

## XE

Phonetic symbols: **zɛ**<sup>1</sup> (damsel)    **ziə**<sup>2</sup> (zero)    **ks**<sup>3</sup> (six)  
xe<sup>1 or 2</sup>roxe<sup>3</sup>d

## ZE

Phonetic symbols: **ziə**<sup>1</sup> (zero)    **z**<sup>2</sup> (lens)    **sə**<sup>3</sup> (subject)    **z**<sup>4</sup> (lens)  
ze<sup>1</sup>roze<sup>2</sup>    polze<sup>3</sup>rze<sup>4</sup>d

*Unusual Words* revealed that **ə** appears to top the list of phonetic symbols with regard to the number of different single letters of the alphabet that it can represent, namely A, E, I, O, U, Y and R. Examples are given for each of these letters, along with the word polymerosomatous in which the letters O, E and A are all represented by **ə**, as also is the bigram OU.

*Arbitrary Words* has now shown that there are bigrams other than OU that are represented by the symbol **ə**. These can be found above in words listed under AR, EA, ER, IA, IO and OI. This brings the (running?) total of **ə** representations to 14: 7 single letters and 7 bigrams.

## A CHRISTMAS WISH

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