EIGHT-LETTER NUMERICAL TAUTONYMS

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If letters are assigned values according to their numerical positions in the alphabet (A = 1, B = 2, etc.), an eight-letter numerical tautonym is a word in which the sum of the values of the first four letters is equal to the sum of the values of the last four letters. For example, B, A, C and K have the numerical values 2, 1, 3 and 11, which sums to 17, and A, C, H and E have the numerical values 1, 3, 8 and 15, which also sums to 17; thus BACKACHE is a numerical tautonym.

In the November 1970 Word Ways, I presented a list of more than 500 six-letter numerical tautonyms; in this article I list approximately 1100 eight-letter numerical tautonyms gleaned from Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition. As in the earlier list, all words having the same tautonymic value are listed together.

In the February 1970 Word Ways, Darryl Francis listed a handful of eight-letter numerical tautonyms with a higher degree of balance -- each four-letter half was in turn a four-letter numerical tautonym. I found only two words of this type that he missed: CUCULLES and PETALING.

Numerical tautonyms can be used as the raw material in a word game which tests one's inductive ability. Select an unsuspecting subject (your teen-aged daughter or son, a co-worker, a bridge partner, or your mother-in-law) and ask him to determine what unusual property (based on the individual alphabet letters) the words BEWILDER, ATTITUDE, SOMEWHAT and LANGUAGE have in common. (Of course, other numerical tautonyms can equally well be used.) If (as is likely) he fails to discover the underlying property, he can be presented with the following numerical tautonyms which give increasingly broad hints:

ARACANGA, CARAGANA         BEGRAVED, BEKNAVED
TEAMMATE, REAPPEAR         SNIFFERS, SNIGGERS
OVERPETS, OVERSTEP          SEEDBIRD, BIRDSEED
(If he still hasn’t discovered the tautonymic property, perhaps you’d better not give him a gift subscription to *Word Ways.*)

Literary types may be challenged by the limited vocabulary of numerical tautonyms. For example, consider the following playlet commenting on the creation of the numerical tautonym list:

**AESOPIAN DIATRIBE**

Envenom’d skeptics (speaking): Oriental subtlety, tiresome busywork!

Burgeons newsboys (refuting revilers): Skillful language gymnasts uncipher fonotipe, bewilder imbecile! (contrite filomath, captivated, applauds)

17 backache
18 beefhead
20 bleached, feedable
22 accolade, qabbalah
23 aracanga, baaselah, brabbled, caragana
24 bilabial, chaldean
25 akallimba, biblical, iambical, laegenae, scabbard, tabbarea
26 bearhide, beglobed, beneaped, calmakam
27 alienage, ancience, baseball, handball, handmaid
28 adinidan, pachemia, saddened
29 bedreads, brahma, buccinae, culdicle, cercaria, clamberd, fascicle, geelbecs, imbecile, lecideas, vaccaria
30 athalaim, balotade, bedstead, brainted, decrease, deformed, detailed, ecaudate, elehanan, enjailed, feraghan, gradated
31 alcgene, Becubas, bockland, caribees, caveatee, demibath, fauchard, landfall, medicine, melaenic, regarded
32 begraved, beknaved, bepieces, blocages, cathodal, chatakas, cockered, cribbing, diarrhea, fieldman, flamberg, freckled, gallages, galliard, jailages, loadages, objected, redefeat, redemand, rheadine, saffarid, sciaenid, redenied, seecatch
33 birdseed, bogieman, brideman, canoeman, datheman, epicedes, hawaiian, hubbabo, keelbird, kehlallh, legeman, menacing, salamich, seebird
34 amoeblid, anglaise, bezaleel, budgeted, casketed, chincher, chubbier, clencher, clidding, deterged, diatubre, hamleted, kemengeh, khandait, language, panchaet, pleacher, pleading
35 agricole, amatrice, besieger, billette, blatches, blatherd, branches, carminic, choicier, colerake, disclaim, embolden, fellinic, galoches, hemiaoms, ingemmed, schemata, sclaffier
36 arboreal, baronial, condemmd, condoled, enmeshed, hariffies, jeateral, kalleges, latchman, lavatche, nangnail, natilian, paralian, parashah, ranchman

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37 agnomin, fridging, manifold, manHole
38 aiguille, chevallet, doonlaing, flashing, laudaming, patacans, aeroigrai, capsulae, imhoske, metagra
39 aoesopian, bluegill, fenogam, pearlash
40 alismoid, calycule, goodegeo, mohegan, silangash
41 abstract, cartbote, doubling, forcelet, guggling, larkling, percepts, rearrling, tangfish, teletape
42 absumin, cyclopics, logiczize, nucella, rhapsod
44 antidote, commun, dynamics, forestalk, levelme, parillas, refooter, shapeful, undergo
45 actuate,
agnomina, aleske, buckshee, cloglike, dillweed, domeike, fridding, gingvix, gregales, hellweed, homaging, maplash, manifold, pledging, renamed, seallike, shasape, weedlike

Aigulle, ascocarp, balwarra, brocatel, cantador, cantoned, chevalet, cheville, clubbish, conflate, disfaite, disfames, dondian, endocarp, endothla, etherean, exhalete, fireboat, flashling, gralloch, guacum, hircara, iquanian, lapideon, laudanin, maculate, maucacos, midlands, painode, parching, patacaos, rejeered, ribbles, sandclub, unbaite, waggoned

Aerogram, bewilder, bicycles, biplanes, bogomile, brodekin, capsulae, copemate, duckmeat, flatcaps, holdiken, ignifique, imbosked, imparted, jockeyed, kehoeite, kipchaks, mellodas, metagram, pardonee, regigure, scapulas, teammate, uncasked

Abstract, aventure, bastards, bastiond, bespends, bobwhite, cartbote, centrads, collards, dimpling, doctored, doubling, duelling, eliphru, filomath, fishling, fishtail, fiveling, forcelet, fumbling, gnatbite, gnatling, gonfalon, grapelet, guggling, harsards, knelling, kobbing, ladyfish, ladyling, larkling, lombard, muddling, nazarene, nevex, occupate, percepta, petaling, phocenin, pochards, prescences, remelted, scarsens, scartole, silangas, sleeking, speaking, toccatas, unearned, wheelted

Absuming, bookmark, catstick, cotesian, cyanosed, cylicenes, cyclopic, daymaraez, drepanis, enerpserf, finnikin, gobstick, hirsue, matinees, medullar, misbears, misbodes, nephilim, nucellar, payaguan, pharaohs, plantago, predelay, raucesed, rhapsode, seraglio, sneevled, speckler, stockmen, uncellar

Antidote, antimask, assedates, brawning, causeful, commithe, communed, despriate, despised, dislikes, divining, dizing, dynamics, enterate, ephorate, evelligt, folkvang, forerank, foretalk, garroed, hewhalls, informal, keewatin, laportea, levelmen, mimlicism, miscalls, obolized, oomantia, opalized, parillia, phasiati, pilgrimzd, preening, reaping, reattain, refuited, reelinig, repeases, repeater, retailer, sebright, shapeful, shellmen, skelning, tenesmic, underdog, endureat, undertog, vanguard

Actuates, anoopsia, applauds, asternal, aureates, bequalms,
bisoglio, brethren, cologen, evocates, josaphat, lucigens, marmoric, meloidism, minilates, misdates, misdoing, palpaties, pellates, pellfies, philbert, philomel, prefeast, qoheleth, scholasm, smidgians, warcraft, whamps, zandmole

alluvian, barylite, bestoved, brayerin, cesspipe, cuminole, daturine, depursed, diluvian, drawlink, drawoffs, ensrine, envenomd, edreolon, etatisme, forgerer, frauders, harshens, invaders, irenicum, isochrome, jaunders, kasollie, mulliner, millward, misereure, napoleon, navicert, offshore, ordinals, ocatate, pammerer, parkward, pemlicos, peterman, pitarahs, prickant, ravendom, rebursed, rectoral, rubeolar, sembody, semifast, semil'll, seminole, sharpen, shenazar, sindlicos, slanders, succinct, taprine, tapirold, teatimes, teptate, tincitle, tragopan, veneerer, venerien, vlanders, wanderer, wickedly, yeldrine

acrydium, aluminias, benzeins, cestoids, compeers, comperes, complant, detrects, disodium, doomsman, enmossed, enweaves, eserines, exemplar, exflcets, eyelines, ferreiro, genuflex, grimoire, hartines, hassemon, helvines, hollowed, incussed, insecure, inserted, inoidium, isengrim, jesmines, kriwina, manswear, mazite, misferes, moralues, moraller, mudtrias, oreliller, oriental, piscines, prallines, refrolds, reseller, rikishas, romanlue, shikarts, secure, slighthen, spickles, tindalos, uncipher, vigilant, watchful, whiggify, wreathen

ahurewas, appointe, assisted, beutiful, burgeois, cucules, derusted, dutchify, entiring, flooring, froideur, garvocks, grubbily, haurient, jirkinet, kithlish, kithogue, laspring, livelong, livering, longfins, longwall, mantevil, mantissa, masonite, masoretie, mimmocks, nehusha, notering, objuring, odontoid, ophalies, orangism, palstave, pelonite, perigoe, persoma, pictured, plastein, poleaxer, pretested, queenite, queering, retested, ringwall, salpetre, securing, sniffers, spinning, sugaring, swearing, teniasis, traisted, triapal, vaudevil, vengibly, yemenite

amizillis, atomers, blizzard, blungers, boltings, conquen, crommels, epistoma, folplings, hattings, heptylies, herrings, hipping, kirdings, lithuria, lording, mazitas, nonflaky, oenomels, origanum, pennings, platanoes, platiily, plating, ptilinum, puffins, radzimb, sakhars, sarkins, satinpod, scrmish, serging, singings, sniggers, tenning, tellings, unamused, unmatted, volcings, whemmel, wincings, yeardays annually, atonally, attitude, bruiting, clotting, cornette, cornuted, dormeuse, duetting, epitokes, eponymic, faustive, festally, fonotype, idylion, jurassie, limpidly, lunchers, notating, pansmith, parousia, porcon, poneerm, prigges, ravishe, refuting, reversal, reveting, sheronet, shrevder, slenting, snobbery, spannels, taxeopod, trickful, unclever,
cigens, palpates, leth, minole, shrine, harshens, titular, dithers, sindicos, estate, anderer, comepres, enweaves, nulflex, incussed, iriwina, muddriias, killer, tickies, then nules, locks, ling, lissa, objuring, logue, ensite, fitters, blastal, quen, unques, errings, flaky, latings, chicinpod, enblings, yeardays, queste, mjuvette, nenuers, diggess, aueder, never, unclubby, unfinish, uniformd, venially, waxbirds, wetbirds, whenever, windigos, yeasting

51 ankylose, autistic, consoles, consuete, cynicist, dhurries, gipsires, guerezas, homogeny, humifuse, loculose, monishes, pantiles, plinther, prelimit, regushes, repleves, repliers, replough, rethril, silksmen, skatoles, skeptics, skillful, solecist, thermon, theshres, upblazes, widowman, wineries

52 ajutment, bowidery, contrite, cusiner, distills, distomes, diuresis, diurnule, doorsill, emprises, equiform, esthesia, exeresis, exergues, formular, fromples, gruffily, guesdist, hustches, itervit, kokowals, martyred, mesosome, miskills, mucolint, ordomes, permises, pilotmen, pliform, pollmor, popelote, popeship, premerit, premises, procural, removing, retinule, rudiment, rudistid, shippment, shuddery, somewhat, teleoogoo, tirement, tiresome, trampish, tramples, tubiform, unhving, unlearns, unpaying, veterans, vigneron, vitalize, whatsome

53 burliest, coothays, counties, countles, cutikins, cuzenos, duplones, dyestuff, dyphones, flunkers, grisksins, georges, imponent, joewoods, leptides, lofliest, loyalism, numerant, octodont, orended, phitomes, poschays, pugllism, quantise, rosakers, saultes, scopulas, shaysite, skinkers, steinful, tillites, trankers, unmeekly, unmewing, zurhletes

54 convolve, corronts, crullers, curlycue, entozoa, expiator, eyestone, fewtrels, fistnote, flourish, furiosas, hype, mayoruna, mudproof, operators, operator, opiants, opnator, parsonet, pavonize, peropods, popglove, preopens, puncual, revler, revivals, riverish, rumlers, salvator, sparlers, spanats, stiflers, sucklers, temporal, tinklers, vaporish, warlucks

55 auxilium, cloyless, colymbus, crumners, futhors, groomers, hornless, lessives, lintless, luminism, minstrel, moveless, nusairis, partless, passless, pentzias, prattler, quellios, skippund, sollless, songless, thrissle, thrissle, trapezes, unkindly, upfloats, wapogoro, wireless

56 crottels, crottes, cultismo, fowlfoot, glittens, glittths, histrion, muscullin, novelets, ovenwise, pasterns, pligruds, poetwise, spattles, splites, stellarly, taungthu, thistles, thiswise, unfought, untaught, vetitive, waltzing, wappato, whilpwise, willwav, yokewise

57 cityness, costmary, costumer, courtlet, entrymen, elusions, erosions, explores, frixions, humorful, misplays, monocots, monglow, parvules, phoronts, quarten, resolver, rosemary, roweand, scotinos, sensions, soreness, stockily, swankly, swifflet, ternions, tordions, valules, wainness, woodness

58 brownest, coyotero, crupper, forsooth, frumants, luxation, nestfuls, notition, outbrast, poringly, potgirls, presents,
pressful, presumes, pulling, putation, sentent, serpents, shopfuls, shoppers, snippers, sprewer, starrify, unhollily, unhonest, vauntlay, violents, viridity, volition, votation, wrappers, yeomanry

crowtoes, drupetum, europium, fortunes, grossify, gymnasts, gymnuras, maytenus, nonpoets, outcasts, petrelty, pinturas, pomology, quatemus, synapses, tartarus, towardly, umpirism, unseizes, unselths, whiskery, wishfort, wizardly

assurers, horsepox, neuterly, overglut, overholy, overjump, overlush, overpots, overpray, oversoft, overstep, overtlim, overtwell, overword, stiletto, stillery, stillson, stilify, turakoos, warranty, witherly

croyysers, fooyungs, grousers, littress, mistress, morosely, mushroom, newsboys, newsroom, orthoepy, pirrauru, previsor, pigmyish, ressauts, risorses, rugosely, sautoirs, smithums, sybotism, trinkety, wanworth

crozcles, croms, dessert, institor, instruct, mittimus, phymosis, pivoters, pristav, questers, quolters, qvintins, restrips, sequitor, shotters, shunters, sloppily, spritely, sternons, sternson, stinkpot, stinters, stressed, subllety, tubsters

fluxures, piqueurs, proneurs

eutrophy, notorily, settlor, spittoon, spontoon, surfuses

optotype, sissyism, topotype, tristily

busiyork, klystron, westmost

sporonts, trunity

slowworm, textuist, unmuzzle, virtutis

hyssopus

outports, rowports, wayworts

mustours

outstunt, unsultry

1. a bird in the lost 3. wha d old dog new to succeed, try more, the more than sorry than sorry grow fonder than sorry child shall 16. variety is 18. all work is the root of

Lost Erica

Erica CRIES

KICKSHAW'S

More Contr!