Here comes our third spelling quiz. Like its predecessors, it is probably so difficult that even a university professor of English couldn't get a perfect score on it. This, however, is where the resemblance ends.

For a complete change of pace, we are listing, below, 25 English words or names. Twenty-one of them are spelled with impeccable correctness. Of the remaining four, two are simply incorrect; one is equally incorrect, but can be corrected in either of two totally unrelated ways; and one is probably incorrect, but there is an interpretation of "word" under which it can be ruled correct.

Can you single out the 4 words incorrectly shown in our list, and tell us exactly what is wrong with them? For the resolution of this baffling enigma, turn to page 189.

1. ACTER  9. LAYBOY  18. QUEAN
2. BASTAARD 10. LAYOR  19. REALTER
3. BILLIAN  11. MERENGLUE  20. SAILER
4. CAIN GANG  12. MILWAUKIE  21. SEMATIC
5. DIAPIR  13. MISPRISION  22. SHAHARA
6. FORMICATION  14. NUTATION  23. SHERBERT
7. ISOTROPE  15. ORIGNAL  24. SHERIF
8. KARRUSEL  16. OYELET  25. WINDROW
17. POT ESTATES

DOUBLE TROUBLE

One English word has always stood out as unique for featuring four consecutive pairs of like letters. That word is SUBBOOKKEEPER.

Dwight Ripley, of Greenport, Long Island, New York, calls our attention to the fact that there is at least one language, Finnish, in which such words are almost commonplace. As examples, he cites LAPPEELLAAN ("flat"), LIIKKEESSA ("chief"), and PUUTTEELINEN ("defective").

Are there other languages with a similar propensity?

WORD WAYS