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
CIPPl". 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 MENS 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 CHI 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 MUS-KELLLUNGE) 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 DUKHOBOR?

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 CHAR-LIE 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 ICTORUS 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
affectum propter =
affetto con =
agaw agau
agents-general agent-general
agilita con =
agitans paralysis =
agitazione con =
aimeas aymara
aires buenos =
akathistoi acathistus
alai jai =
alaris plica =
albae linea alba
albanagii jus =
albert's prince # fir
albicans corpus =
albicantes lineae =
albicantia corpus #
albuginea tunica #
albugineae tunica #
alcuna con = licenza
alechem shalom =
aleck smart =
alegre porto =
aleichem shalom alechem
alfred's king = candle
alger horatio =
alla inter =
al-islam shaikh =
alan dirty =
alata *corpus allatum
allatum *corpus =
aller pis =
alpi flor dell'alpi
alt in =
alas viola alta
alterius expressio unius est exclus+
alveolaris pyorrhea =
amarga cascara =
amarilla barba =
ambar cana de =
amerate emirate
amer beni =
amherst's lady = pheasant
amirate emirate
ammonia aqua #
amni liquor =
amnietica area =
amore con =
anaana kahuna =
aneps syllaba =
andrew saint =
andrew's saint = cross
angiae jus =
angelean los #
angle los #
angle-rack turret = tool
anglicanum opus #
animalis carbo =
animo con anima
anne's queen = lace
anni annus mirabilis
annorum apocha trium = annualer ground =
anum per =
ansata crux =
ansatae crux #
anserina cutis =
anerinae cutis #
anthony's saint = cross
antico nero =
anti-lewisite british =
antiqua ars =
antonian san =
antonio san =
apo = koinsou
apokatastases apocatastasis
apollonius circle of =
aponeuotica galea
apparencies heir #
apso lhasa =
aquarium filum aquae
arabia saudi =
aranta arunta
archs-boutants arc-boutant
arden enoch =
areaa alopecia =
arie aria
armis vi et =
armoniac bole =
aromatica aqua =
aromaticae aqua #
arquebusier harquebusier
arteriosus conus #
artherosus bulbus =
arthur port =
articulo in = mortis
artium ars =
artixan artisan
arurae aoura
aruspices haruspex
aruspicy haruspicy
ashraf sharif
asinorum pons =
asuang aswang
asportatis de bonis =
asphalticus status =
atkins tommy =
at-large' large
atzeret shemini #
atzereth shemini =
au baba
augistine saint = grass
augistine's saint austin's summer
aurin'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 =
azaret shemini atzereth
baal-ha-batim balabos
baal-ha-bosta balabosta
b'ab tishah =
babies' baby's breath
baboo babu
bachelor's-button yellow =
bachurim bahur
baculo a =
badawin bedawi
baer law of von =
baer's von = law
bagsful bagful
bahada bajada
bajocchi baiocco
balebosta balabosta
ballistae ballista
balli silver =
ballet's buys = law
bananes crème de =
bandsman b'omer
ba-omer lag b'omer
baptist's saint john the = day
barbae tinea =
barbara herb =
barbudi barbotte
barnabas' saint = day
bartholin gland of =
basanet basinet
basketsful #
basophilism pituitary =
bassetto corno di =
bassi-rilievi basso-relievo
bathylithic batholith
bathylithic batholith
bator utan =
bauhin valve of =
b'ay tishah b'ab
beachgrass european =
beardgrass prairie =
bear's-tail cretan =
bec flûte à =
bedgeries pituri
behr von = trout
belli casus =
bellini tube of =
beneplacito durante =
bengal rose =
bengale rose #
benoit saint =
bentgrass creeping =
be-omer lag b'omer
bergh van den = test
bernard saint =
berries yellow berry
bertin column of =
besar tuan =
betty dumb =
bhasha brasj =
bhoutia moormi =
bielbies bilby
bifida spina =
binomina binomen
bladder-gall maple = mite
bladding blad
blanca bahia =
blanche arme =
blast-furnace portland = slag +
blue-eyes baby =
blueishness bluish
bocherim bahr
bochurim bahr
boeng pokkah =
boef sang de =
bois-reymond's du = law
bojanus organ of =
bolonus phonus =
bombway white =
bombe white bombway
b'omer lag =
bonae actio = fidei
bonis curator =
bono cui =
bonorums collatio #
bonos contra = mores
bonum summum =
bordone viola di =
boreales aurora #
borealis aurora =
bostrices #
botalius duct of =
bountifuls lady #
bovinum cor =
boulderhead boulderhead
bowldering bouldering
boulevard bouldery
boyle law of = and mariotte
braccios viola da #
brassie brassie
brevia vasa =
bristlegrass bur =
brishler grass bur =
britishness #
broca convolution of =
bruglie de = wave
brosse en =
brown bark sierra = pine
browne sam = belt
brūlot café =
brummel beau =
brummel beau #
brunner gland of =
brunswicker new =
b'tebet asarah =
buena yerba =
bulli = soil
bullishness john bull
bullism john bull
bunga bonga
bunyan paul =
burlaycue burlecue
burr-sage white =
bute buteshire
buwayhides buyid
byelaw bylaw
byrri birrus

caballed on

caballing

cabineted
cabinetting

cabrit cal

caderas r

caca caec

cacen = st

cænogenet

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catera e

calabar c

calamu c

calcis os

caliente t

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callipering
callium g

calmitte-g

calyca c

calopanula

campbell

camphorae

canalled

cancellation

canceller

cancre c

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canonicum

cantante
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caballed cabal
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cabinetted #
cabinetting #
cabrit cabree
caderas mal de =
caeca cecum
cauen = stone
cauenological cenogenetic
ccenogenetically cenogenetic
cacetera et cetera
calabar calaber
calamo currente =
calculus os =
caliente tierra =
calipered caliper
calipered caliper
callum gillie =
calmette-guérin bacillus =
calycal calyceal
campanular #
campbell khaki =
camphorae aqua =
canalied canal
cancellation #
canceler #
cancre cancrum oris
capella a cappella
canonicum jus =
cantante basso =
cantanti basso #
cantered #
cantering #
cantorum schola =
capax doll =
capellen kapelle
capello cobra de =
capiendo de excommunicato =
capitale #
capitatae crux #
capite tenant in =
capos da capo
cappodicia oak of =
cappella a =
captandum ad =
carana caranna
cardaca *corpus #
cardiaca *corpus =
cardiacum *corpus =
carey's mother = chicken
cariosa terra =
carlo *monte = method

carlos san =
carnosus panniculus =
carneying carney

carolinier #
carotricum glomus
carré en =
carrée partie =
carrobean red carabeen
carta magna charta
casehardening reverse =
casei lactobacillus = factor
caseousa vernix
casta dum =
castellati altocumulus #
castile olive-oil = soap
castus agnus =
castuses agnus #
catabases katabasis
catachromases katachromasis
catholic #
catholicily #
cats-a-mountain cat-a-mountain
caudati versus =
cav *air =
cavernosa corpus #
cavernosum corpus =
cayubaba cayuava
cayubahan cayuavan
cedendarum beneficium = actionum
celerationis lex loci =
célébre cause =
céléste voix =
celomic coelomic
cementa #
cenobia coenobium
cerebelli tentorium
cerebri acervulus =

cerka bessy =
cervier loup-cervier
cessans lucrum =
cetera et =
cha trung =
chalutza halutza
chaltuzim halutz
chaltutzot halutza
chaltuzoth halutza
chambre valet de =
champêtre fête =
ch'ang = shan
chang polo presto =
channelled #
chantants café #
charles king = spaniel
charoset = haroseth
charretted charette
chartas magna
chassidic hasid
chassidism hasidism
chassidic hasid
chassidism hasidism
chatelier’s le = law
chazanic hazanic
chazzanic hazanic
checkered charette
chartes magna
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curtle curtal ax
curvy curvy
cuthbert's saint = beads
cuver duct of =
cyclades cyclus
cyclone piperonyl =
cymbarum ocotea = oil
cyper cyl
d' action ballet =
d'affaires charge =
dagge dag
dai cao =
daisies push
d'alene coeur =
d'althaee rose =
damnata terra =
damnationem legacy by #
damnee âme =
damno injuria absque =
damocles sword of =
d'amore oboe =
d'amour fleur =
d'ananass creme =
d'ancestor mort =
d'ange peau =
d'angletterre point =
d'appui point =
d'arc bois =
d'archet coup =
d'arco a punta =
d'argent champagne =
d'armes maitre =
d'art objet =
darwish darvesh
daubaine droit =
david magen =
davis's jefferson = birthday
dawnist millennial =
days' nine = wonder
deadman new =
death's death
d'eau château =
debab el =
debet nihil =
debiti constitution =
debito ex = justitia =
debtor's poor = oath
decatur eighter from =
decidendi ratio =
decisis stare =
d'ecole chef =
decussata crux =
decussatae crux #
deditio noxae =
defectiva scriptio =
defectum propter =
defersens vas =
defrentia vas #
definendo circulus in =
deformans ostitis =
d'eglise serpent =
dehydrastic =
dei advocatus =
deiters cell of =
d'elegance concours =
deliberandi jus =
delicti corpus =
delicto ex =
d'elite corps =
delivering #
dell'alpi flor =
dell'arte commedia =
delle flora = alpi
deminutione capitis #
dendra dendra
d'entre carte =
deo volente
deposita # miserabile
deppe reppe =
der van = waals forces
descemet membrane of =
d'espagne point =
despacher dispatcher
d'esprit jeu =
d'essai ballon =
destillata aqua =
destillatae aqua #
d'estimate succes =
destra mano =
d'etat coup =
d'etre drap =
d'etre raison =
deu te =
deu =
devilled devil
devilling devil
devil-weed mexican =
d'hongrie point =
d'honneur cour =
d'hote table =
d'hôtel maitre =

EXTENDED

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In the reviewed number nomenclature is introduced so that the peace of zeros in different nomenclature is of the same importance as the peace of zeros in the number 1, 2, 100, 10,000.

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