

## ELEMENTARY IMPROVEMENTS

JEREMY MORSE

London, England

EDWARD R. WOLPOW

Brookline, Massachusetts

We respond to Darryl Francis' invitation to discover transadditions of the chemical element names using fewer letters than the ones in his article "Elementary, My Dear Reader" in the November 1977 Word Ways:

Element	Morse	Wolpow	
actinium	numismatic	coatimundi	2
aluminum	multanimous	nummularia	3
americium	commeasuring	chamaelirium	2
bismuth	thumbiest	thumbings	1
*boron		broon	1
bromine	combiner		1
californium	unconformability		
*carbon	bancor	corban	1
chlorine	chronicle	chronicle	2
chromium	mesorchium	trachomitum	4
curium	curcumin	teucrium	3
europium	unimperious §	euphorbium	5
fluorine	unforcible §		1
germanium	commeasuring	megasporangium	3
*gold	glod §		1
hafnium	humanify §		4
iridium	impurified	miracidium	6
*iron	roin §	noir	1
krypton	pyknometer	pyknometer	3
lawrencium	well-manicured	American pasqueflower	3 (7)
lithium		humility	3
mercury	currycombed	rum cherry	1 (3)
neodymium		endomysium	10
neptunium	unimportuned §		4
niobium		limnobium	1
oxygen	hexagony §	xenogamy	3
phosphorus	scyphophorous §	spherophorus	7
platinum	manipulate	multiplane	2
potassium		assumption	1
promethium	thermopolium §		4
radium	muridae	cardium	1
rubidium	subdelirium §	lumbriculidae	3
samarium		marasmus	1

strontium	importunates§	monstrousity	5
sulfur	unfurls	unfurls	2
tantalum	matutinal		4
technetium	catechumenist§		5
thallium	humiliatingly	multiflash	4
thulium	humilitude§	multihued	2
titanium	mutilation	multitudinal	3
uranium		anthurium	1
vanadium	mundivagant	avizandum	6
wolfram		flatworm	1
xenon	annexor§	connex	3
yttrium	maturity	maturity	1
zinc	zonic§		1

The numbers at the right indicate the letter-savings with respect to Darryl's original list; these total 125, bringing the number of letters in the total transaddition down to 975.

Two words in the above list have not been counted in the total: WELL-MANICURED, a highly plausible word which cannot be found in any dictionary, and RUM CHERRY, not a dictionary-sanctioned phrase. Two other words merit special comment: BANCOR, Keynes' name for international reserve unit, and TRACHOMITUM, found in H. C. D. deWit's Plants of the World (1967). All other words are found either in Webster's Third or the Oxford English Dictionary (marked with §).

We note two errors in the original article: IMMUNOLOGICAL does not have a second U to qualify as a transaddition of ALUMINUM, and AMERICUM should have been spelled AMERICIUM.

## AN APPEAL FOR HELP

The editor knows of no courses taught in the field of recreational linguistics (defined, for the sake of argument, as Parts II and III of the Ten-Year Topical Index in this issue). Do readers of *Word Ways* know of any courses -- college, secondary school, adult education, night school -- organized around one or more of the topics of recreational linguistics? If so, please let the editor know any details, including whom to write for more information (such as the instructor).