TRANSPOSING 4-LETTER WORDS

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
thorped@hotmail.com

In Transposing Rates (WW87195), Jeff Grant listed the 24 transpositions of the four letters AEST. He said "Although some of the terms and references are rather obscure, it is an accomplishment unlikely to be equalled with any other set of four letters". This is a challenge which appears to have lain dormant for 20 years. Here, I offer other sets of 24 transpositions.

The maximum 24 words are most likely to be produced from 2 vowels plus 2 consonants. Trial and error dictated that the 2 consonants should be S and T, not least because there are words which begin with TS as well as words which begin with ST. This cannot be said for many consonant pairings. Excluding doubled pairings (aa, ee, ii, oo, uu), there are 10 different pairings possible with the 5 major vowels AEIOU: ae, ai, ao, au, ei, eo, eu, io, iu, ou. Jeff covered the AE pairing.

I found the maximum 24 words for 8 of the other 9 pairings, and 20 words for OSTo. The 4 gaps can be filled using Google but all 4 words appear to be misspellings of other words.

One example is offered for each letter arrangement although more than one example may have been found. Abbreviations and acronyms are not admitted.


Locations are taken from The United States Board on Geographic Names.

Non-localational, unreferenced items can be found using Google.

AIST a populated place in Austria
AITS islets, especially ones on a river, as the aits or eyots of the river Thames, UK (OED)
ASIT a’sit - to sit, settle, remain sitting (OED)
ASTI in Piedmont, source of the sparkling white wine Asti Spumante (OED)
ATIS vf oat n. (OED)
ATSI a Burmese language
IAST see gillie - a1529 citation (OED)
IATS l’at and Ban Hui lat are populated places in Lebanon and Thailand respectively - hence Iats
ISAT Northumberland dial. set - see set v. 3d c1205 citation (OED)
ISTA Punta Istà is a point in Chile
ITAS tropical South American fan palms (OED)
ITSA a populated place in Egypt
ITSA a populated place in India
ITSA a populated place in Italy
TAIS vf. take v. - see 3b beta. c1375 citation (OED)
TASI Tasi Bum is a mountain in Burma
TIAS thorny Chinese shrubs (OED)
TISA a populated place in India
TSIA Lang Tsai is a populated place in Vietnam
TSIA old form of tea (OED)
**AOST** John Aost Douglas is buried in Arbala cemetery, Texas
**AOTS** a surname - Mirabella Aots in Seattle
**ASOT** a wadi in Sudan
**ASTO** Ántero Asto Flores - a Peruvian educator and politician
**ATOS** a populated place in the Philippines
**AOST** Oued Aso is a wadi in Chad
**OATS** a kiln for drying malt or hops (OED)
**OATS** a species of grain (OED)
**OSTA** a locality in Bosnia-Herzegovina
**OTAS** a populated place in the Philippines
**OTAS** old form of octaves (OED)
**OTSA** a populated place in Estonia
**SATO** a populated place in Senegal
**SAOT** Takuma Sato is a Japanese Formula 1 motor racing driver
**SOAT** Mauk Soat is a mountain in Burma
**SOTA** a stream in Benin
**STAO** Vetar Je Sao Pred Zoru (*Wind Stopped At Dawn*) is a 1959 Yugoslavian film
**STOA** a portico, roofed colonnade (OED)
**TAOS** a town in New Mexico (OED)
**TASO** a populated place in Japan
**TOAS** see toze v. ‘to separate tin ore from the rough ore’, 1882 citation (OED)
**TOSA** the name of an aristocratic Japanese family of court painters (OED)
**TSAO** Andrew Tsao, a director of TV comedies including *Caroline in the City*, 1995
**TSOA** a Khoisan language of Botswana and Zimbabwe

**ASTU** a mountain in France
**ASUT** Asut Duk Pass is in the Sudan
**ATSU** a populated place in Japan
**AUTS** see millward - 1387 citation (OED)
**AUST** old form of August (OED)
**AUTS** Aut is the name of an island and a stream, in Burma and Malaysia respectively
**SATU** a populated place in Afghanistan
**SAUT** a ransom for murder or manslaughter (OED)
**STAU** v. stow v., to place; to put in a certain place, position or situation (OED)
**STUA** a populated place in Norway
**SUAT** a stream in the Ukraine
**SUTA** a mountain in Ethiopia
**TASU** a varying subdivision of the guz, a linear measure of India (Web2)
**TAUS** a stream in Costa Rica
**TSAU** a populated place in Botswana
**TSUA** Kim Tsua is a cast member of *City Of Sadness*, a 1989 Taiwanese film
**TUAS** = Taos, (a Tigua pueblo of 2 house groups on both sides Taos R.,) a trib. of Rio Grande (Hodge)
**TUSA** = tuza, a Mexican pocket-gopher or pouch rat (OED)
**UAST** v. wit v. see 2b 2nd. person singular (OED)
**UATS** Uat Mau and Ban Uat are populated places, in Vietnam and Thailand respectively
**USTA** Eunice Usat is in *The Names Database*
**UTSA** alumina usturn = burnt alums (see *alumen usturn* in Web3)
**UTAS** dial. clamour, din (OED)
**UTSA** Utsa Stakketjavelk is a mountain in Sweden
**EIST** vf. east (OED)
**EITS** vf. eats v. (OED)
**ESIT** Esit Urua is a populated place in Nigeria
**ESTI** Esti Tarla is a populated place in Greece
**ETIS** vf. eats v. (OED)
**ETSI** Latin: although, yet (Cassell’s Latin Dictionary)
**IETS** a form of jets v. = swaggers (OED)
**ISET** vf. set, v. (OED)
**ISTE** a Latin pronoun emphasising the person, or thing, being referred to (OED)
**ITES** people or things that are, or may be, designated by nouns in -ites. See also 1926 citation (OED)
**ITSE** see itzebu, Japanese for one (OED)
**SETI** a King of Egypt (OED)
**SET** vf. sit v. (OED)
**SITE** the place or position occupied by some specified thing (OED)
**STEI** vf. sty v. (OED)
**STIE** vf. sty n. a path or narrow way (OED)
**TESI** vf. teise n., a lineal measurement of six feet (OED)
**TESI** see greyhound - 1b 1743 citation (OED)
**TIES** ‘binds, fastens, makes fast (one thing to another, or two or more things together) with a cord or the like’ (OED)
**TISE** old form of tice v., to entice (OED)
**TSEI** a populated place in Russia
**TSIE** Jerry Tsie, a film actor, appears in *Who Am I* (1998)

**EOST** Alan Eost is the conductor of the Sheffield (UK) Oratorio Chorus
**EOTS** Fungai E’ot is a river in Malaysia, and Eot Island is in Micronesia
**ESTO** Salus populi, suprema lex esto is the fundamental principle of political science (see ‘political’ a. i. 1794 
citation OED)
**ETOS** Greek: a year (Chambers Dictionary)
**OEST** old form of host, an armed company or multitude of men; an army (OED)
**OETS** Willem Oets runs a photography firm in South Africa
**OSET** vf. osset, some kind of woven material, app. of wool (OED)
**OSTE** a populated place in Latvia
**OTES** a populated place in Bosnia-Herzegovina
**OTSE** a populated place in Botswana
**SEOT** part of the title of a 2003 South Korean film: ‘Yeo Seot Gae Uisi Seon’ (*If You Were Me*)
**SETO** a populated place in Liberia
**SOET** a stream in Thailand
**SOTE** a populated place in Cameroon
**STEO** vf. sty v., step (OED)
**STOE** vf. stow n., to place; to put in a certain place, position, or situation (OED)
**TEOS** vf. these (OED)
**TESO** a populated place in Ethiopia
**TOES** the five digits of the human foot (OED)
**TOSE** a creek in Fiji
**TSEO** the late George Tseo was Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Pennsylvania State, Hazleton
**TSOE** a populated place in South Africa
ESTU a populated place in Afghanistan
ETSU a populated place in Nigeria
ETUS Etus Peterdi is a Yugoslavian actress
EUST vf. evest: envy, malice (OED)
EUTS the name of a Primary Gene of Escherichia coli
SETU a populated place in Ghana
SEUT vf. soot n. a black deposit of fine particles formed by the combustion of coal, wood, oil etc. (OED)
STEU Justin Steu Stener is a bassist in a Brookfield band
SUET the solid fat round the loins and kidneys of certain animals (OED)
SUITE vf. soot n. (OED)
TESU see teesoo: in India, the brilliant orange-red flowers of Butea frondosa and Butea superba (OED)
TEUS a section of a populated place in Romania
TSETU an island in Vietnam
TSEU a populated place in Nigeria
TUES see tew v. II 6, 1787 citation. Means works hard (OED)
TUSE a populated place in Denmark
UEST on uest is found under 'onfest': near (OED)
UETS vf. vats: casks, or other vessels used for holding or storing water, beer, or other liquid (OED)
USET see novity, meaning used, 1460 citation (OED)
UTSE the name of a Hotel in Nepal

IOST vf. joust v. to fight on horseback as a knight or man-at-arms (OED)
IOTS vf. Jots n. the very least or very little parts, points or amounts; whits (OED)
ISOT a tribal area in Pakistan
ISTO Latin: thither, to that place (OED)
ITOS Mogila Itos is a grave in Kazakhstan
ITSO girl's first name: Itso Berend Kamies m. Wendelke Begeman in Winschoten, Netherlands in 1945
IOST 16th century Scottish form of host (OED)
IOITS Lawrence Graham Oits is the author of Our Kind Of People: Pub. Perennial
OSTI Osi is a Point in Croatia
OSTI Villa Osti is a populated place in Italy
OSTIS vf. oat, the cereal (OED)
OSTI Otsi Kok is a Point in Hong Kong
SIOIT in North Wales, a cereal mash of buttermilk and crushed oat-bread (OED)
SIT0 site (place) in Italian (OED)
SOIT so be it (OED)
SOTIS vf. sooty a. foul or dirty with soot (OED)
STIO a populated place in Italy
STOI the name of a Hotel in Innsbruck
TOIS vf. tees v. draws, pulls, drags, tugs: see tee B. 1. b e897 citation (OED)
TISO surname of Grahame Tiso: see shorty n. and a. 1972 citation (OED)
TOIIS an old plural of toes (OED)
TOSI Dr Sabrina Tosi is a Lecturer in Biosciences at Brunel University, UK
TSIO surname of Fojin Tsio, Graz University, Austria
TSOI Victor Tsoi is a Russian musician
ISTU Istu Chah is a well in Iran
ISUT the overseer of the Pharaoh Aye’s private quarters
ITSU the name of a restaurant in London, UK
ITUS Latin: a going, departure (Cassell’s Latin Dictionary)
IUST vf. joust n. - a combat where two knights or men-at-arms fought with lances on horseback (OED)
IUTS old form of juts v. see jetty v. 1598 citation (OED)
SITU Latin phrase: in situ: in its place, in position (OED)
SIUT a populated place in Egypt
STIU Sungei Stiu is a stream in Malaysia
STUI the Bani Stui Gulal performance is part of the yearly Guelaguetza festival in Mexico
SUIT to dress oneself up in clothing designed for a specific task or purpose (OED)
SUTI vf. suty = foul (OED)
TISU Lily Tisu is a counsellor at Los Angeles’ Veterans’ Resource Center
TIUS Uadi Bu Tius is a wadi in Libya
TIUSI populated place in Papua New Guinea
TISUI populated place in Japan
TISIIS twice = two times (OED)
TUSI a populated place in Honduras
UIST the name of a Scottish Island (OED)
UITS Uit is a populated place in Russia; Uit is also the name of an estate in Guyana
USIT old form of used (OED)
USTI a populated place in India
UTIS vf. utas: dial. clamour, din (OED)
UTSI Inger Utsi is an actor in the 1987 Norwegian film Pathfinder
OSTU Takayuki Ostu is a Japanese polymer scientist
OSTUT a populated place in Japan
OSTUS a genus of owl (OED)
OSTUST to eject, dispossess (OED)
OUTS as in the phrase ‘the ins and outs of’ (OED)
SOTU Rita Sotu is a member of the photo.net community (2006)
SOUT to mend or patch shoes (OED)
STOU old form of stow v. to place, to put in a certain place, position or situation (OED)
STUO to stiffen in Greek
SUOT vf. soot a. sweet-smelling, fragrant (OED)
SUTO vf. Southo, a subdivision of the Bantu people and the languages spoken by them (OED)
TOSU a stream in Ghana
TOUS Chinese hemispherical pedestalled bowls with a lid of similar shape used as a food container (OED)
TSOU a Formosan language spoken on the western slopes of Mount Yu in south central Taiwan
TSUO Dr Simon Tsuo is a Taiwanese scientist turned energy pioneer
TUOS old form of twos (OED)
TUSO a populated place in Italy
UOST
UOTS
USTO a stream in Kazakhstan
UTOS Utos Ni Mayor is a 1968 comedy/romance Philippine film
UTSO Heather Utso lives in Los Angeles