

AMOEBIC CHARADES

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Logological charades occur when a word is split into two or more words which make a phrase. Thus BESTRIDE - BEST RIDE and NOTABLE - NOT ABLE are charades. Occasionally, the original word together with the words into which it divides all make a phrase: BITTERN BIT TERN. In these charades, the word FORMATE splits into FORM ATE. However, in the amœbic charades below FORMATE splits into FORM MATE! In other words, the letter M has taken on amœbic tendencies, replicating itself so that it can appear both at the end of the first word and the beginning of the second word. Here is an A-Z of amœbic charades:

- A. SEARCHES = SEA ARCHES, ADAGES = ADA AGES, ALLLIES = ALL LIES
- B. CUBBIT = CUB BIT, LAMBBASTED = LAMB BASTED, WOMBBLED = WOMB BLED
- C. EPICCITIC = EPIC CITIC, DISCCOS = DISC COS., DOMINCAN = DOMINIC CAN
- D. BRANDBIES = BRAND BIES, REDRESS = RED RESS, FEDFORA = FED FORA, MADMONNA = MAD MONNA
- E. HEHATS = HE HEATS, THETEATER = THE EEATER, LAMELELLA = LAME LELLA
- F. REFINED = REF. FINED, MUFFFITS (dial. muffets) = MUFF FITS
- G. TRIGGONE = TRIG GONE, BIGBALES (enchants) = BIG BALES, MARGMAY (tiger cat) = MARG GAY
- H. DITCHER = DITCH HER, PINCHER = PINCH HER, HEATHHEN = HEATH HEN, BOTHBERS = BOTH HERS
- I. SKIIMP = SKI IMP, AITCHES = AI (sloth) ITCHES
- J.
- K. ROCKKING = ROCK KING, OKOAY = OK KAY, TWANKTAY (var. green tea) = TWANK KAY (spank) KAY
- L. CELLLIST = CELL LIST, MALLLET = MALL LET, WILLWIAM = WILL LIAM? BILBLED = BILL LED
- M. ARMAMATURES = ARM MATURES, FORMFATE = FORM MATE
- N. BANBANA = BAN NANA, CANCANED = CAN NED? LEONLINE = LEON NINE
- O. NNONE = NO ONE, GGOUT = GO OUT, TTOWN = TO OWN, FLOWFED = FLO OWED, DISCDOVER = DISCO OVER
- P. LIMPLPET = LIMP PET, RERPLIES = REP PLIES, CARPCPETS = CARP PETS, RIPRIPEN = RIP PEN
RAPIER = RAP PIER, IMIPOSES = IMP PPOSES
- Q. CINQUCAINS (collections of five) = CINQ QUAINS (five angles)
- R. HERHEIN = HER REIN, TAMARTISK = TAMAR RISK (a River) RISK, FORFRAY = FOR RAY
BARBUM (Barnstaple in Devon, England) = BAR RUM
- S. HISTHORY = HIS STORY, HASTHY = HAS STY, CAPCSTANS = CAP'S SSTANS, BUSHBY = BUS SHY
PASSAGE = PASS SAGE, BACKBSIDE = BACK SSIDE, PASTPERN = PA'S SSTERN
HASHHED = HAS SSHED, ISLIANDER = IS SSLANDER, WINWNSOME = WINS SSOME
- T. PASTPIES = PAST TIES, BATHBING = BAT THING, BEATBABLE = BEAT TABLE, FATEFD = FAT TED,
CASTCOR = CAST TOR (in a play), PANPTRY = PANT! TRY! CUTCIE = CUT TIE, SORTSIES = SORT TIES,
PARTPTIERS = PART TTIERS
- U. SOUSED = SOU USED, FLUFUFF = FLU, UFF! (an exclamation as of someone panting with exertion or difficulty)
- V. LAVLENDER = LAV VENDER, DUDVET = DUV (dove) VET
- W. LOWLING = LOW WING, NARROWNING = NARROW WING, SAWSING = SAW WING
- X. OX-RAY = OX XRAY
- Y. EYEYES = EY, YES, WHWYELL (while) = WHY YELL?
- Z. BLITZBED = BLITZ ZED, OZONE = OZ ZONE

The phrase produced may bear a meaningful relationship to the original word:

WEDGED? - WE EDGED

MADAME - MAD DAME

WIDOWED? - WIDOW WED

FOREST - FOR REST

A step further. The following are amœbic charade equivalents of BITTERN BIT TERN in which the original word, together with the words into which it divides, make a phrase:

ROBINS ROB BINS

CAROLL'S CAR ROLLS

DISHY DI'S SHY

All the original words so far offer just a single amœbic letter. In the examples below, the original word exhibits 2 or 3 amœbic letters:

VERANDA = VERA AND DA

LISTENED = LIST TEN NED

ARCHIDENE (var. archdean) = ARCH HID DENE

PASTERNED = PA'S STERN NED

MENDELIAN = MEND DELI IAN

WEATHERED = WE EAT THERE ED

Rarely, the original word exhibits alternative amœbic letters:

MASTIFF (dog) = MAST TIFF or MA'S STIFF

PASTORY = PAST TORY or PA'S STORY

When it comes to demonstrating the amœbic charade genre, Diana (Di for short) takes some beating. We learn a lot about the lady. She is shy but strict, has a sallow complexion, is subject to stress, wears furs, uses a stick, gardens, makes cakes and is obliging but prone to be late...

1 amœbic letter

DISTAFF = DI'S STAFF

DISTRESS = DI'S STRESS

DISTANCE = DI'S STANCE

DISABLE = DI'S SABLE

DISTAIN = DI'S STAIN

DISHED = DI'S SHED

DISOWN = D'S SOWN

DISEDGE = DI'S SEDGE

DICES = DI ICES

DITCHES = DI ITCHES

2 amœbic letters

DISHY = DI IS SHY

DIME = DI, I'M ME

DISTRICT = DI IS STRICT

DISALLOW = DI IS SALLOW

3 amœbic letters

DISTILLATE = DI IS STILL LATE

DISOBLIGING = DI IS SO OBLIGING

Thank you Di!