AMOEBOIC 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, ALLIES = ALLIES
B. CUBIT = CUB BIT, LAMBASTED = LAMB BASTED, WOMBLED = WOMBLED
C. EPICRITIC = EPIC CRITIC, DISCOS = DISC COS, DOMINICAN = DOMINIC CAN
D. BRANDIES = BRAND DIES, REDRESS = RED DRESS, FEODORA = FEODORA, MADONNA = MAD DONNA
E. HEATS = HE EATS, THEATER = THE EATER, LAMELLA = LAME ELLA
F. REFINED = REE FINED, MUFFETS (dial. muffets) = MUFF FITS
G. TRIGONE = TRIG GONE, BIGALES (enchants) = BIG GALES, MARGAY (tiger cat) = MARG GAY
H. DITCHER = DITCH HER, PINCHER = PINCH HER, HEATHEN = HEATH HEN, BOTHERS = BOTH HERS
I. SKIMP = SKI IMP, AITCHES = A I (sloth) ITCHES
J.
K. ROCKING = ROCK KING, OKAY = OK KAY, TWANKAY (var. green tea) = TWANK (spank) KAY
L. CELLIST = CELL LIST, MALLET = MALL LET, WILLIAM = WILL I AM? BILLED = BILL LED
M. ARMATURES = ARM MATURES, FORMATE = FORM MATE
N. BANANA = BAN NANA, CANED = CAN NED? LEONINE = LEON NINE
O. NO ONE = NO ONE, GOUT = GO OUT, TO WN = TO OWN, FLOWED = FLO OWED, DISCOVER = DISC OVER
P. LIMPET = LIMP PET, REPLIES = REP PLIES, CARPETS = CARP PETS, RIPEN = RIP PEN
RAPIER = RAP PIER, IMPOSES = IMP POSES
Q. CINQUAINS (collections of five) = CINQ QUAINS (five angles)
R. HER IN = HER REIN, TAMARISK = TAMAR (a River) RISK, FORAY = FOR RAY
BARUM (Barnstaple in Devon, England) = BAR RUM
S. HISTORY = HIS STORY, HASTY = HAS STY, CAPSTANS = CAP'S STANS, BUSHY = BUS SHY
PASSAGE = PASS SAGE, BACKSIDE = BACK SIDE, PASTERN = PA'S STERN
HASHED = HAS SHED, ISLANDER = IS SLANDER, WINSOME = WINS SOME
T. PASTIES = PAST TIES, BATHING = BAT THING, BEATABLE = BEAT TABLE, FATED = FAT TED,
CASTOR = CAST TOR (in a play), PANTRY = PANT! TRY! CUTIE = CUT TIE, SORTIES = SORT TIES,
PARTIERS = PART TIERS
U. SQUSED = SOU USED, FLUFF = FLU UFF! (an exclamation as of someone panting with exertion or difficulty)
V. LAVENDER = LAV VENDER, DUVET = DUV (dove) VET
W. LOWING = LOW WING, NARROWING = NARROW WING, SAWING = SAW WING
X. OX-RAY = OX XRAY
Y. EYES = EY EYES, WHYELL (while) = WHY YELL?
Z. BLITZED = 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 BITERN 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
ARCHIDENE (var. archdean) = ARCH HID DENE
MENDELJAN = MEND DEL JAN
LISTENED = LIST TEN NED
PASTERED = PA’S STERN NED
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
DI STAFF = DI’S STAFF
DI STRESS = DI’S STRESS
DI STANCE = DI’S STANCE
DI SABLE = DI’S SABLE
DI STAIN = DI’S STAIN
DI SHED = DI’S SHED
DI SOWN = DI’S SOWN
DI SEDGE = DI’S SEDGE
DI CES = DI CES
DI TCHES = DI ITCHES

2 amœbic letters
DI SHY = DI IS SHY
DI ME = DI, I’M ME
DI STRICT = DI IS STRICT
DI SALLOW = DI IS SALLOW

3 amœbic letters
DI STILL LATE = DI IS STILL LATE
DI SOB LING = DI IS SO OBLIGING

Thank you Di!