Words that have the same pattern of consonants, such as BeTRAy and oBiTuAry, euTHaNsaia and aTheNS, SPoNGe and eSPioNaGe, KNoW and oKiNaWa, iCHNeuMoN and CHiNaMan, and oRCheSTer, are known as consonyms. One can distinguish between strict consonyms, in which Y is regarded as a consonant, and permissive consonyms, in which Y is a vowel. Little study has been made of consonym groups. Consonym groups based on two, three or four consonants are numerous, but for six or more they become somewhat rare. What is the largest number of consonants in a consonym pair consisting of two essentially different words, not merely variant spellings, inflections and the like?

This article proposes that the consonant-pair LN produces a larger number of consonyms than any other. If one considers words from the first, second or third editions of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, there are at least 100 such words (those with * from the Gazetteer, and with + from the Biography):

Aalen* aline ilion leno lone linie
Aelana* aln llian Leon loon
Aelian+ aloin ilion Leona loun
Aeolian alone Laane* leone Luian
aeoline Aulon* lain Leonia* Luin+
aeolina Eileen laine Leuna Luino*
Alai on elaein lan Iiana Luna
Aileen elaeine lana lien Luni*
aional elain Lanai* lienee lune
Alain+ elaine Lanoa liin Olean*
alan elan lane lin oleana
alana Elean Laon* lina olein
alane Elena lauan line olen
alani Elian laun linea olena
Aleian Elenai lean lino Olin
alen Eloenaıı leen lion Olinia
alien eloin Len loan olena
aliene Elon lena loanee ulan
alienee Eolian Lenæa loin ulna
alin Ilano lene Lon ulnae

In addition, the well-known given name Loni (as in Loni Anderson) exists.

More tentatively, this article suggests that BRN and SPRT are the most fecund choices among consonant-triples or consonant-quadruples, respectively. No doubt those having Webster's Second on
tape can quickly identify potentially better combinations; however, many words must still be laboriously dug out of the dictionary (usually below the line) as well as the Gazetteer and the Biography by hand:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>barn</th>
<th>Boran</th>
<th>bran</th>
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<td>Borana</td>
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<td>Baron</td>
<td>Baroni</td>
<td>Bruno</td>
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<tr>
<td>abiron</td>
<td>Baronio+</td>
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<td>Biron</td>
<td>brain</td>
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<td>barin</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| asperate | espirit | spore root | spirit | sproat |
| asperite | Espirit* | soporate | spirit | sproot |
| aspiratae | Espiritu* | spar | sport | sproot |
| aspirata | sap rot | Sparta | sprat | sprout |
| asperate | seaport | sperate | sprat | sprout |
| asport | separata | sperite | sprite | spurt |
| asprout | separate | spirate | sprite | superate |

Note that the common nickname Bernie can be added to the first list. The words Espiritu and Espiritu are only found as parts of two-word phrases, Espirit Santo and Espiritu Santo.