

Animals in Disarray

For the true logophile (word lover), one of the joys of life is rearranging the letters of a word or name to form some other word or name. Let us assume that the logophile picks up a daily paper, turns to the society column, and comes upon a sentence such as this:

"Daniel C. Conley, sprucy Englander, rumbaed erect." What does he see in that sentence? With but a modicum of thought, the logophile realizes that here is a sentence each word of which can be transposed to form the name of a well-known island. Thus, "Daniel C." = ICELAND; "Conley" = CEYLON; "sprucy" = CYPRUS; "Englander" = GREENLAND; "rumbaed" = BERMUDA; and "erect" = CRETE. To discover something of this sort makes the word lover's day a worthwhile one.

To help you get in tune with words transposed, to set you on the road to becoming a deft letter switcher, we have been testing the names of animals, and have made the pleasing discovery that a good many of them can be rearranged to form other words and names. To illustrate, the dog known as a SETTER can easily be turned into a STREET, or into a TESTER, or into a RETEST; the LEOPARD, by conversion, is soon PAROLED; and that Indian antelope called a NILGHAL, when suitably transformed, is observed to be HAILING its companions.

Listed below are another 25 animals, their names rearranged to spell more or less common words, names, or terms. How many of them can you put back in proper shape?

Rather than throwing a wild assortment of animals at you, we have been reasonably restrained or conservative in our choices. Yet, there are quite a few animals involved that one does not ordinarily think about, so that you will have to flex your mental muscles in order to decode all 25 of the creatures. You have our assurance that all of them are mammals. A few names consist of two words (MOUNTAIN LION would be an example), and two of the terms listed below—GROAN and TO PLACE—can each be transposed to form the names of either one of two animals. We expect, and even demand, that you find both solutions in each of these two cases.

The correct solutions will be presented in the next issue of WORD WAYS. Thus, you will not be tempted to give up immediately and turn to the solution page before you have had a real try at the problems!

The transposals:

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|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. GROAN | 9. RETIRER | 18. CRUMBLE |
| 2. SALVER | 10. LESIONS | 19. EMIGRANT |
| 3. ORANGE | 11. CHAINED | 20. RAWBONES |
| 4. CORONA | 12. TARRIES | 21. THE PLANE |
| 5. LOOPED | 13. ALPINES | 22. ONE PLATE |
| 6. CHANGE | 14. SOMEDAY | 23. A NEW DOOR |
| 7. TO PLACE | 15. UPGRADE | 24. ORCHESTRA |
| 8. PROTEIN | 16. MARTIAN | 25. PORT-AU-PRINCE |
| | 17. EMANATE | |

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A MNEMONIC FOR PI

Peter Kaiser, of Princeton, New Jersey, tells us that Lloyd's of London once held a contest among its employees to devise a mnemonic poem for remembering the value of the famous number pi to 30 decimal places. Here is the winning entry in that contest:

Now I will a rhyme construct,
By chosen words the young instruct.
Cunningly devised endeavour:
Con it, and remember ever
Widths in circle here you see,
Sketched out in strange obscurity.

The value of pi, taken to 30 decimal places, is:

3.141592653589793238462643383279+

The successive words in the poem are spelled with the numbers of letters representing the successive digits in the quoted value of pi.

Now, devise a similar mnemonic for the equally celebrated number "e"! Taken to 25 decimal places, the value of "e" is: 2.7182818284590452353602874+. Have fun.

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WE RECOMMEND

Seldom is it that a journal of recreational linguistics is in a position to issue an unqualified recommendation on behalf of some particular perfume. Such a singular moment, however, is now at hand. The recipient of our enthusiastic endorsement is **EVEREVE**, by Rigaud of Paris. **EVEREVE**, you see, is a perfect palindrome, readable either from left to right or from right to left!

WORD WAYS