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 H 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  SNIFTERS, SNIGGERS
OVERPETS, OVERSTEP  SEEDBIRD, BIRDSEED
(If he still hasn't discovered the tautonomic 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

Envenomd skeptics (speaking): Oriental subtlety, tiresome busywork!

Burgeols newboys (refuting revilers): Skillful language gymnasts uncipher fonotipe, bewilder imbecile!

(contrite filomath, captivated, applauds)

17 backache
18 beefhead
20 bleached, feedable
21 accolade, qabalah
23 aracanga, baaselah, brabbled, caragana
24 billabial, chaldean
25 akallimba, biblical, iambical, laegenae, scabbard, tabbarea
26 bearhide, beglobed, beneaped, calmakam
27 alienage, anciences, baseball, handball, handmaid
28 adinidan, pachemia, saddened
29 bedreads, brahmana, buccinae, caudicle, cercaria, clamberd, fascicle, geelbecs, imbecile, lecideas, vaccaria
30 athaliah, balotade, bedstead, bratined, decrease, deforced, detailed, ecaudate, elehanan, enjailed, feraghan, gradated
31 alcogene, becuibas, bockland, caribecs, caveatee, demibath, fauchard, landfall, medicine, melaenic, regarded
32 begraved, beknaved, bepieces, blocages, cathodal, chatakas, cockered, cribbing, diarrhoea, fieldman, flamberg, freckled, gallages, galliard, jailages, loadages, objected, redefeat, redemand, rheadine, saffarid, sciaenid, redenied, see catch
33 birdseed, bogieman, brideman, canoeman, datheman, epicedes, hawaiian, hubbaboo, keelbird, kehlallh, liegeman, menacing, salamich, seedbird
34 amoebids, anglaise, bezaleel, budgeted, casketed, chincher, chubbier, clencher, clodding, deterged, diatrise, hamloted, kemengeh, khandait, language, panchaet, pleacher, pleading
35 agricole, amatrice, besleeer, billettee, blatches, blatherd, branches, carminic, choicier, colorake, disclaim, embolden, fellinic, galoches, hemiamb, ingemmed, schemata, sclaffier
36 arboreal, baronial, condemn, condoled, enmeshed, hariffies, jeateral, kallees, latchman, lavatche, nangnail, natalian, paralian, parashah, ranchman

37 agnominator, fridging, manifolds
38 aiguille, chevalet, dodonaria, flashing, laudaning, patacaos
39 aerograde, capsulae, imhosake, metagra
40 aesopplan, bluegill, fenogam, pearlash
41 alismoid, calyculia, goodegeo, mohegan, silangase
42 abstract, cartbotes, doubling, forcelets, guggling, larklings, percept, rearling, tangfish, teletape
43 absumin, cyclopoeic, logicize, nucella, rhapsod
44 antidote, communit, dynamico, foretalk, levelmen, parillah, refooted, shapeful, undergod
45 actuate,
Perhaps you’d applauds

Abulary of nu-

Clambered,

Forced,
dated

Hatakas,

Reckled,

Bea,

Recatch

Episodes,

Enacing,

Sinker,

Sleetered,

Leading

Herd,

Skeffalden,

Sclaffed

Hariffes,

Italian,

Agnomina, alestake, buckshee, cloglike, dillweed, domeilke, fridding, gingivae, gregales, hellweed, homaging, maplash, manifold, pledging, remained, seallike, shhassapa, weelilk

Aiglle, ascocarp, balwarra, brocatel, cantador, cantoned, chevalet, cheville, clubbish, conflate, disfaith, disfames, dodonian, endocarp, endothlia, etherean, exhalate, fireboat, flashing, gralloch, gualacum, hircarra, iganian, lapideon, laudanin, maculate, maucaos, midlands, palinode, parching, patacaos, rejured, ribbles, sandclub, unbaliet, waggone

Aerogram, bewilder, bicycles, biplanes, bogomile, brodekin, capsules, copemate, duckmeat, flatcaps, holdiken, ignifuge, impbosked, impared, jockeyed, kehoiste, kipchaks, mellodas, metagram, pardonee, regifuge, scapulae, teammate, uncasked

Aesopian, anethole, antefixa, aquarial, artilloid, bionomic, bluegill, borehole, brashier, captured, cartitch, chitrall, fenogoms, grandpas, hazeline, begtaper, heloderma, patchier, pearlash, prearmed, reappeared

Allsoid, aspermia, auramine, bentangs, brattled, bumellas, calyccle, coercion, deasgen, diploia, fantalls, godollas, goodgeon, hiphapes, hubgellas, ialander, leucitic, merdeth, mohegans, rapodin, recoking, remelted, scarsens, scartole, silangas, sleeking, speaking, toccatas, unearned, wheetled

Abstract, aventail, bastards, badisped, bobwhite, cartbote, centrao, centrode, collards, dimpling, doctored, doubling, duelling, eliphalu, filomath, fishing, fished, fising, forcelet, fumbling, gnathite, gnatling, gonfalon, grapelet, guggling, hansards, knelling, nobling, ladyfish, ladylng, larkling, lombras, muddling, nazarene, nectarin, occupate, percepta, petaling, phocenin, pochers, prelude, precoses, reapling, selfhood, sickener, sickling, simaruba, stabling, tangfish, tanghans, tangling, tarcelet, tatarian, teleseme, teleta, trachte, unbeseeem, varanoid, wobbling

Assuming, bookmark, catstick, cotesian, cyanosed, cyclenes, cyclopik, daymares, drepanis, ensareph, finnlin, gochick, logicize, matinees, medullar, misbears, misbodes, nephelim, nucellar, payaguans, pharaohs, planago, predelay, raucesos, rhapsode, seraglio, sneveded, specker, stackmen, uncellar

Antidote, antimask, assedats, browning, causel, commitee, communed, despight, desliked, disbling, divining, dizening, dynamics, enterate, ephorate, evelight, folkvang, forerank, foretalk, garrothed, howhalls, informal, keewatin, laportea, levelmen, mimickism, miscalls, obilized, omantia, opalized, parillas, phasiant, pilgrim, preening, reattain, refooted, reliner, repeases, repeater, retailer, sebright, shapeful, shellmen, skelning, temesic, underdog, unereat, undergod, vanguard

Actsates, anooplist, applauds, asternal, aureates, bequalmes,
Ankylose, autistic, consoles, consuetude, cynicist, dhrurries, gipsires, guerezas, homogeny, humifuse, loculose, monishes, pantiles, plinther, prelimit, regushes, repleves, repliers, replough, retrill, siksmen, skatoles, skeptics, skillful, solecit, thernion, thresnes, upblazes, widowman, wineries

Ajutrient, bowldery, contrite, cusinero, distills, distomes, duressis, diurnule, doorsill, emprises, equiform, esthesia, exeressis, exergues, formular, frumpels, gruffily, guesdid, hathets, iterativ, kokowals, martyred, mesosome, miskills, mucolitin, ordones, permises, pilotmen, pliform, polimorf, popelite, popeship, premerit, premises, procural, removing, retinule, rudiment, rudistid, shipment, shuddery, somewhat, telooogo, tirement, tiresome, trampling, tramples, tubiform, unhving, unlearns, unpoling, veterans, vignerons, vitalize, whatsome

Burliest, coothays, counties, counties, cutikins, cuzenos, duplones, dyefuse, dyphines, flunkers, griskins, geurnes, impoent, joewoods, lephtes, lovest, loyaliym, numrerant, octodont, oredont, phlution, poschays, puglium, quantise, rosakers, sulttes, scopulas, shaysite, skinkers, steinful, tillites, trankers, unmeekly, unmeving, zarhites

Convolve, corgetown, crullers, curlicue, entozoaal, explator, eyestone, fewtrel, fslnote, flourish, furiosas, hyperope, mayoruna, madproof, operants, operator, opints, opinator, parsonet, pavonize, peropods, popglove, preopen, punctual, revilers, revivals, riverish, rumblers, salvator, sarpers, spartans, stiflers, sucklers, temporat, tinklers, vaporish, warlucks

Auxilliim, cloyless, colymbus, crumners, futhors, groomers, hornless, lessives, lintless, luminism, minstrel, moveless, nusairls, partless, passless, pentzias, prattler, quellios, skippund, sollless, songless, thrissel, thrisste, trapezes, unkindly, uploats, wapogoro, wireless

Crottels, crotelles, cultismo, lowfoof, gitterns, gittiths, histrion, musculin, nyoletes, ovenwise, pasters, plurngods, poetwise, spattles, spliltes, stellary, taungthu, thistles, thiswise, unfought, unaught, vetitive, waltzing, wappato, whispwise, williaw, yokewise

Cityness, costmary, customer, courtlet, entrymen, elusions, erosions, explores, friixions, humorful, misplays, monocots, moonglow, parvules, phoronts, quarten, resolver, rosemary, rosewood, scotinos, sensions, soreness, stockily, swankily, swiftlet, tertiuns, tordions, valules, waxliness, woodness

Brownest, coyoterio, cruppres, forsooth, fruments, luxation, nestfuls, notition, ostracism, poringly, potgirls, presents,
pressful, presumes, pulingly, putation, sentenst, serpents, shopfuls, shoppers, snippers, sprewler, starrify, unhollily, unhonest, vauntlay, volent, viridity, volition, votation, wrappers, yeomanry

59 crowtoes, drupetum, europium, fortunes, grossify, gymnasts, gymnuras, maytenus, nonpoets, outcasts, petrelty, pinturas, pomology, quatenuus, synapses, tartarus, towardly, umpirism, unseizes, unseilth, whiskenry, wishfort, wizardly

60 assurers, horsepox, neuterly, overglut, overholy, overjump, overlush, overpots, overpray, oversoft, overstep, overtrim, overwelt, overword, stillete, stillery, stillson, stilify, turakoos, warranty, witherly

61 croyers, fooyungs, grousers, lttress, mistress, morosely, mushroom, newsboys, newsroom, orthoepy, pirrauru, previsor, pigmyish, resauts, responses, rugosely, sautoirs, smithums, sybotism, trinkety, wanworth

62 crozzles, crutters, desserts, institor, instruc, mittimus, phymosis, pivoters, pristas, questers, quoliers, qvintins, restrips, seuator, shotters, shuners, sloppyly, spritey, sternons, sternson, stickpot, stinters, stressed, sublety, tubsters

63 fluxures, piqueurs, proneurs
64 eutrophi, notorily, settlors, spittoon, spouton, surkses
66 optotype, sissysism, topotype, tristilly
67 busywork, klystron, westmost
68 sporonts, trinity
69 slowworm, textuist, unmuzzle, virtuils
71 hyssopus
72 outports, rowports, wayworts
73 mustours
75 outstunt, unsultry

NOTE ON RJ
Erica CRIES
Lost Erica
KICKSHAWS
More Contr
5. mirroring by railw
Another Cha
5. pester 6. teeter
11. teeter

Identify the 5. venereal, each to the six names and Saturn,