

ENTRIES FROM AN ANAGRAM DICTIONARY

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The idea has often been proposed that an alphabetical anagram dictionary should be constructed. Every word in the English language is converted to its alphabetical anagram, in which its letters appear in alphabetical order. For example, BAGGYWRINKLE becomes ABEGGIKLNRWY. The alphabetical anagrams are then arranged in alphabetical order to form a dictionary. Each entry in this alphabetically arranged volume has listed under it the word or words which can be made from all of its letters. Under the entry EKNORWY would be found NEW YORK and Y-WROKEN, the latter being the obsolete past participle of wreak. Under the entry AAEEILMNNNORSTT will be found the words INTERLAMINATIONS and INTERNATIONALISM.

It has been estimated that more than half of the entries in this dictionary will begin with the letter A. This means that more than half of the words in the English language possess an A. Some small dictionaries of this type have been published but they are not at all comprehensive. One, which we are familiar with, is based on words up to seven letters long taken from the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary. The true logologist requires something much more comprehensive than this. So, in anticipation of a really extensive anagram dictionary we set out to find what would be the first and last entries under each letter. We restricted ourselves to the Second Edition and the Third Edition of Webster's New International Dictionary. Obviously, the first entry under each letter will just be that letter itself. Rather than mechanically listing the twenty-six letters, we went on to investigate what the second entry under each letter would be. The second and the last entries for each letter of the alphabet are given in the list below.

A	AA	ZA
B	HUBBLE-BUBBLE	BY
C	CIRCUMCRESCENCE	CUVY
D	FUDDY-DUDDY	DUX
E	EE	YEZ
F	FIFTY-FIFTH	WYF
G	GIGGLINGLY	GUZ

H	HUSH-HUSH	HY
I	NIMINY-PIMINYISM	ZIZZ
J	JUJUTSU	JU
K	KUKUKUKU	YUK
L	LOPLOLLY	LY
M	MOMMY	MY
N	NONNY-NONNY	NY
O	OO	ZO
P	PUPPY	PY
Q	SUSY-Q	QUY
R	SUSURRUS	WRY
S	STUSS	SY
T	TUT-TUT	TY
U	WUZU	UZ and ZU
V	--	--
W	WY	WY
X	--	--
Y	--	--
Z	ZZ	ZZZ

From the list the reader will see that there are no entries under the letter V other than the letter V itself. For the letter W we have listed WY as the second and the last word. However, Webster's Second Edition lists WX. The W here is the initial letter of some word, and the X represents the remaining letters. WX is so far removed from our concept of a word that we have decided to neglect it. The reader may feel otherwise. Apart from the letter X there are no proper entries under the letter X. But Webster's Second Edition lists XX as a colloquial expression for a twenty dollar bill. As with WX, we are inclined to disregard this. A curious situation arises concerning the entries under the letter Z. A casual inspection of the two Webster dictionaries would reveal that the letter Z is the only entry under the Z section. A more detailed examination throws up the two words ZZ and ZZZ. If the reader does not believe us, we refer him to definition 4c of the first entry Z in the Second Edition, and to the definition 6 of the first entry Z in the Third Edition. In both of these definitions, the words ZZ and ZZZ appear in light-face type. We said nothing previously about accepting only boldface entries from the Webster dictionaries. Therefore, we are quite at liberty to accept ZZ and ZZZ as words. What do the words ZZ and ZZZ mean? They are both buzzing sounds.

The second entry under the letter A is AA. This is a type of lava. (As Dmitri Borgmann has pointed out, AA seems to crop up a lot more often than the contrasting type of lava called PAHOEHOE.) We wondered what the next entry after AA would be. This effectively means that we have to find that word which possesses the most num-

ber of A's. It seems that AA is followed by TATHAGATAGARBHA, which is the womb of the absolute and the essence of Buddhahood. (Did we hear someone say "What's that"?) The second entry under the letter E is EE, a Scottish form of eye. EE is followed by TEENSIE-WEENSIE. The second entry under the letter O is OO. OO is a type of bird called the Hawaiian honey eater. It is of the genus Moho. OO is followed by POROPORO, a yellow egg-shaped fruit of New Zealand and Australia. It is also the name of the plant on which the fruit grows.

Can the reader improve on any of the Websterian words given above? We would like to hear of them if he can.

If one wants to compile an alphabetical anagram dictionary that utilizes other English language reference works besides the last two editions of the unabridged Merriam-Webster dictionary, a lot more work has to be done to find the second and last entries at each letter. We suggest the reader try to compile the second and last entries for each letter in this much expanded alphabetical anagram dictionary. To help the reader on his way, we shall list half a dozen words which are superior to the Websterian ones listed above. DIDDLE-DIDDLE, the sound of a fiddle being played, is a good candidate for the second entry under D. FYZ, an obsolete form of fitz, a son, is probably the last entry under F. NIMINI-PIMINI, a variant of niminy-piminy, would be difficult to beat for the second position under I. The second entry under Q would no doubt be QURUQ, the palindromic name of a pass in Iran. RY, a sharp trick or dishonest practice, stands a good chance of being the last entry in the R section. And ZZZZZZ must be a sure thing for the last entry under Z, and, therefore, the last entry in the entire dictionary. What is ZZZZZZ? It is the name of an organization listed in the 1967 Indianapolis telephone directory. For all we know, it may be in the current directory.