated place in India
TSAI Lang Tsai is a populated place in Vietnam
TSIA old form of tea (OED)
**AOST** John Aost Douglas is buried in Arbala cemetery, Texas

**AOTS** a surname - Mirabella Aots in Seattle

**ASOT** a wadi in Sudan

**ASTO** Antero Asto Flores - a Peruvian educator and politician

**ATOS** a populated place in the Philippines

**AOST** Oued Atso is a wadi in Chad

**OATS** a kiln for drying malt or hops (OED)

**OATS** a species of grain (OED)

**OSAT** a locality in Bosnia-Herzegovina

**OSTA** a populated place in the Philippines

**OTAS** old form of octaves (OED)

**OTSA** a populated place in Estonia

**SAOT** a populated place in Senegal

**SATO** Takuma Sato is a Japanese Formula 1 motor racing driver

**SOAT** Mauk Soat is a mountain in Burma

**SOTA** a stream in Benin

**STAO** Vetar Je Sao Pred Zoru (*Wind Stopped At Dawn*) is a 1959 Yugoslavian film

**STOA** a portico, roofed colonnade (OED)

**TAOS** a town in New Mexico (OED)

**TASO** a populated place in Japan

**TOAS** see toze v. 'to separate tin ore from the rough ore', 1882 citation (OED)

**TOSA** the name of an aristocratic Japanese family of court painters (OED)

**TSOA** Andrew Tsao, a director of TV comedies including *Caroline in the City*, 1995

**TUAS** = Taos, (a Tigua pueblo of 2 house groups on both sides Taos R.,) a trib. of Rio Grande (Hodge)

**UTAS** = tuza, a Mexican pocket-gopher or pouch rat (OED)

**USTA** alumina usturn = burnt alums (see *alumen usturn* in Web3)
EIST vf. east (OED)
EITS vf. easts v. (OED)
EISIT Esit Urua is a populated place in Nigeria
ESTI Esti Tarla is a populated place in Greece
ETIS vf. eats v. (OED)
ETSI Latin: although, yet (Cassell's Latin Dictionary)
ETS a form of jets v. = swaggers (OED)
ESIT vr. set, v. (OED)
EST old form of jest (OED)
ESTS people or things that are, or may be, designated by nouns in -ites. See also 1926 citation (OED)
EST vs. see itzebu, Japanese for one (OED)
ESTI a King of Egypt (OED)
EST vr. sit v. (OED)
SITE the place or position occupied by some specified thing (OED)
STIE vr. sty n. a path or narrow way (OED)
TEIS vf. teise n., a lineal measurement of six feet (OED)
TESI see greyhound - 1b 1743 citation (OED)
TIES 'binds, fastens, makes fast (one thing to another, or two or more things together) with a cord or the like' (OED)
TISE old form of tice v., to entice (OED)
TISI a populated place in Russia
TISE a film actor, appears in Who Am I (1998)

EOST Alan Eost is the conductor of the Sheffield (UK) Oratorio Chorus
EOSF Fungai E'ot is a river in Malaysia, and Eot Island is in Micronesia
ETOES Esot Resources Inc. is the name of an Insurance Company in Idaho
ETOS Greek: a year (Chambers Dictionary)
ETO'S a plateau in the republic of the Congo
OEST old form of host, an armed company or multitude of men; an army (OED)
OETS Willem Oets runs a photography firm in South Africa
OSET vf. osset, some kind of woven material, app. of wool (OED)
OSTE a populated place in Latvia
OSES a populated place in Bosnia-Herzegovina
OTES a populated place in Botswana
SEOT part of the title of a 2003 South Korean film: 'Yeo Seot Gae Uiisi Seon' (If You Were Me)
SETO a populated place in Liberia
SOT A a stream in Thailand
SOTE a populated place in Cameroon
STEO vf. sty n., step (OED)
STOE vf. stow n., to place; to put in a certain place, position, or situation (OED)
TEOS vf. these (OED)
TSE a populated place in Ethiopia
TSEES the five digits of the human foot (OED)
TSEO a creek in Fiji
TSEH the late George Tseo was Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Pennsylvania State, Hazleton
TSONE a populated place in South Africa
ISTU Istu Chah is a well in Iran
ISUT the overseer of the Pharaoh Aye’s private quarters
ITSU the name of a restaurant in London, UK
ITUS Latin: a going, departure (Cassell’s Latin Dictionary)
IUST vf. joust n. - a combat where two knights or men-at-arms fought with lances on horseback (OED)
IUTS old form of juts v. see jetty v. 1598 citation (OED)
SITU Latin phrase: in situ: in its place, in position (OED)
SUIT a populated place in Egypt
STIU Sungei Stiu is a stream in Malaysia
STUI the Bani Stui Gulal performance is part of the yearly Guelaguetza festival in Mexico
SUIT to dress oneself up in clothing designed for a specific task or purpose (OED)
SUTI vf. suti = foul (OED)

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OUST to eject, dispossess (OED)
OUTS as in the phrase ‘the ins and outs of’ (OED)
OSTU Takeyuki Ostu is a Japanese polymer scientist
OSTU a populated place in Japan
OTSU a genus of owl (OED)
OSTU to eject, dispossess (OED)
OUTS as in the phrase ‘the ins and outs of’ (OED)
SOTU Rita Sotu is a member of the photo.net community (2006)
SOUT to mend or patch shoes (OED)
STOU old form of stow v. to place, to put in a certain place, position or situation (OED)
STUO to stiffen in Greek
SUOT vf. soot a. sweet-smelling, fragrant (OED)
SUTO vf. Southo, a subdivision of the Bantu people and the languages spoken by them (OED)
TOSU a stream in Ghana
TOUS Chinese hemispherical pedestalled bowls with a lid of similar shape used as a food container (OED)
TSOU a Formosan language spoken on the western slopes of Mount Yu in south central Taiwan
TSUO Dr Simon Tsuo is a Taiwanese scientist turned energy pioneer
TUOS old form of twos (OED)
TUOS a populated place in Italy
UST a stream in Kazakhstan
UTOS Uros Ni Mayor is a 1968 comedy/romance Philippine film
UTSO Heather Utsu lives in Los Angeles