

HARD-TO-FIND WORDS IN WEB 3 (A-D)

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The main purpose of a dictionary is to give information about words. One looks with some "word" in mind and either finds it exists by noting a boldface alphabetical entry for it; or, not finding it, concludes it does not exist. The latter conclusion is dangerous since the chosen dictionary may have elected to regard the word as too rare or obscene, it may have been missed, or the word sought is too new. There seems little excuse, however, for not listing words that in fact are given in boldface in the work. As this list proves, there are probably more words in your dictionary than you ever imagined.

A dictionary Hidden Word is a word not found at or near its expected alphabetical position. Often these are known as "hard to find" words. These were discussed briefly in the February 1971 Word Ways (mainly from Webster's Second Unabridged) and in the February 1972 Word Ways (some extreme examples from Webster's Third). The most widely known and often quoted is the word SUEY, found only in the combination CHOP SUEY. The word MEIN is not hidden in Webster's Second, for there is a separate entry for it; but it is hidden in Webster's Third in the combination CHOW MEIN.

The purpose of this work was to uncover Hidden Words in Webster's Third. The final list comprises an astonishing 3540 words. These will appear in Word Ways in installments starting with this issue.

A word is defined as a grouped combination of boldface letters not listed as an abbreviation or combining form. Noted separately at the end will be the hidden numbers, letter groups, and number-letter combinations, some of which are in fact words. We are not concerned with "words" such as OFF-PREMISES used only in the definition of OFF-SALE and YOU-UNS in the quotation used to illustrate UN.

It is hidden if it may not be found immediately at or near its expected alphabetical position. Webster's Third does not ordinarily show a cross-reference entry for variants or inflectional forms if less than five columnar inches from the main entry. However, the word BOSTRYCES, for example, is included here since one would have to look for it on the following page under BOSTRYX. Thus the 5-inch rule is interpreted subjectively in this list. It is still assumed one will look near the expected place for the wanted word. Webster's Third violates its own rule many times -- the extreme case being CIPPI "pl of CIPPUS" being listed on the line immediately preceding "CIPPUS, n. pl

CIPPI". The extra entries do no harm, but oh those missing entries!

Our intent is not to correct the dictionary. Since most recreational linguistics involves knowing whether a given letter combination exists, one example is sufficient. The physical appearance of the word, not its meaning, determines its allowability. For example, ET and THORO from A MENSA ET THORO are not hidden, for there are separate entries although different meanings for these two letter groupings. But MULLER and MASSE are hidden and hence included despite entries for MULLER and MASSE since they differ in diacritics. If you feel we are overly arbitrary in this, see if you could determine the meaning of COLUMNIST in FIFTH COLUMNIST from the basic entry, or PALLED as the past of PAL rather than from PALL.

Apparent exceptions to this physical appearance proviso are words having a stated lower order of capitalization (cap, usu cap, often cap, sometimes cap). For example, the often capitalized PRAECOCES is bettered in the combination DEMENTIAE PRAECOCES with a lower case spelling. Some, such as SUNDAY in QUADRAGESIMA SUNDAY, may well be errors. Cross-reference entries not having an indication of capitalization were usually assumed to have that of the main entry. Higher orders of capitalization were not considered; e.g., the usually capitalized LUNG in CH'IEN LUNG is bettered in the common word LUNG. To simplify the list these words are not specially designated; the reader must determine why they were included.

By far the most common reason in most people's minds for a word to be hidden is that it is the non-initial word of a multiword combination. The large majority of these are Latin or neo-Latin, with law and medicine the predominant subjects. Naturally the French are represented with food and sex, and the Italians with art and music. A special case of the non-initial word aspect is a hyphenated or compact word (TREE-ANT and POWERPLANT) separately listed in another form (TREE ANT and POWER PLANT). There are a surprisingly large number of these, indicating sloppy editing of the dictionary. Indeed, there are perfectly good English words appearing in phrases not separately listed in any form: HOLY-ROSE and HOLYWORT, for example.

The initial word may be hidden if it is relatively short and thereby buried alphabetically according to the next word of the combination. Perhaps the most difficult to find of this category is HY, from the entry HY SPY, listed 12 pages after the abbreviation HY. The word SE in SE TENANT occurs 33 pages later than expected, but it is more readily recognized in PER SE.

Although Webster's Third claims to list as cross-reference entries all alternate spellings and inflectional forms more than five inches away, they cannot be trusted. True, they list ENQUIRE referring to INQUIRE, but there is no such treatment afforded ENQUIRY. Oftentimes they give only a single example perhaps as an illustrative hint: there are a full 9 missing cross references for words based on TSAR from the corresponding CZAR words. Sadly, this is the largest category of Hidden

Words. Even when they try, they fail: MASKALONGE (var of MUSKELLUNGE) is doubly hidden since it does not appear based on either the main entry or the cross-reference entry "MASKINONGE or MASKALONGE".

Plurals are particularly neglected in the dictionary. Under KINAH appears the alternate QINAH, which, having a separate entry is not hidden. But suppose you were looking for the plurals QINOT or QINOTH? These are hidden under KINAH and hence in the list. Would you imagine that DUKHORBORTSY is the plural of DUKHOBOR, given only under DOUKHOBOR?

To save space it is assumed one will search for any word ending in an inflectional S under the base word, either directly or in this list, and then see if the dictionary gives the S form. This should be done no matter how unlikely: MCCARTHYS may be found by reference to CHARLIE MCCARTHY and POPULIS under VOX POPULI. The simple word AGAS is not given in the dictionary; it does appear in the combination BALI AGAS; yet being the indicated plural of AGA it is not regarded as hidden.

Remember that a word must appear completely in boldface to be considered. Thus the indicated plurals OOS, RINKALSES, and SOS and indicated forms NETTIER and NETTIEST were not considered despite the fact that there are no alphabetical cross references for them and many others of similar nature.

The listing of Hidden Words is referenced by the initial entry under which they may be found. Hence, NEONATORUM is credited to ICTERUS GRAVIS, having no obvious connection. But this entry does refer to ICTERUS NEONATORUM. Only one reference, usually the shortest or the earliest, is given for Hidden Words having several references. Because of the final S caution a reference showing the S form takes preference.

Hidden Words in the Addenda are treated separately. If they are not hidden in the main body they are not included. No attempt was made, however, to exclude Hidden Words from the main body that are not hidden in the Addenda: AU in AU PAIR GIRL and SHIH in SHIH TZU.

We are indebted to several friends of Word Ways who assisted in the search and encouraged its completion. Any errors should be sent to the editor.

KEY = the word exactly as shown
 # the word approximately as shown, the first six letters at least being identical
 + plus other letters or words
 * from Addenda 1971 printing
 (number before reference) numbered entry for multiple entries of same word when needed for clarity
 (number after reference) numbered definition when needed for clarity

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a = bas | affectum propter = |
| a. john = grindle | affetto con = |
| ababa addis = | agaw agau |
| abassi abbasi | agents-general agent-general |
| abbandono con = | agilita con = |
| abdominis rectus = | agitans paralysis = |
| aberrans vas = | agitazione con = |
| aberrantia vas # | aimares aymara |
| abiblia biblia = | aires buenos = |
| abraham sham | akathistoi acathistus |
| absentia durante = | alai jai = |
| abstinendi potestas = | alaris plica = |
| abstracto culpa levis in = | albae linea alba |
| absurdo ab = | albanagii jus = |
| absurdum ad = | albert's prince # fir |
| abutendi jus = | albicans corpus = |
| academici senatus # | albicantes lineae = |
| academicus senatus = | albicantia corpus # |
| accompli fait = | albuginea tunica # |
| accrescendi jus = | albugineae tunica # |
| achilles tendon = | alcuna con = licenza |
| actionum beneficium cedendar + | alechem shalom = |
| acuminata verruca = | aleck smart = |
| acustica crista = | alegre p ^o rto = |
| acusticae macula # | aleichem shalom alechem |
| adder's-mouth white = | alfred's king = candle |
| adjecto contradictio in = | alger horatio = |
| adjudicata res = | alia inter = |
| admensuratione de = | alios inter = |
| administratif droit = | al-islam shaikh = |
| administratis de bonis non | allan dirty = |
| administravit plene = | allata *corpus allatum |
| adullam cave of = | allatum *corpus = |
| adulorum sclerema = | aller pis = |
| adventicia bona # | alpi fior dell'alpi |
| adventicium peculium = | alt in = |
| aedilicium jus # | altas viola alta |
| aedilium jus = | alterius expressio unius est exclus + |
| aegophony egophony | alveolaris pyorrhea = |
| aequitate de = | amarga cascara = |
| aequo ex = et bono | amarilla barba = |
| aetate durante minore = | ambar cana de = |
| aetatem dum fuit infra = | ameerate emirate |
| aetatis venia = | amer beni = |
| aeternitatis sub specie = | amherst's lady = pheasant |
| aeterno ab = | amirate emirate |
| aethiop ethiop | ammoniae aqua # |
| aetiologic etiologic | amnii liquor = |
| aetiological etiologic | amniotica area = |
| aetiologically etiologic | amore con = |
| affectionis pretium = | anaana kahuna = |
| | anceps syllaba = |

andrew saint =
 andrew's saint = cross
 angariae jus =
 angelean los #
 angeles los #
 angle-rack turret = tool
 anglicana opus #
 anglicanum opus =
 animalis carbo =
 animo con anima
 anne's queen = lace
 anni annus mirabilis
 annorum apocha trium =
 annualer ground =
 annum per =
 ansata crux =
 ansatae crux #
 anserina cutis =
 anserinae cutis #
 anthony's saint = cross
 antico nero =
 anti-lewisite british =
 antiqua ars =
 antonian san =
 antonio san =
 apo = koinou
 apokatastases apocatastasis
 apollonius circle of =
 aponeurotica galea
 apparencies heir #
 apso lhasa =
 aquarum filum aquae
 arabia saudi =
 aranta arunta
 arcs-boutants arc-boutant
 arden enoch =
 areata alopecia =
 arie aria
 armis vi et =
 armoniac bole =
 aromatica aqua =
 aromaticae aqua #
 arquebusier harquebusier
 arteriosi conus #
 arteriosus bulbus =
 arthur port =
 articulo in = mortis
 artium ars =
 artizan artisan
 arurae aroura
 aruspices haruspex
 aruspicy haruspicy

ashraf sharif
 asinorum pons =
 asuang aswang
 asportatis de bonis =
 asthmaticus status =
 atkins tommy =
 at-large' large
 atzeret shemini #
 atzereth shemini =
 au baba
 augustine saint = grass
 augustine's saint austin's summer
 auris columella
 austin's saint = summer
 australès aurora #
 australis aurora =
 aut ad vitam = culpam
 auto-oxidize autoxidize
 autre pur = vie
 avant en =
 avis rara =
 avises rara avis
 avivum calcar avis
 aviv tel =
 avivian tel =
 axemaster axmaster
 axemen axman
 azar kala =
 azeret shemini atzereth

 baal-ha-batim balabos
 baal-ha-bosta balabosta
 b'ab tishah =
 babies' baby's breath
 baboo babu
 bachelor's-button yellow =
 bachurim batur
 baculo a =
 badawin bedawi
 baer law of von =
 baer's von = law
 bagsful bagful
 bahada bajada
 bajocchi baiocco
 balebosta balabosta
 balistae ballista
 balli silver =
 ballot's buys = law
 bananes crème de =
 bandmen bandsman
 ba-omer lag b'omer
 baptist's saint john the = day

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|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| barbae | tinea = | bois-reymond's | du = law |
| barbara | herb = | bojanus | organ of = |
| barbudi | barbotte | bolonus | phonus = |
| barnabas' | saint = day | bombway | white = |
| bartholin | gland of = | bombwe | white bombway |
| basanet | basinet | b'omer | lag = |
| basketsful | # | bonae | actio = fidei |
| basophilism | pituitary = | bonis | curator = |
| bassetto | corno di = | bono | cui = |
| bassi-rilievi | basso-relievo | bonorums | collatio # |
| bathylithic | batholith | bonos | contra = mores |
| bathylitic | batholith | bonum | summum = |
| bator | ulan = | bordone | viola di = |
| bauhin | valve of = | boreales | aurora # |
| b'ay | tishah b'ab | borealis | aurora = |
| beachgrass | european = | bostryces | # |
| beardgrass | prairie = | botallus | duct of = |
| bear's-tail | cretan = | bountifuls | lady # |
| bec | flûte à = | bovinum | cor = |
| bedgeries | pituri | boulderhead | boulderhead |
| behr | von = trout | bowldering | bowldering |
| belli | casus = | bowldery | bowldery |
| bellini | tube of = | boyle | law of = and mariotte |
| beneplacito | durante = | braccios | viola da # |
| bengal | rose = | brassey | brassie |
| bengale | rose # | brevia | vasa = |
| benoit | saint = | bristlegrass | bur = |
| bentgrass | creeping = | britishness | # |
| be-omer | lag b'omer | broca | convolution of = |
| bergh | van den = test | broglie | de = wave |
| bernard | saint = | brosse | en = |
| berries | yellow berry | brownbark | sierra = pine |
| bertin | column of = | browne | sam = belt |
| besar | tuan = | brûlot | café = |
| betty | dumb = | brummel | beau = |
| bhasha | braj = | brummell | beau # |
| bhotiah | moormi = | brunner | gland of = |
| bielbies | bilby | brunswicker | new = |
| bifida | spina = | b'tebet | asarah = |
| binomina | binomen | buena | yerba = |
| bladder-gall | maple = mite | bulli | = soil |
| bladding | blad | bullishness | john bull |
| blanca | bahia = | bullism | john bull |
| blanche | arme = | bunga | bonga |
| blast-furnace | portland = slag + | bunyan | paul = |
| blue-eyes | baby = | burleycue | burlecue |
| blueishness | bluish | bur-sage | white = |
| bocherim | bahur | bute | buteshire |
| bochurim | bahur | buwayhides | buyid |
| boeng | pokkah = | byelaw | bylaw |
| boeuf | sang de = | byrri | birrus |
| bois-reymond | du # law | | |

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| caballed cabal | carlos san = |
| caballing cabal | carnosus panniculus = |
| cabinetted # | carnying carney |
| cabinetting # | caroliner # |
| cabrit cabree | caroticum glomus |
| caderas mal de = | carré en = |
| caeca cecum | carrée partie = |
| caen = stone | carrobean red carabeen |
| caenogenetic cenogenetic | carta magna charta |
| caenogenetically cenogenetic | casehardening reverse = |
| caetera et cetera | casei lactobacillus = factor |
| calabar calaber | caseosa vernix |
| calamo currente = | casta dum = |
| calcis os = | castellati altocumulus # |
| caliente tierra = | castile olive-oil = soap |
| callipered caliper | castus agnus = |
| callipering caliper | castuses agnus # |
| callum gillie = | catabases katabasis |
| calmette-guérin bacillus = | catachromases katachromasis |
| calycal calyceal | catholici # |
| campanular # | catholicly # |
| campbell khaki = | cats-a-mountain cat-a-mountain |
| camphorae aqua = | caudati versus = |
| canalled canal | cav *air = |
| cancelation # | cavernosa corpus # |
| canceller # | cavernosum corpus = |
| cancra cancrum oris | cayubaba cayuvava |
| capella a cappella | cayubaban cayuvavan |
| canonicum jus = | cedendarum beneficium = actionum |
| cantante basso = | celebrationis lex loci = |
| cantanti basso # | célèbre cause = |
| cantered # | céleste voix = |
| cantering # | celomic coelomic |
| cantorum schola = | cementa # |
| capax doli = | cenobia coenobium |
| capellen kapelle | cerebelli tentorium |
| capello cobra de = | cerebri acervulus = |
| capiendo de excommunicato = | cerka bessy = |
| capitalise # | cervier loup-cervier |
| capitatae crux # | cessans lucrum = |
| capite tenant in = | cetera et = |
| capos da capo | cha trung = |
| cappadocia oak of = | chalutza halutza |
| cappella a = | chalutzim halutz |
| captandum ad = | chalutzot halutza |
| carana caranna | chalutzoth halutza |
| cardcastle cardhouse | chambre valet de = |
| cardiaca *corpus # | champêtre fête = |
| cardiacum *corpus = | ch'ang = shan |
| carey's mother = chicken | chango presto = |
| cariosa terra = | channelled # |
| carlo *monte = method | chantants café # |

charles king = spaniel
 charosety haroseth
 charretted charette
 charretting charette
 chartas magna #
 chasidic hasid
 chasidism hasidism
 chassidic hasid
 chassidism hasidism
 chatelier's le = law
 chazanic hazanic
 chazzanic hazanic
 checkerbreast #
 cheironomic chironomic
 chevaux petits =
 chickory chicory
 chiesa sonata da =
 chillies chili
 chimb chime
 chinois pavillon =
 chinoises ombres =
 chodesh rosh hodesh
 choeur grand =
 chol = hamoed
 chor = bishop
 choregi choragus
 choreguses choragus
 chorei choreus
 christi palma =
 christie #
 christopher herb =
 chukor chukar
 cinae semen contra
 cinereum tuberculum =
 cineses kinesis
 cinetoplast kinetoplast
 circulares plica #
 circularis plica =
 ciselés cuir #
 citata opus citatum
 citato loco =
 citatum opus =
 cithern cittern
 cithren cittern
 citian kansas =
 cityan kansas citian
 civile jus =
 clankum clinkum =
 clara santa =
 clare writ of = constat
 claribella clarabella
 classici locus #

classicus locus =
 claudius cell of =
 claus = process
 clausae litterae =
 clauso de = fracto
 clausum mare =
 clausus numerus =
 cleptomaniac kleptomaniac
 clericale beneficium =
 clinoedrite clinohedrite
 clistocarpous cleistocarpous
 clistogamic cleistogamic
 clistogamous cleistogamous
 clitoridis glans
 cloisteral #
 clokies cloque
 coachhorse devil's =
 coarctata pupa =
 coarctatae pupa #
 cochere porte =
 cockerouse cockarouse
 coeca cecum
 coelum usque ad =
 coenobitic cenobitic
 coenobitical cenobitic
 coenogenetic cenogenetic
 coenogenetically cenogenetic
 cogitans res =
 cognoscendi ratio =
 colaspis pine =
 collé papier =
 columnberry truehedge =
 columnism fifth #
 combatted #
 combatting #
 comitiales dies #
 comitialis dies =
 commandement baton
 commandry #
 commands-in-chief #
 commercii jus =
 commercio in =
 commissa crux =
 commissae crux #
 commissoria lex =
 committing #
 communicans ramus =
 communicantes ramus #
 communis sensus =
 compagnie dame de =
 comparia #
 competentiae beneficium =

composting sheet =
 compressa faex =
 computet quod =
 concepti #
 concilia #
 concrète musique =
 concreto culpa levis in =
 conditio = sine qua non
 conductimetric #
 condy condy's fluid
 coneworm spruce =
 conferred #
 conferring #
 confessiones #
 confesso pro =
 confiscata bona =
 congenita amyotonia =
 congesti cumulus #
 congestus cumulus =
 conique flute =
 conjugately #
 conjugateness #
 connivens valvula =
 conniventes valvula #
 connubii jus conubii
 conscientiae in foro =
 conservanda nomen #
 conservandum nomen =
 consound saracen's comfrey
 constituenda pactum de = dote
 constituto pactum de =
 consulta senatus #
 consultum senatus =
 contagiosa molluscum #
 contagiosum molluscum =
 contendere nolo =
 contracta vena =
 contractae vena #
 contractu quasi ex =
 contradicente nemine =
 contrario a =
 contumaciam in =
 conubia connubium
 conubii jus =
 conveniens forum non =
 convertaplane #
 convict's poor = oath
 copertank copintank
 copulatrix bursa =
 coralita corallita
 corda sursum =
 cordiale entente =

cornett #
 coronae placita =
 corporales res =
 corporis tineas =
 corpuscula #
 corsak corsac
 corsiva cancellaresca =
 corti cell of =
 cortices cortex
 cotelet bois =
 cotelette bois #
 couchance levance and =
 couée rime =
 courtezan #
 coverley roger de =
 cowper gland of =
 cozzes coz
 crabapple southern =
 cramming cram
 crane's-bill field =
 cranii columella
 crapeau johnny crapaud
 crases crisis
 créance lettre de =
 credere del =
 creeing cree
 creset cresset
 creux en =
 cri = de coeur
 cribrosa lamina =
 cribrosae lamina #
 criminis socius =
 crissa crissum
 criticus apparatus =
 croo = monkey
 crotala #
 crowism jim =
 cruris tineas =
 crush-dress 1 crush 8
 cruz santa =
 crystalize #
 crystallizing #
 cuerpo in =
 cuivre rouge de =
 culpam ad vitam aut =
 cumuliformes stratus #
 cumuliformis stratus =
 cunei cuneus
 cunni cunnus
 curiam per =
 curlycue curlicue
 curran curn

curtle curtal ax
 curvey curvy
 cuthbert's saint = beads
 cuvier duct of =
 cy = pres
 cyclades cyclas
 cyclonene piperonyl =
 cymbarum ocotea = oil
 cypre cyl

 d'action ballet =
 d'affaires chargé =
 dagge dag
 dai cao =
 daisies push
 d'alene coeur =
 d'althaea rose =
 damnata terra =
 damnationem legacy by #
 damnée âme =
 damno injuria absque =
 damocles sword of =
 d'amore oboe =
 d'amour fleur =
 d'ananas creme =
 d'ancestor mort =
 d'ange peau =
 d'angleterre point =
 d'appui point =
 d'arc bois =
 d'archet coup =
 d'arco a punta =
 d'argent champagne =
 d'armes maître =
 d'art objet =
 darwish darvesh
 d'aubaine droit =
 david magen =
 davis's jefferson = birthday
 dawnist millennial =
 days' nine = wonder
 dealism new =
 death's death
 d'eau château =
 debab el =
 debet nihil =
 debiti constitutum =
 debito ex = justitiae
 debtor's poor = oath
 decatur eighter from =
 decidendi ratio =
 decisis stare =

d'école chef =
 decussata crux =
 decussatae crux #
 deditio noxae =
 defectiva scriptio =
 defectum propter =
 deferens vas =
 deferentia vas #
 definiendo circulus in =
 deformans osteitis =
 d'église serpent =
 dehydracetic #
 dei advocatus =
 deiters cell of =
 d'elegance concours =
 deliberandi jus =
 delicti corpus =
 delicto ex =
 d'elite corps =
 delivering #
 dell'alpi fior =
 dell'arte commedia =
 delle flora = alpi
 deminutio capitis =
 deminutiones capitis #
 dendra dendron
 d'entrée carte =
 deo = volente
 deposita # miserabile
 depple repple =
 der van = waals forces
 descemet membrane of =
 d'espagne point =
 despatcher dispatcher
 d'esprit jeu =
 d'essai ballon =
 destillata aqua =
 destillatae aqua #
 d'estime succès =
 destra mano =
 d'etat coup =
 d'été drap =
 d'être raison =
 deum te =
 deux à =
 devilled devil
 devilling devil
 devil-weed mexican =
 d'hongrie point =
 d'honneur cour =
 d'hôte table =
 d'hôtel maître =