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
viper Vincent Price—a screen viper, not a real live windscreen viper

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.
QUIZ  good 60  excellent 90  maximum >2000

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**  Russian writer
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. **dale**  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. **gaga**  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. **jane**  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
86. pave  French poet
87. rash  Indian musician
88. rest  US mystery writer
89. robe  US humorist
90. rode  US actor
91. role  Confederate general
92. rope 1  UK statesman, PM
93. rope 2  UK physicist
94. rope 3  US opera singer
95. rose 1  US writer, broadcaster
96. rose 2  US composer
97. rube  US anthropologist
98. ruse  Austrian pianist
99. rust  Austrian philosopher, educator
100. sago Polish-US producer
101. sari  UK writer
102. sash US actor
103. side argued the female side
104. solo  singular beauty and talent
105. soma  Irish-French-UK writer
106. stun  UK publisher
107. tile  US psychologist, drug crusader
108. typo  US actor
109. vile  UK actress
110. viva  Dutch artist
111. wash  jazz musician
112. wasp baseball
113. wide US character actor
114. wipe Quaker colonist
115. wire  US judge
116. wire  Austrian psychoanalyst
117. wish 1  UK dramatist, poet
118. wish 2  US jockey
119. wisp (our) Bishop
120. with  UK writer
121. yuan Russian politician

METAMORPHOSIS

SIR JEREMY MORSE
London, England

Girl iridescent
Becomes woman indiscreet
And crone cretinised.