

AEINRST EXTENDED

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In the Aug 1998 Word Ways, we presented a multiplicity of transposals of the seven letters AEINRST. After we had finished work on that article, we began to wonder how it could be extended further.

We wondered if there were any words that used each of the seven letters AEINRST twice, akin to the famous TAENIODONTIDAE. We were aware that there were a couple of near-misses. The 14-letter SENTENTIARIANS is made up of AEINRST plus AEINNST--i.e., there is a third N instead of a second R. And probably best of all is the 15-letter SAINTERRANTRIES, which is made up of AEINRST twice, plus a third R. Knowing the effort which went into finding TAENIODONTIDAE, it seemed highly unlikely that there existed a similar word composed of the letters AEINRST twice.

We decided to refocus our efforts. What words exist that contain only the letters AEINRST but allow repeated occurrences of any of the letters?

We managed to find 264 items, presented in the list below. Most are spelled solidly, a few are spelled with hyphens, and a few others are two-word terms. We searched only mainstream references--a search of increasingly obscure sources would no doubt throw up many additional specimens.

The longest word spelled with the seven letters appears to be the 17-letter ANTI-ETERNITARIANS, the plural form of a noun given in the Oxford English Dictionary. The longest solidly spelled word is the 16-letter INSANITARINESSES, the plural of an entry in Webster's Third.

We have grouped the words so that mutual transposals appear together; for example, the first eight items in the list all use the letters AEINRST + A. The set of longest mutual transposals is the 12-letter SAINT-ERRANTS, SAINTS-ERRANT and TRANSTAINERS (added letters are ANRST). Notice the well-mixed set at eleven letters consisting of SAINT-ERRANT, TERNARIANTS and TRANSTAINER (added letters are ANRT). To emphasize the various transposals, all added letters are capitalized.

The references are: Ch (Chambers Dictionary), Ox (Oxford English Dictionary), OS (Official Scrabble Players Dictionary and/or Official Scrabble Words), Ti (Times Index Gazetteer of the World), W2 (Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition), W3 (Webster's Third New International Dictionary) and WC (Webster's Tenth New Collegiate Dictionary).

antiserA	OS	terTians	OS	retiRanTs	OS
artesiAn	OS	tinTares	Ox	retRansiT	W2
erastiAn	W3	train seT	Ox	tRainsTer	Ox
inarAtes	Ox			tRansiTer	W3
ratAnies	OS	arseniAtE	OS	intrasTeS	Ox
resinatA	OS	seatAinEr	Ox	resiSTant	OS
santeriA	WC	stANnarie	Ox	straiTenS	OS
seatrAin	OS	erASTians	W3	tanisTerS	Ox
ateriAns	Ox	resinatAS	OS	tarTineSs	OS
arenitEs	OS	santeriAS	WC	train seTS	Ox
arsenitE	OS	satAnrieS	Ox	raTTinets	Ox
resinatE	OS	seatrAinS	OS		
seriEant	Ox	star AniSe	W3	stANnEries	Ox
sin-eatEr	W3	Attainers	OS	ArsEniateS	OS
staneriE	Ox	rATTanies	Ox	seAtainErS	Ox
stearinE	OS	reATTains	OS	retiARiAns	Ox
terEsian	W3	teArsTain	OS	sanitArIeS	OS
terEsina	WC	trAin-Teas	Ox	sAint reNan	Ti
traineEs	OS	neatEriEs	Ox	teRRANians	Ox
inertIas	OS	sERlantie	Ox	renaisSANT	W3
rainIest	OS	tanNEries	OS	StANnaries	OS
satirIen	Ox	rain tREes	W3	tARTanries	OS
stainIer	Ox	REtainers	OS	tARTarines	OS
entraInS	OS	steaRErin	Ox	star AniSeS	W3
stanNier	Ox	ternaRiEs	OS	serTaniStA	Ox
tanNiers	Ox	arsenitES	OS	tarTeSsiAn	W3
tranNies	OS	iratenESs	OS	TearStAins	OS
restRain	OS	resinatES	OS	intrAsTaTe	OS
retRains	OS	seriEantS	Ox	EntrEaTies	OS
straineR	OS	sin-eatErS	W3	EnTreaTise	Ox
terRains	OS	staneriES	Ox	stEINerian	Ox
tirRanes	Ox	stearinES	OS	sERlantieS	Ox
traineRs	OS	terESians	W3	IntrEaTies	Ox
transiRe	OS	EsTraiten	Ox	itInEraTes	OS
artinesS	OS	interEaTs	W2	tIrETaines	Ox
eranistS	Ox	rEinsTate	OS	ENtRainers	OS
estrainS	Ox	tinE-Tares	Ox	re-ENtRains	W2
resiantS	OS	tIraNnies	Ox	rEiNSanest	W2
restainS	W2	IRresiant	Ox	ENTertains	OS
retsinaS	OS	trInaRies	W3	tarENTines	W3
snarieSt	OS	sanitISer	Ch	tENanTries	OS
stainerS	OS	stanNierS	Ox	ERRantries	OS
starnieS	W3	instaNter	OS	rE-RestRain	W2
intrasTe	Ox	streinaNT	Ox	rEstRaineR	OS
intraTes	Ox	transeiNT	OS	steaRErinS	Ox
intreaTs	OS	restRainS	OS	traineRESs	Ox
nitraTes	OS	snarRieSt	Ox	inTERtears	Ox
snaTtier	Ox	straineRS	OS	inTrEateRs	Ox
straiTen	OS	tarRineSs	OS	tranTERies	Ox
tanisTer	Ox	transiReS	OS	artinESSes	OS
tarTines	OS	restRainT	OS	reastinESS	W2

stainerESS	Ox	SerIEanties	OX	stearinERIES	Ox
ESTraitens	Ox	iNTEnErates	OS	ENTERTainers	OS
rEinSTates	OS	iratenESSEs	OS	re-ENTERTains	Ox
intErSTaTe	OS	enTrEatiSEs	Ox	ENTertainES	Ox
nItrIaRies	W3	saint TerESE	Ti	trainERESSEs	Ox
ITiNerants	OS	itInerARIEs	OS	reastinESSEs	W2
nITratiNes	OS	reInItiaTEs	OS	stainerESSEs	Ox
trIsTeaRin	OS	staInIerITE	W3	rEINSanIties	W2
sanitISerS	Ch	StEINerians	Ox	stainIerITES	W3
tanISTries	OS	antireNNETs	W2	RE-ReSTraints	W2
streiNanTS	Ox	ternaRiNESS	Ox	starRineSSEs	W3
traNsientS	OS	re-REStRains	W2	straiTneSSEs	OS
starRineSS	OS	REStRainers	OS	traisTneSSEs	Ox
ReSTraints	OS	re-REsTRaint	W2	INterSTraints	OS
retRanSiTs	W2	TERRestrian	Ox	STReSS-strain	Ox
tRainSTers	Ox	tarRineSSEs	OS		
tRaniSTers	Ox	tarTinESSEs	OS	AreastinESSEs	Ox
tRanSiTers	W3	intersTaTES	OS	seNtENTIARIan	Ox
antiSTreSS	OS	inITiatreSS	Ox	etERNITARIans	Ox
resiSTantS	OS	antireNNINs	W2	TRain STaRTers	W2
StraiTneSS	OS	saint SerNIN	Ti	seNtENTIarIES	W3
traisTneSS	Ox	INtransient	Ox	teRNarinESSEs	Ox
		INterstRain	OS	inITiatresSEs	Ox
AnteNNARIas	W2	TRIStearins	OS	seNTEntiarIST	Ox
ErAStIanise	Ox	TRIniTrates	W3	transientNESS	Ox
sAiNt arSEne	Ti				
tesSERARIan	Ox	ErAStIaniSeS	Ox	tesSERARIan ART	Ox
areAstineSS	Ox	AETernITatis	WC	seNTEntiarIANS	Ox
tran-sieRRAN	Ox	itInerARIaNs	Ox	sANitarineSSEs	Ox
saint-erRANT	W3	SANitarinesS	Ox	inerTIA starTER	W3
ternaRIANTs	Ox	tRAN-sieRRan	Ox	TRINItARIanise	Ox
tRANsTainer	OS	SAiNT-eRrants	W3	INSANitarinesS	W3
serTaniStaS	Ox	SAiNTs-eRrant	W3	STAIN-resiSTant	Ox
TArteSSians	W3	tRANSTainers	Ox	ENTertainESSEs	Ox
		TRain starTer	W2	anTISENSItiser	W2
				SEnTEntiarISTs	Ox

There are a handful of even longer words: transeSSENTiate, SAINT-ER-Rantries, Inertia sTARTERS, transientNESSES, antiSENSITISers, tranSES-SEnTiaTes, inSANitarINESSEs and anti-eTERNITARIANS. I have assumed superlatives for SNARRY and REINSANE, and comparatives for STAINY and SNATTY. For TRAIN-TEAS, see TRAIN (noun 1) meaning 22 in OED. For TRANS-SIERRAN, see TRANS- (meaning 8) in OED; for TRAN-SIERRAN, see 1935 quote at TRANS- in OED. ERASTIANISE and TRINITARIANISE are only -IZE in the OED. ANTISENSITISER is only -IZE(R) in W2, but SENSITISER exists in Chambers. ANTIRENNINS and ANTIRENNETS assume that ANTIRENNIN and ANTIRENNET are nouns. AETERNITATIS is part of the phrase *sub specie aeternitatis*.