

WORDS INTO NUMBERS

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In our article "Cardinal Transposals" in the November 1975 issue of *Word Ways*, we sought transposals for each of the number-names from ONE to TWENTY (by tens, from TWENTY to ONE HUNDRED). Many of these words were rare or obsolete, last used centuries ago. If one is permitted to add one or more letters before transposing, it is possible to locate much more common words corresponding to the number-names. For example, the number-name EIGHT can be spelled out from the words THREATENING, THEORIZING and HEATING, but WEIGHT seems to be the shortest such word, containing only one letter (the W) which is not in the original number-name. Of course, number-names which are valid transposals of other words will be represented in such a list by those transposals; for example, NET is the shortest word from which TEN can be made.

Our list of the shortest words from which an assortment of number-names can be extracted is given below; all appear in the Eighth Edition of Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary. We have deliberately omitted words such as FIVER or ELEVENS from the list, since they are so close to the number-names themselves that they are esthetically unappealing. Improvements and additions will be welcomed from readers.

one	eon	thirty-one	retinopathy
two	tow	thirty-six	thyrotoxicosis
three	ether	thirty-seven	hypersensitivity
four	flour	thirty-nine	interchangeability
five	verify	forty	frosty
six	xis	forty-one	confectionery
seven	evens	forty-nine	confectionery
eight	weight	fifty	stiffly
nine	inner	fifty-one	affectionately
ten	net	fifty-nine	inefficiently
eleven	leavened	sixty	sexuality
twelve	wavelet	sixty-three	heterosexuality
thirteen	tethering	seventy	sensitively
fourteen	counterfeit	eighty	weighty
fifteen	stiffener	eighty-one	homogeneity
sixteen	existent	eighty-nine	interchangeability
seventeen	retentiveness	ninety	intently
eighteen	heightened	ninety-one	conveniently
nineteen	internecine	ninety-eight	interchangeability
twenty	noteworthy	ninety-nine	inconveniently
thirty	thirsty	one hundred	undernourished