

OVERLAPS Part 1

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If the two words PANT and TRY are merged so that the two letter Ts overlap we obtain the word PANTRY. In other words, the parent word PANTRY will split into the offspring PANT and TRY by duplicating the T.

Overlaps may be of any length and can occur anywhere in a word except for the first and last letters.

In these lists of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-letter overlap(s), **the parent word and the first of its offspring do not have the same basic root** as *clinger* and *cling* do in...clinger = cling + linger. Such a relationship becomes more difficult to avoid as parent words become longer.

Some words exhibit a **single overlap** whilst others exhibit **multiple overlaps** (two or more overlaps).

SINGLE OVERLAPS

A. OFFSPRING ARE NOT MEANINGFULLY RELATED TO EACH OTHER

1-letter overlaps (A-Z)

spam = spa + am	combust = comb + bust	machine = mac + chine	address = add + dress
caveat = cave + eat	muffin = muff + fin	cogent = cog + gent	archer = arch + her
skin = ski + in	hijack = hij (high) + jack	monkey = monk + key	million = mill + lion
plume = plum + me	hornet = horn + net	dour = do + our	lamprey = lamp + prey
sequin = seq. + quin	tarot = tar + rot	astern = as + stern	suitable = suit + table
flutter = flu + utter	reverse = rev + verse	towelled = tow + welled	axel = ax + xel (shall)
bye = by + ye	fezen (dial. pheasant) = fez + Zen		
<i>Transposal Offspring:</i>	mam = ma + am	onion = Oni (a Nigerian title) + ion	
	shamash = sham + mash	stearates = stear (old 'stare') + rates	

2-letters overlap (A?-Z?)

mangle = man + angle	Alban = alba + ban	discover = disco + cover	rodent = rode + dent
yeast = yea + east	define = defi (defy) + fine	agent = age + gent	lather = lathe + her
ration = ratio + ion	ajar = aja (It. nurse) + jar	skin = ski + kin	flog = Flo (name) + log
comet = come + met	sinew = sine + new	brown = brow + own	expose = Expo + pose
Bigat (Israel) = Biqa (Jordan) + qat (a narcotic drug)	operate = opera + rate	divan = diva + van	ashy = ash + shy
rectory = recto + tory	funder = fun + under	taxeme = taxe (tax) + xeme (a fork-tailed gull)	dozen = doze + Zen
stowed = Stowe (in Buckinghamshire, UK) + wed	ryot (an Indian peasant) = ryo (former Japanese coin) + yot (yet)	eraser = eras + aser (old /'azure')	
<i>Transposal Offspring:</i>	palp = pal + alp	tart = tar + art	
	chic = chi + hic	chinch (bedbug) = chin + inch	
	Romero (surname) = Rome + mero (sea perch)		
	Masham (town in Yorkshire) = mash + sham		
	setose = Seto (city in Japan) + tose (old 'toes')		Hugh = hug? + ugh!

3-letters overlap (A??-Z??)

follow = fall + allow	urbane = urban + bane	incase = Incas + case
Andrew = Andre + drew	yearn = year + earn	baffled (puzzled) = baffle + fled

regale = regal + gale shunt = shun + hunt clinker (type of brick) = clink + inker
majoram (old 'marjoram') = major + joram (a large drinking bowl)
plane = plan + lane amend = amen + mend jerking = jerkin + king
clover = clove + over lupine = lupin + pine finest = fines + nest
grind = grin + rind Ruskin = Ruski + skin squad = squa (old 'squaw') + quad
founder = found + under event = even + vent sating = satin + ting
loxian = loxia (crossbill genus) + Xian (surname) twine = twin + wine
pying (the alphabetical index to rolls and records) = pyin (a substance found in pus) + ying (drug-craving)
bazoom (bosom) = bazoo (slang: mouth) + zoom

Transposal Offspring: sages = sage (herb) + ages diced (vegetables) = dice (roll) + iced
plump = plum + lump Rover (the dog!) = rove + over
stubs (cigarette) = stub (toe) + tubs

4-letters overlap

Marian = Maria + Arian hedged (one's bets) = hedge + edged sleigh = sleigh + eight
slinger = sling (for arm) + linger Oliver = olive + liver plumber = plumb + lumber
asteroid = aster + steroid ethane = Ethan (name) + Thane
Transposal Offspring: tablet = table + ablet (Bleak fish) scores (with a knife) = score + cores
scraps (left overs) = scrap(fight)+craps hearth = heart + earth
shades (of colour) = shade (from the sun) + Hades
rosier = Rosie + osier

5-letters overlap

Shambles (a street in York) = shamble + ambles
Transposal Offspring: rambler (can't get to the point) = ramble + ambler
gasking (gasket) = Gaskin (name; native of Gascony) + asking
grating = gratin + rating

B. OFFSPRING FORM A PHRASE-LIKE CONFIGURATION OR ARE RELATED WORDS

1-letter overlaps

thoraxes = Thora axes Bombay = bomb bay (in plane) vacant = vac can't
redress = red dress heats = he eats refined = ref. fined
Hungary = hung Gary wither = with her skit = ski it
masking = mask king allies = all lies theme = them, me
canine = can nine? gout = go out impair = imp pair
Herod = her rod history = his story nothing = not 'thing'
yous = you, us revile = Rev. vile nowhere = now where
rayon = Ray yon ozone = Oz zone

2-letters overlap

Hadrian = had Adrian? barmy = bar army drawl = draw awl
tenter = ten enter shears = she hears thought = thou ought
composes = Compo poses (for UK TV viewers)
gutters = gut utters! operated = opera rated

3-letters overlap

grants = gran rants founder = found under Gwent (in Wales) = Gwen went
pusher (drug) = push usher

4-letters overlap

olives = Olive lives

Broads (Norfolk) = broad roads

orange = orang range

borates = Borat orates

graced = Grace raced

In spite of the first of these offspring having the same root as the parent word, my favourites include:

shopping = shop hopping

lover = love over

tripper = trip ripper (dodgy travel agent)

caddies = caddie dies (the golf ball hit him!)

MULTIPLE OVERLAPS

Some parent words, by means of multiple overlaps, produce more than 2 offspring. These parent words can be divided into two categories:

- those which provide the **maximum number** of overlaps possible.
- those which provide **less than the maximum** number of overlaps

The number of letters involved in successive overlaps is given in brackets.

A. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OVERLAPS

The maximum number of overlaps for a word of n letters is $n - 2$. This only occurs under 2 conditions - when each overlap involves only one letter and each offspring consists of 2 letters.

1 overlap: mat = ma + at (1)

2 overlaps: sofa = so + of + fa (1 1)

3 overlaps: mason = ma + as + so + on (1 1 1)

4 overlaps: masher = ma + as + sh + he + er (1 1 1 1)

B. LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OVERLAPS

(a) 3 offspring

mother = moth + the + er (2 1) postage = post + stag + age (2 2) limerick = lime + Eric + rick (1 3)

towelling = tow + well + ling (1 1) bramble = bra + ram + amble (2 2) hither = hit + the + her (1 2)

upright = up + prig + right (1 3) rotundo = rot + tun + undo (1 2) heart = he + ear + art (1 2)

amuse = am + mu + use (1 1) pulpit = pulp + pi + it (1 1) grandish = gran + and + dish (2 1)

Offspring make a phrase: rated = rat ate Ted (2 2)

(b) 4 offspring

teacher = tea + each + ache + her (2 3 2)

battered = but + utter + ere + red (2 2 2)

anthem = ant + nth + the + hem (2 2 2)

therein = the + her + ere + rein (2 2 2)

collapsing = coll + laps + psi + sing (1 2 2)

plantable = plan + ant + tab + able (2 1 2)

(c) 5 offspring

tintometry = tin + into + tome + met + try (2 2 2 1)

(d) 6 offspring

southeastern = sou + out + the + east + aster + stern (2 1 1 3 4)

(e) 12 offspring

antheridiophore = an + nth + the + her + eri (erie) + rid + Idi + Io + oph (oaf) + ho + or + re
(1 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1)

Other types of overlap will be offered in *Overlaps Part 2*.