SHORT PEOPLE

ANIL, Perth, Australia

HeLa is a strain of human cervical cancer cells widely used in tissue-culture research. It is named after the original donor Hedy Lamarr sorry Henrietta Lacks and is now regarded as a word. This nomenclature style is reminiscent of “Animal Crackers” in May 2005 Word Ways where the first three letters of an animal’s genus and species names made words; eg, the chimney swift Chaetura pelagica yields chapel. [Chimney = steeple = chapel? (groan)] This led me to wonder how many words can be formed by shortening famous names to the first two letters of their first and last name. My best results first, cases in which the tetragram word has an AFFINITY with the person. I found a disappointingly small number, and most of those had only a general affinity.

coda Colin Davis, conductor
mike Mike Keith, famous to Word Ways readers at least; see the accompanying article.
mopy Monty Python: perfect antonym! (mopy = mokey, Web3)
        anagram: Monty Python: hynt: NOT MOPY!
nice Nicolae Ceausescu: another perfect antonym, by all accounts
nope Norman Vincent Peale: antonym, the original “Power of Positive Thinking” Yes man
pane Paul Newman and Patricia Neal: the affinity is between the two actors, not the word.
        They starred together in Hud. But still that film is a window (pane) on human relations.
raga Rajiv Gandhi: Indian music, Indian Prime Minister ’84-89
rich Richard Chamberlain: possible nickname and presumed status (Or is that a rich joke?)
vibe Vincenzo Bellini, composer
vide Vittorio DeSica, filmmaker
wise Wm. Seward, US statesman, derided for buying “Seward’s folly” (Alaska) for the US.
        (Wise? Didn’t he foresee that one consequence of his action would be Sarah Palin?)

And these flawed cases—not words but suggestive of words, or phrases.
dumo Dudley Moore (Well, Peter Cook thought so.)
        I prefer the hexagram, dud moo, because he reminds me of milk duds.
In be. Ingrid and Ingmar Bergman—a very “in” double feature from Sweden
Is as. Isaac Asimov Is as = “as if”—ie, science fiction futurism.
niki Nicole Kidman—her nickname?
owl, a Owen Lattimore, wise civil libertarian
vipr Vincent Price—a screen vipr, not a real live windscreen vipr

Now a much longer list in the form of a quiz. You deduce the name of the ‘short person’ from the tetragram plus a minimal clue. The politically incorrect term “actress” is used to give a narrower clue. Apologies for trying to be helpful. Most of the quiz names aren’t particularly relevant to the tetragrams. Some are famous only within a particular field of endeavor. Score half if you know the surname but don’t know or remember the first name, with leniency on spelling. Most are easy but some are hard. Count any remotely well known names you can find that fit the tetragram, even if they don’t fit my clues. Supplement your score by counting any additional name-tetragram words you can find. Score ten points if there’s the slightest tie-in. Ponder my pairings (in Answers and Solutions out back) and find tie-ins I missed and score more ten-pointers.
1. alba  UK actor
2. aloe  US field athlete
3. also  Russian writer
4. alto  French historian, politician
5. ammo  Italian painter
6. babe  US actress
7. bast 1 US actress
8. bast 2 US singer, actress
9. bear  turncoat
10. body  US musician, poet
11. boho  US comedian
12. boor  Canadian hockey player
13. busk  US behaviorist, writer
14. care  UK filmmaker
15. cede  US filmmaker
16. char  US president
17. clam  US writer, columnist
18. clod  US dramatist
19. coma  baseball player
20. coma  US clergyman
21. dada  US actor, dancer
22. daie  UK filmmaker
23. deer  Dutch scholar, writer
24. dike  US actress
25. diva  US actor
26. dole  African writer
27. dopa  US writer, critic, wit
28. duel  jazz musician
29. else  cartoonist (Popeye)
30. erne  UK travel writer
31. gala  Italian stargazer
32. giro  Italian composer
33. give  Italian composer
34. ha-ha  monkey psychologist
          (actually a person, ha-ha)
35. hake  US actor
36. hale  US writer
37. hall  US comedian
38. hare  US broadcaster
39. hash  US astrophysicist
40. heme 1 US writer
41. heme 2 US journalist
42. here  UK art critic, poet
43. hero 1 UK cartoonist
44. hero 2 French painter
45. hest  UK explorer, I presume
46. hone  UK naval commander
47. hora  Iranian cleric, politician
48. jade  US actor
49. jana  Indian politician
50. java  US physicist
51. jean  US actress
52. jibe  US actor
53. joke 1 UK poet
54. joke 2 US president
55. joke 3 German astronomer
56. joke 4 UK economist
57. last  Irish writer (He did.)
58. lava  African explorer, writer
59. lest  Austrian-US actor, teacher
60. loch  US actor
61. lode  French physicist
62. logo  US actor
63. lore  US musician
64. lube  German-Austrian composer
65. mach  Russian-French artist
66. male  African anthropologist
67. mama 1 mime
68. mama 2 US actress, singer
69. mama 3 Italian actor
70. mash  UK writer
71. mast 1 US actress
72. mast 2 US actress
73. math  UK politician
74. mica  UK actor
75. mice  Spanish writer
76. mini  German-US comedian, filmmaker
77. mire  UK actor
78. mode  Indian politician
79. near  No, as “far out” as anyone.
80. need  US singer, actor
81. nite  Croatian-US electrical engineer
82. nosh  Canadian actress
83. olde  (olde spelling) UK actress
84. pace  French artist
85. path  US writer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>86.</td>
<td>pave</td>
<td>French poet</td>
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<tr>
<td>87.</td>
<td>rash</td>
<td>Indian musician</td>
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<tr>
<td>88.</td>
<td>rest</td>
<td>US mystery writer</td>
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<td>89.</td>
<td>robe</td>
<td>US humorist</td>
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<td>90.</td>
<td>rode</td>
<td>US actor</td>
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<td>91.</td>
<td>role</td>
<td>Confederate general</td>
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<tr>
<td>92.</td>
<td>rope</td>
<td>1 UK statesman, PM</td>
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<td>93.</td>
<td>rope</td>
<td>2 UK physicist</td>
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<td>94.</td>
<td>rope</td>
<td>3 US opera singer</td>
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<td>95.</td>
<td>rose</td>
<td>1 US writer, broadcaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>96.</td>
<td>rose</td>
<td>2 US composer</td>
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<td>97.</td>
<td>rube</td>
<td>US anthropologist</td>
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<td>98.</td>
<td>ruse</td>
<td>Austrian pianist</td>
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<td>99.</td>
<td>rust</td>
<td>Austrian philosopher, educator</td>
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<td>100.</td>
<td>sago</td>
<td>Polish-US producer</td>
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<td>101.</td>
<td>sari</td>
<td>UK writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102.</td>
<td>sash</td>
<td>US actor</td>
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<td>103.</td>
<td>side</td>
<td>argued the female side</td>
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<td>104.</td>
<td>solo</td>
<td>singular beauty and talent</td>
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<td>105.</td>
<td>soma</td>
<td>Irish-French-UK writer</td>
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<td>106.</td>
<td>stun</td>
<td>UK publisher</td>
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<td>107.</td>
<td>tile</td>
<td>US psychologist, drug crusader</td>
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<td>108.</td>
<td>typo</td>
<td>US actir</td>
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<td>109.</td>
<td>vile</td>
<td>UK actress</td>
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<td>110.</td>
<td>viva</td>
<td>Dutch artist</td>
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<tr>
<td>111.</td>
<td>wash</td>
<td>jazz musician</td>
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<td>112.</td>
<td>wasp</td>
<td>baseball</td>
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<tr>
<td>113.</td>
<td>wide</td>
<td>US character actor</td>
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<td>114.</td>
<td>wipe</td>
<td>Quaker colonist</td>
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<tr>
<td>115.</td>
<td>wire</td>
<td>US judge</td>
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<tr>
<td>116.</td>
<td>wire</td>
<td>Austrian psychoanalyst</td>
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<td>117.</td>
<td>wish</td>
<td>1 UK dramatist, poet</td>
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<td>118.</td>
<td>wish</td>
<td>2 US jockey</td>
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<td>119.</td>
<td>wisp</td>
<td>(our) Bishop</td>
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<td>120.</td>
<td>with</td>
<td>UK writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121.</td>
<td>yuan</td>
<td>Russian politician</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**METAMORPHOSIS**

SIR JEREMY MORSE
London, England

Girl iridescent
Becomes woman indiscreet
And crone cretinised.