OF KANGAROOS AND JOEYS

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Being a marsupial, a mother kangaroo carries her young in her pouch. Kangaroo words do the same thing: within their letters they conceal a smaller word that means the same as the fully grown word. The smaller synonym I call a joey, the name of a kangaroo's offspring. The joey must be the same part of speech as the mother kangaroo, and its letters must appear in order. Buried inside a CATACOMB is the joey TOMB. A PLAGIARIST is a kind of LIAR. Now watch your mind BLOSSOM and, therefore, BLOOM.

Lederer's Law of Kangaroo Words mandates that the letters of the joey must not be entirely adjacent. That is, like a kangaroo novice, each joey word must take at least one hop. Although we find a STORY in HISTORY, ART in a CARTOON, and a RIM in PERIMETER, they are not true kangaroos because all the letters in each joey are adjacent. Lederer's Law, then, excludes the likes of exist, inTOXicated, FACTUAL, CAVERN, BLOTch, beLATEd, enJOYment, abERRANT, and umpteeNTH.

A closely related corollary to Lederer's Law is that mother and joey should not be etymologically related in an obvious way. Applying this ruling is a subjective procedure, but I believe that most logologists would find little pleasure in alternative versions of the same morpheme, as in PRImordIAL and PRImeVAL. Lederer's Corollary bars specimens such as AMICABLE, ARMamentS, CONTRADictory, CIRCumambuлатE, CLEANsEd, DEFINItivE, DisEmBARK, EQUitAbLe, HYPerbolE, IMAGinING, INcapABILITY, MARKet, NESTIED, OBLIGatEd, PANTaloonS, PARTially, PLATtEr, PRATtLE, REVoluTion, SATiatE, SPIATTER, SPIUTTER, TECHnologicAl, and TRUSTworthY.

Among the most satisfying of kangaroo words are those that conceal multiple joeys. Open up a CONTAINER and you get a CAN and a TIN. When you have FEASTED, you ATE and have FED. When you DETERI­ORATE, you ROT and DIE. A ROUTINE is both ROTE and a RUT. Brooding inside LONELINESS are LOSS and ONENESS.

A CHARIOT is a CAR and a CART. Within the boundaries of a MUNICIPALITY sit CITY and UNITY, while a COMMUNITY includes COUNTY and CITY, as well as the solids UNIT and UNITY.

PERAMBULATE yields RAMBLE, within which hides AMBLE--almost a joey within a joey but for the unbroken march of AMBLE. Within JOVIALITY grins JOLITY and within JOLITY, JOY--but JOLITY is such an
archaic spelling of JOLLITY that we simply can't have archaic and eat it too.

I have sighted two supreme multi-generational kangaroo words—FRANGIBLE, within which is tucked the kangaroo/joey FRAGILE, within which hides the joey FRAIL, and EXPURGATED, which transports the kangaroo/joey PURGED, which itself totes the joey PURE.

ENCOURAGE is an especially beguiling kangaroo because it gives birth to the joey URGE and its opposite, ENRAGE. From the verb FEAST issue EAT and its opposite, FAST. These examples invite exploration of kangaroos that conceal their own opposites, such as FRIEND, AVOID, INTIMIDATE, GUILLIBLE, PATRIARCH, and DEIFY. I invite Word Ways readers to build this genre.

Having considered multiple joeys from one kangaroo, let us identify another rare species that reverses the process, one in which two or more kangaroos give birth to the same joey. Both POSTURED and POSITIONED yield POSED. Both IRRITATED and INFURIATED conceal IRATE. JOLLITY and JOCULARITY are kangaroo forms of JOY, PLAYFULNESS and FACETIOUSNESS forms of FUN, and EXHILARATION and EXULTATION forms of ELATION.

From both LIGHTED and ILLUMINATED glows LIT. In both OBSERVE and SPECTATE we see SEE. JOINED and CONFEDERATED become ONE. FORMALITIES and CHRISTENINGS are RITES. Things BROBDINGNAGIAN and LUMBERING are BIG. TRANSGRESSION, PERVERSIONS, and MISDOINGS are kinds of SINS.

Hiding in NOUGAT and NEUROTIC are two different NUTs. We EAT when we FEAST and BREAKFAST. That which has been PURGED and PASTEURIZED is PURE. UNCTION, JUNCTION, CONJUNCTION, UNIFICATION, and COMMUNICATION all make a UNION. To EXPPOSTULATE and STIPULATE is to STATE. To be STEALTHY, SLIPPERY, or SLINKY is to be SLY. To BROADCAST BOMBAST is to BOAST a BOAST.

LIES and DEAD seem to me to boast the greatest number of marsupial mothers. LIES lies in FALSITIES, FALSIFIES, FALLACIES, CALUMNIES, PLAGIARIZES, HYPERBOLIZES, and RECLINES. DEAD sleeps in DECEASED, DEPARTED, DEACTIVATED, DECAYED, DECIMATED, DECAPITATED, DETERIORATED, DISINTEGRATED, and DESICCATED.

ABSOLUTELY and POSITIVELY both resound with a YES, but the letters are reversed. TRIALS proved to be the most frustrating of joeys. TRIBUNALS is not quite a synonym.

Thus far, 76 authentic marsupial words have bounded across this article. Uncover the joeys hiding in each of the additional 100 kangaroo words that now follow. The babies are tucked away in the Answers and Solutions pouch.
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Answers and

1 accurate  36 exorcise  68 precipitation
2 appropriate 37 fabrication  69 prematurely
3 arena  38 facade  70 prosecute
4 astound  39 fairy  71 quiescent
5 barren  40 flounder  72 rampage
6 barricaded  41 flourishing  73 rapscoffion
7 because  42 forbiddance  74 recapitulate
8 bedraggled  43 foundation  75 regulates
9 blackhearted  44 fountain  76 rendition
10 burst  45 fulminate  77 respite
11 chicken  46 healthier  78 rotund
12 chocolate  47 himself  79 salvage
13 clue  48 honorable  80 scion
14 combination  49 hostelry  81 secure
15 compadres  50 impair  82 separated
16 complemented  51 incommunicative  83 slithered
17 contaminate  52 indolent  84 splatter
18 conveyance  53 inherit  85 split
19 curtail  54 instructor  86 splotch
20 deliberated  55 investigate  87 sputter
21 destruction  56 knapsack  88 steamy
22 determine  57 latest  89 stockings
23 devilishly  58 lonely  90 stricken
24 disappointed  59 masculine  91 strives
25 discourteous  60 matches  92 struggled
26 displeasure  61 misinterpret  93 superfluous
27 disputation  62 myself  94 supervisor
28 earlier  63 nourished  95 tolerate
29 elevate  64 petrochemical  96 twitch
30 entwined  65 pinioned  97 variegated
31 evacuate  66 playfellow  98 welded
32 evidenced  67 powder  99 wriggle
33 exhausted  68 precipitation  100 yearning

79