

CARDINAL NUMBERS IN TOWN NAMES

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The article "Words into Numbers" in the February 1977 issue of Word Ways introduced transadditions of the cardinal numbers: how few letters need one add to a cardinal number in order to transpose it into another dictionary word? This article examines the same topic, but restricts the transaddition words to a very special set -- the names of United States cities or towns with 5000 or more population in the 1970 census, as listed in the 1975 World Almanac. Two lists of transaddition words have been prepared:

- (1) the largest city or town containing each cardinal
- (2) the city or town requiring the smallest number of added letters (if different from (1)).

The states are indicated with standard two-letter abbreviations, but these letters have not been used in the transadditions. Cities with obvious numbers in the name (e.g. TWENTY-NINE PALMS, in California) were excluded. In one instance, a city was discovered whose name had fewer letters than the dictionary word published in the February article: WYANDOTTE is achieved by adding D and O to TWENTY, a one-letter improvement on NOTEWORTHY. WYANDOTTE is listed as a word in Webster's Seventh Edition. One remarkable fraction was discovered: SEVEN-EIGHTHS from WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, Ohio; note that the reciprocal, eight-sevenths, is not derivable from this name. Undoubtedly, allowing towns of less than 5000 population would alter the lists and fill in some of the empty spaces.

zero	San Lorenzo, CA	Cortez, CO
one	New York, NY	Reno, NV
two	Washington, DC	Stow, OH
three	Rochester, NY	Chester, PA
four	Fort Lauderdale, FL	Rumford, ME
five	Fall River, MA	Fairview, NY
six	Sioux City, IA	Hixson, TN
seven	Evansville, IN	West Haven, CT
eight	Huntington Beach, CA	Lehighton, PA
nine	Minneapolis, MN	Ennis, TX
ten	Sacramento, CA	Etna, PA
eleven	Greenville, SC	
twelve	Waterville, ME	Westvale, NY
thirteen	Sterling Heights, MI	
fourteen		

fifteen	Jefferson City, MO	
sixteen	Essex Junction, VT	
seventeen		
eighteen	Warrensville Heights, OH	Defense Heights, MD
nineteen	Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO	
twenty	Wyandotte, MI	
thirty	University Heights, OH	North Amityville, NY
thirty-one	North Amityville, NY	
forty	Fort Wayne, IN	
forty-one	North Fort Riley, KS	
forty-two	Fort Myers Southwest, FL	
fifty	Jefferson City, MO	
fifty-one	Jefferson City, MO	
sixty	Sioux City, IA	
seventy	West Puente Valley, CA	
eighty	University Heights, OH	Maryland Heights, MO
eighty-two	Yorktown Heights, NY	
ninety	Ventnor City, NJ	

OUTLANDISHER

In the Letters section of the April 1977 Scientific American, Weston Hare of Oxford, Massachusetts notes that the twelve commonest letters in English text, ETAOIN SHRDLU, can be transposed to form the word OUTLANDISHER, a variant of OUTLANDER (foreigner) found in Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary of the English Language as well as the Oxford English Dictionary. The ETAOIN SHRDLU transposal problem was first called to the attention of logologists in 1967, when Dmitri Borgmann in Beyond Language proposed the three coinages OUTLANDISHER, SOUTH IRELAND and TAILHOUNDERS. It is almost unbelievable that no one thought to check the possible legitimacy of these words during the following ten years!

In the same column, Walter G. Leight of Bethesda, Maryland writes a 32-line poem entitled "Sharon Dilute" in which each line consists of a rearrangement of these letters.