EXCHANGING ANTONYMS

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Antonyms have long been favourites of the readers of Word Ways, either as themselves (ODD - EVEN) or in disguise. In the latter case, they may be hidden in other word pairs such as in FATE - THINE, SHIN - SHOUT and BANDED - BORED where they occur at the beginnings, ends and in the middles of the word pairs respectively, the other letters remaining the same. In the August 1994 Kickshaws (page 169), Dave Morice listed 24 such word pairs in an item entitled Letter-Addition Opposites. Now I offer further examples and also extend the concept to include pairs of words in which the antonyms are split, appearing in 2 places in each of the two words, the other letters always remaining the same.

My list includes both antonyms and near-antonyms. Most of them can be found in Chambers Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms ed. Martin H. Manser, 1993. Excluding certain proper names, most of the word pairs can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition. Those examples which appear in WW94169 are asterisked*.

EXCHANGING BEGINNINGS

alls (also) - nones
alteration - fixation
asker - teller (one who counts money)
badge - Goodge (a name)
bane - licensee
barter - letter
bested (placed) - worsted (a fine, smooth yarn)
binds - frees (frieze)
boomed (what the foghorn did) - slumped (in chair)
bottomed (having a bottom) - toped (toppled or fell over)
boyling (boiling) - girling (a young salmon)
breadwort (the knot grass) - waterwort (plants of genus Elatine)
breaker (a small keg or flask - on a boat) - mender
burdener - rider
calmer - diner
calming - wilding (a crab-apple tree or Michael)
clearing - fainting
Cleary (a name) - dully
closely - startly (apt to start, jump)
comet - got*
covered - striped
dayly (dally) - nightly
dived - soard (ward)
dressed - striped
Easter - wester (wind - w2)
ebber (manifest, unconcealed) - flower
emptying - fulling (the process of cleansing and thickening cloth by beating and washing)
extremely - meanly (badly)
fasting (starving) - slowing
fate - thine*
fate - slime
fella - rosea (plant species name)
fingery (branching into fingers or finger-like divisions) - toey (restive, anxious, touchy)
floater (a mistake, bloomer) - sinker (part of the root system of mistletoe that penetrates the host stem)
footle (twaddle) - handle
freeman - lockman (in the Isle of Man, the coroner's summoner)
frown - town*
givey (pliably, springy, soft) - Roby (a name)
good (good) - remained
goer - waiter
hardly (scarcely) - softly
hear - shear
highth (height) - lowth (lout)
hips (the fruit of the rose) - shoulders
hite (called) - misse (mass, the celebration of the Eucharist)
holde (graciously) - releasee (one to whom an estate is released)
holder (that which holds eg. a plant pot) - yielder (one who concedes)
keeper - transformer (transforms currents)
kindy (kindergarten) - meany
leaves (autumn) - transplants (hearts etc.)
leaves (autumn) - waits
longed - shorted (short-circuited)
loser - retriever (a dog)
Losey (a name) - recovery
mains (water) - minors
mendy (variety of henna) - teary
messed (screwed up) - ordered (commanded)
milde (mile) - severee (a bay of a vaulted roof)
mythe (may, might) - truthe (truth)
oldster (a midshipman of 4 years standing) - youngster
party - wholey (wholly)
peaking (sickly) - troughing (troughs, collectively)
personality - publicity
poorly (ill) - richly
poorly (ill) - superbly
pressman (man who operates a printing press) - Pullman (type of railway carriage)
pullover (sleeveless sweater) - pushover (an easy touch)
rooter (an uprooter of something) - stemer (stammer)
saver (a foil used in fencing) - waster (one who wastes) saver (one who saves) - waster (type of bread)
scenter - stinker (something of difficulty)
siting - standing
souring (a substance which renders sour or acid eg. lemon juice) - sweeting (a sweet or beloved person)
thicke (thick) - thine
tiene (ten) - undone
waneless (wanless = hopeless) - waxless waney (relating to timber) - waxy
willed (controlled by another's will) - wonted (accustomed)
EXCHANGING ENDS

Adie (a name) - adzed (cut with an adze)
farm - fleg (a fright, scare)
heart (be) - nescience
rebless - recurse (to recur)
scenter - sedge
scold - sheat (a pig under one year old)
scold - swarm
scool (school) - swarm
Adie (a name) - alive
undies (under garments) - unlives (deprives of life)
redress (reparation of a wrong) - restrip (w2)
bedrop (to drop upon, cover or wet with drops) - behold
pearly - plate*
uneasy - unhard (soft)
misgasy (miserably) - mistrying (trying wrongly)
upend (to set something on its end) - upstart (someone who has suddenly risen in importance)
center - cleave
seven - slumpy
sever - snever (narrow)
infall (material that falls or has fallen) - inrise (to rise in opposition)
forefeet (the front feet of a quadruped) - forehands (shots in tennis)
afind (to find out) - alose (a fish)
afoot (astir) - ahead
refresh - retired
unfriendly - unreserved (not put to one side)
forgive (to pardon) - fortake (to take away)
shave - slack
shere (share) - sthere (steer = a young ox)
cheres (cheers) - chis (fastidious)
phot (a unit in physics = one lux maintained for one second) - picy (a manoeuvre in piquet)
sill - swell*
spinner - spouter
clad - class
landlady (runs a Bed and Breakfast) - landman (a countryman, peasant)
Roland (a name) - rosea (plant species name)
flax - frigid
underlay (for carpet) - understood
cleave - clinger
sleave (sleeve) - stake
slender- sower
underlie - understand
overlie - overtruth (a statement in excess of the truth)
clinger - crush
sloath (sloth) - swilling
aloose (a fish) - awin (to win)
slow - stall
blower - braise
slower - supper
slowest - stop
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Separated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>am - them</td>
<td>oar - other</td>
<td>baa - bathe</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andes - ores*</td>
<td>randy - Rory (a phrase)</td>
<td>errand - error</td>
<td>attend - otter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>canon - canton</td>
<td>decanate (deanery) - decantate (repeat often)</td>
<td>scan - scant</td>
<td>Chan - chant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>colden - hoten</td>
<td>scolded - shoted (shouted)</td>
<td>scold - shot*</td>
<td>could - hoot (hoot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evenly - oddly</td>
<td>sevener (a hit for 7 runs) - sodder (solder)</td>
<td>seven - sodd (sod of earth)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fines (penalises) - wets</td>
<td>refines - rewets (w2)</td>
<td>refine - rewet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>footway (path) - headway</td>
<td>hot-footed - hot-headed (silly)</td>
<td>afoot - ahead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greenie - redie (ready)</td>
<td>(a large wave before it breaks)</td>
<td>sea-green - seared</td>
<td>greatly - rated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hater (clothes) - lover</td>
<td>chater (chatter) - clover</td>
<td>shate - slove</td>
<td>(great)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iller - Weller (Sam)</td>
<td>silly - swelly (a depression in coal strata)</td>
<td>dill - dwell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>income - outcome (result)</td>
<td>shined - shouted</td>
<td>bin - bout</td>
<td>Finn - fount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>match - patch</td>
<td>smatter - spatter</td>
<td>puma - pupa</td>
<td>meat - peat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noses - yesses (pl. yes)</td>
<td>Enos - eyess</td>
<td>Eno - eyes</td>
<td>Enso (name) - eyess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>offer - oner</td>
<td>coffey (coffee) - cony (a rabbit)</td>
<td>toff - ton</td>
<td>coiffe - coine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALL POSSIBLE EXCHANGES**

The same pair of antonyms may occur in different places in different pairs of words, specifically at the beginning, the end or in the middle of words. Alternatively, the antonyms may be split and appear in two, corresponding, separate places in each word. Below, each different pair of antonyms appears in at least 3 of the 4 columns.

*note: the same word, ‘eyess’, is here used in 2 of the columns. This is possible because of the double ‘ss’.*
There are, however, 2 words which go one stage further, offering a choice of 3 positions for the antonyms FARER (traveller) and NEARER (farther):

- FARER
- NEARER
- NEARER

The 2 words FARER (traveller) and NEARER offer a choice of 2 positions for the antonyms FAR and NEAR:

- FAR
- NEAR

There are, however, 2 words which go one stage further, offering a choice of 3 positions for the antonyms MAS (several mothers) and PAS (several fathers):

- MASSES
- PASSES
- MASSES
- PASSES
- MASSES
- PASSES

Both the above examples owe their existence to the presence in the words of repeated letters, R and S respectively.

**ADDITIONAL SPLITS**

Here are some more examples of split antonym exchanges:

(a) **Beginning and End**

- chame (a fissure) - whent (quaint)
- drey (a squirrel's nest) - weet (to know)
- easily - tensile
- hale - shale
- heard - trail
- loess - Moore (a name)
- louse - mauke (maggot)
- pumill (pommel) - pumish (pumice)
- rinse - snag
- shafe (sheaf) - wheak (a squeak or whine)...weak in the sense of unguarded
- trender (a wool winder) - trough
- theorem - uores (journeys)
- treuce (truce) - wear

(b) **Beginning and Middle**

- flinder (to break into flinders or pieces) - sleeker
- fletcher (an arrow-maker) - slender

(c) **Middle and End**

- ranted - roter (one who repeats by rote)
- mjnn (type of old Irish ornament) - mount

(d) **Beginning, Middle and End**

Here is a 3-way split pair of antonyms (‘these’ and ‘those’):

- thistle (trestle) - thistle (a thrush)

**ALTERNATIVE SPLITS**

The 2 words FARER (traveller) and NEARER offer a choice of 2 positions for the antonyms FAR and NEAR: 

- FARER - NEARER
- FARER - NEARER

There are, however, 2 words which go one stage further, offering a choice of 3 positions for the antonyms MAS (several mothers) and PAS (several fathers):

- MASSES - PASSES
- MASSES - PASSES
- MASSES - PASSES

Both the above examples owe their existence to the presence in the words of repeated letters, R and S respectively.