

AMOEBIC CHARADES

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Logological charades occur when a word is split into two or more words which make a phrase. Thus BESTRIDE - BEST RIDE and NOTABLE - NOT ABLE are charades. Occasionally, the original word together with the words into which it divides all make a phrase: BITTERN BIT TERN. In these charades, the word FORMATE splits into FORM ATE. However, in the amœbic charades below FORMATE splits into FORM MATE! In other words, the letter M has taken on amœbic tendencies, replicating itself so that it can appear both at the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word. Here is an A-Z of amœbic charades:

- A. SEARCHES = SEA ARCHES, ADAGES = ADA AGES, ALLLIES = ALL LIES
- B. CUBBIT = CUB BIT, LAMBBASTED = LAMB BASTED, WOMBBLED = WOMB BLED
- C. EPICCITIC = EPIC CITIC, DISCCOS = DISC COS., DOMINCAN = DOMINIC CAN
- D. BRANDBIES = BRAND BIES, REDBRESS = RED BDRESS, FEDBORA = FED BDORA, MADBONNA = MAD BDONNA
- E. HEEATS = HE EATS, THEEATER = THE EEATER, LAMEELLA = LAME ELLA
- F. REFFINED = REF. FINED, MUFFFITS (dial. muffets) = MUFF FITS
- G. TRIGGONE = TRIG GONE, BIGGALES (enchants) = BIG GALES, MARGGAY (tiger cat) = MARG GAY
- H. DITCHER = DITCH HER, PINCHER = PINCH HER, HEATHHEN = HEATH HEN, BOTHHERS = BOTH HERS
- I. SKIIMP = SKI IMP, AITCHES = AI (sloth) ITCHES
- J.
- K. ROCKKING = ROCK KING, OKKAY = OK KAY, TWANKKAY (var. green tea) = TWANK K (spank) KAY
- L. CELLLIST = CELL LIST, MALLLET = MALL LET, WILLLIAM = WILL LIAM? BILLED = BILL LED
- M. ARMMATURES = ARM MATURES, FORMMATE = FORM MMATE
- N. BANNANA = BAN NNANA, CANNED = CAN NNED? LEONNINE = LEON NNINE
- O. NONE = NO ONE, GOUT = GO OUT, TOWN = TO OWN, FLOWOED = FLO OWED, DISCOVER = DISCO OVER
- P. LIMPPET = LIMP PET, REPLIES = REP PLIES, CARPPETS = CARP PPETS, RIPPEN = RIP PEN
RAPIPER = RAP PIER, IMPPOSSES = IMP PPOSES
- Q. CINQUQAINS (collections of five) = CINQ QUAINS (five angles)
- R. HERRIN = HER RREIN, TAMARRISK = TAMAR R (a River) RRISK, FORRAY = FOR RRAY
BARRUM (Barnstaple in Devon, England) = BAR RRUM
- S. HISTSORY = HIS SSTORY, HASTSY = HAS SSTY, CAPSTANS = CAP'S SSTANS, BUSHSY = BUS SSHY
PASSSAGE = PASS SSAGE, BACKSIDE = BACKS SIDE, PASTSERN = PA'S SSTERN
HASHSED = HAS SSHED, ISLSANDER = IS SSLANDER, WINSSOME = WINS SSOME
- T. PASTTIES = PAST TTIES, BATHTING = BAT TTHING, BEATTABLE = BEAT TTABLE, FATETED = FAT TTED,
CASTTOR = CAST TTOR (in a play), PANTRY = PANT! TRY! CUTTIE = CUT TTIE, SORTTIES = SORT TTIES,
PARTTIERS = PART TTIERS
- U. SOUUSED = SOU UUSED, FLUUFF = FLU, UFF! (an exclamation as of someone panting with exertion or difficulty)
- V. LAVVENDER = LAV VVENDER, DUVET = DUV (dove) VET
- W. LOWWING = LOW WWING, NARROWWING = NARROW WWING, SAWING = SAW WWING
- X. OX-RAY = OX XRAY
- Y. EYYES = EY, YES, WHYELL (while) = WHY YELL?
- Z. BLITZZED = BLITZ ZZED, OZONE = OZ ZZONE

The phrase produced may bear a meaningful relationship to the original word:

WEDGED? - WE EDGED

MADAME - MAD DAME

WIDOWED? - WIDOW WED

FOREST - FOR REST

A step further. The following are amœbic charade equivalents of BITTERN BIT TERN in which the original word, together with the words into which it divides, make a phrase:

ROBINS ROB BINS

CAROLL'S CAR ROLLS

DISHY DI'S SHY

All the original words so far offer just a single amœbic letter. In the examples below, the original word exhibits 2 or 3 amœbic letters:

VERANDA = VERA AND DA

LISTENED = LIST TEN NED

ARCHIDENE (var. archdean) = ARCH HID DENE

PASTERNED = PA'S STERN NED

MENDELIAN = MEND DELI IAN

WEATHERED = WE EAT THERE ED

Rarely, the original word exhibits alternative amœbic letters:

MASTIFF (dog) = MAST TIFF or MA'S STIFF

PASTORY = PAST TORY or PA'S STORY

When it comes to demonstrating the amœbic charade genre, Diana (Di for short) takes some beating. We learn a lot about the lady. She is shy but strict, has a sallow complexion, is subject to stress, wears furs, uses a stick, gardens, makes cakes and is obliging but prone to be late...

1 amœbic letter

DISTAFF = DI'S STAFF

DISTRESS = DI'S STRESS

DISTANCE = DI'S STANCE

DISABLE = DI'S SABLE

DISTAIN = DI'S STAIN

DISHED = DI'S SHED

DISOWN = D'S SOWN

DISEDGE = DI'S SEDGE

DICES = DI ICES

DITCHES = DI ITCHES

2 amœbic letters

DISHY = DI IS SHY

DIME = DI, I'M ME

DISTRICT = DI IS STRICT

DISALLOW = DI IS SALLOW

3 amœbic letters

DISTILLATE = DI IS STILL LATE

DISOBLIGING = DI IS SO OBLIGING

Thank you Di!