ALL-DIAGONAL SIX-SQUARES WITH FAMILIAR WORDS

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I have previously attempted to find word squares with words as diagonals for squares of order 9, 8, and 7. As the order of the square decreases, it becomes possible to use more familiar words. The six rows and three diagonals of six-squares make nine words: in all the examples in this article, the majority of the nine words are in the most-used 87,000 words (British National Corpus): in the best square, just two words do not appear in the top 87,000. It is then no surprise to find that all but relatively few words are in the OED as headwords. Given the stringent criteria, I found just 1965 squares, dependent upon 374 reversible words and 319 palindromes. Unfortunately, the squares with the largest number of most-used words tend to have boring palindromes, so I have given a selection of palindromes, even though the squares contain less popular words. Following each square are the diagonals, as read from NE or SW, NW, and SE. The notation ‘4:’ after a square gives an alternative for the fourth row.

In the following square, all except ETERNE and EEEEE are in the top 87,000 words
(sliove is the Irish for mountain)
S L I E V E Macquarie, or OED piper
L E N T E N [1b 1884
I N V E N T
E T E R N E
V E N N E R Web2, a family name
E N T E R S
EEEEEE EEE-EE-EE, EDD
SEVRES Sèvres, the porcelain
SERVES

The following squares have 6 of their 9 words
in the top 87,000
S T I F L E
T E N U E S
I N V E S T
F U E R S E
L E S S E R
E S T E R S plural
diagonals as above
or 4: FUERTE (Web2, below line), 5: LEITER
(see lestercock)

S K O P J E
K E R R E Y
O R I E N T
P R E N S A
J E N S E N
E Y T A N D
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEINED seine
DENIES

S C H A P E
C E A S E S
H A V E N T
A S E R V E
P E N V E R
E S T E R S
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEVRES Sèvres, the porcelain
SERVES

S T E E L E
T E R M E N Web2
E R V E S T
E M E R S E
L E S S E R
E N T E R S
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
diagonals as above
or 2: TERMES, 6: ESTERS

or 2: TERMES, 6: ESTERS
These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

SWIETE
WENGEN
INVENT
ERGNER
TENNER
ENTERS
diagonals as above

SYBASE
YEAVEN
BAVENT
VERSE
SENSER
ENTERS
diagonals as above

STABLE
TIPLER see tippler
APNEAL see Web2 apnea
BLENDE
LEADEN
ERLEND Erlend Øye, pop star
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

STAPE
TIERED
AENEID
PRENSA La Prensa is widely quoted
LEISER see leisure
EDDARD EDD, form of edder
diagonals as above

DRYADS
REALIA
YANCEY county, North Carolina
ALCINE Web2
DIENER
SAYERS plural
SICCIS Pcon, or OED Caorsin
DENIES
SEINED seine

DASSEL dassel(l)
AI OUEA Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS [plant
SOAPED
SUPPED
EEE EEE EE EE-EE-EE, EDD
LADDER
LEPPLE EDD
DIAPER
REPAID

LEBOWA Lebowa, Maquarie
EARROT ear rot, Web2
BRIANT family name, warehouseman
ORANGE [2 1677q
WONGEN
ATTEND
AOAAOA Pcon
LAINED lain, verb
DENIAL

REGARD
EEE EEE EE EE-EE-EE, EDD
GENRES plural
AERNDE ærnde
REEDEER
DESSERT
DERRED =dared, Pa
RENNET
TENNER
All the following have the same diagonals, viz:

| EEEEEEE | EE-EH-EE, EDD |
| SEVRES | Sèvres, the china |
| SERVES | |

or 2: MEDIAN, 5: ANDERS (lunar crater)

| S P H Y R E |
| P E A H E N |
| H A V E N T | haven't |
| Y HER D E |
| R E N D E R |
| E N T E R S |

or 4: YHERNE, 5: RENNER

| S P L A K E |
| P E A H E N |
| L A V E R D |
| A H E R N E | eg Bertie Aherne, PM of Ireland |
| K E R N E R | ||
| E N D E R S | ender |

or 1: SACRET (sacreng, sacret), 4: RUNNER

| S T I D E E |
| T E N N E S |
| I N V E N T |
| E N E R V E |
| D E N V E R | in Colorado |
| E S T E R S |
SACKED
AIOUEA Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
CONNEN [ plant
KUNNEN
EEEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
DARNED
DENNED den 3
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

or 1: SACRED, 4: RUNNET, 6: DARTED

SASSER
AIOUEA Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
SONNET [plant
SUNNET see Sunna
EEEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
RATTED
RENNER
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

The following squares have these diagonals:
EEEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

SPEALE
PINGED ping, verb
ENNEAD
AGENDA
LEADER
EDDARD EDD, form of edder

or 1: SPEARE, 5: READER

STAPPE
TIERED
AENEID
PRENSA La Prensa is widely quoted
PEISER
EDDARD EDD, form of edder

or 1: STAPTE, 5: TEISER

SWAIDE
WINTER
ANNEAL
ITENDE i-tende
DEADEN
ERLEND Erlend Øye, pop singer

SEEKER
ELMORE
EMERGE
KOREAS
ERGATE
ESESES reese, verb
RRRRRR Ulysses, p. 373
SLEETS sleet, verb
STEELS steel

SAST FAST
ATORAI Atorai, Web2
FORMIN Web2, or uro-, 1900q
ERMANI Ermani, Latvia
SAINTE eg Sainte Chapelle
TINES plural of noun

TAMMAT EDD or place
STRATS Fender Stratocasters
STARTS

TASSER Web2, below line
AIOUEA Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
SONNET [plant
SUNKEN
EEEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
RATNER ‘Doing a Gerald Ratner’*

RENNER
TINKER
REKNIT

* now describes any business gaffe. He notoriously described a sherry decanter as ‘total crap’ in a speech: he ran the chain of jewellery shops selling it.

In the following squares, 8 of the 9 words are
OED headwords

FRACHE
RIDLEY
ADREAD
CLERTE
HEATEN
ERMANI
TINIES
TAMMAT
STARTS

EEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
FIRRET ferret
TERRIF
A six-square with its top row equal to its NW diagonal is to be found in W83-26. All words are in the OED as headwords, or are in the most used 87,000 words, except where noted. EDD = English Dialect Dictionary. Pcon = Palindromicon. ITIS = database of US Dept. of Agriculture.

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