THE NUMERACY OF ALTERNATE LETTERS

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Assigning $A = 1$, $B = 2$ etc., the letters forming the first and second halves of a word with an even number of letters sometimes make a **Numerical Tautonym** (see WW70010, 70151, 70244, 71185) or a **Numerical Palindrome** (see Word Ways 96242, 97066). SPEAKING = 41.41 and POE.TRY = 36.63 respectively, are examples of the two genres.

Alternate Numeracy is more complex. Here it is the alternate letters of a word which command attention. Consider the 12-letter word IMPONDERABLE and the 8-letter word SOFTENED:

\[
\begin{align*}
I + P + N + E + A + L &= 57 \\
M + O + D + R + B + E &= 57 \\
S + F + E + E &= 35 \\
O + T + N + D &= 53
\end{align*}
\]

IMPOUNDERABLE is what I call an **Alternate Numerical Tautonym** and SOFTENED an **Alternate Numerical Palindrome**. In this capacity, IMPOUNDERABLE can be written as 57/57 and SOFTENED as 35/53.

All the words below have an even number of letters. This is so the two numerical totals in each case can be considered to be comparable in the context of having been derived from an equal number of letters. Where more than one word is listed, the words differ in length - ranging from 4 to 18 letters.

Letter tautonyms (TARTAR) and letter palindromes (HANNAH) are not included; complex medical and chemical words are also excluded. Plant families are included. Locations (italicised), identified by country, are only offered where no other word was found. They are taken from The United States Board on Geographic Names.

Most of the unreferenced words are taken from the **Oxford English Dictionary**, Second Edition. Other references are: Cham = Chambers Dictionary; Dor = Dorland’s Medical Dictionary; ospd = Official Scrabble Players Dictionary; p = The Complete Word Game Dictionary by Pulliam & Carruth, 1984; Sted = Stedman’s Medical Dictionary; w2 = Webster’s Second Edition

**WORDS WHICH ARE BOTH ALTERNATE NUMERICAL TAUTONYMS AND ALTERNATE NUMERICAL PALINDROMES**

The alternate letters of the word MYTH add up to identical totals ($M + T = 33$; $Y + H = 33$) which, together (33/33), can be viewed as both an alternate numerical tautonym (ANT) and an alternate numerical palindrome (ANP).

11/11 decade
22/22 cereal
33/33 myth pallet dupeable highjacked
44/44 Styx (a river of Hades) enzyme solvable nonglacial Brucellaceae (a family of protobacteria)
55/55 sloppier
66/66 stultify whiskylike
77/77 abstrusity
88/88 prehostility
99/99 laryngo-pharynx
ALTERNATE NUMERICAL TAUTONYMS

04/04
05/05 *Cabd* (Jordan) note: this location is made from the letters A, B, C and D.
06/06 bade
07/07 *Cebaba* (Peru)
08/08 geac (OE fool)
09/09 head
10/10 hebe (a plant)
12/12 caik (cake) cadged
13/13 Leah chebec (a three-masted vessel)
14/14 bile
15/15 abelia (a plant - Cham) dahabeah (a large Nile sailing boat)
16/16 bing hacked
17/17 damp eagled
18/18 clof (a cleft) biddle (beatle)
19/19 gold flable (a fan)
20/20 hole Angela
21/21 hemp camber
23/23 kiln dances amicable
24/24 refs feelable
25/25 limp afford breakage
26/26 lune bionic loadable
27/27 foul coshed kickable
28/28 slip entice jeepable
29/29 into begets adorable
30/30 rely cement redacted
31/31 romp bakery uncabled cicadellid (insect - Cham)
32/32 musk hissed educatee (a nonce word) Cariamidae (bird family - Cham)
34/34 tiny allium Hellenic decaudated
35/35 post remedy henchmen alkalified
36/36 yuk (5 points in judo - Cham) sulked adapting befriended
37/37 Prus upkeep mannered unacademic
38/38 Croats chanting reduceable
39/39 roux whelks Grenoble hammerable
40/40 tuts pastes repealer Calabrians
41/41 wurt (a medicinal plant) anonym soldered Cyperaceae (the sedge family - w2)
42/42 rosier rejoices chamfering
43/43 rwyt (rue = regret) tories broiling repackages
45/45 splint writable economical diabolical
46/46 paltry adverser abdicators biflagellate
47/47 owners smarming Battenberg indeprecable
48/48 skirts butchers Carolinian decasyllabic
49/49 rosily aspirant microbeams
50/50 plummy alpinist unattacked semichemical (w2)

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Sprinz (surname) bloopers negligibly Sillaginidae (a family of coast fishes of Asia - w2)
nuzzle fourteen clarifying interbalance
torsos dirtless rebuttable archegoniate
smooty business decentness prepackaging
octuplet concordats disheartened
sprutt (sprout) conquest shoplifted imponderable
thirty (thirty) knitters churchless definability
rousty (rusty) splotchy homologise highmindedly
fuzziest unfragrant canonistical
blustery transepted centrepieces (Cham)
cluttery propelling cosmological
glowworm conformers albumenising (Cham)
blushiness imitativeness
curteys deportment impenetrated
twitterers antisoviet acousticians angioneuralgia (Sted)
outpulls (w2) blueprints conduements defibrillation
polyzoon meticulous ambitionless
styluses ostensibly nonbarbarous (w2) dematerialises
snuzzles dishonours fearlessness nonforfeitable (w2)
convulsion corporealism Rhinocerotidae (w2)
growthless bathyspheres investigatable (w2)
countrysmen counterweigh realizableness
slothfully cartophilist changelessness
construers detrimental enchantingness
pertusions storekeepers unadministered circumesophageal (w2)
precursory contributive freakishnesses (w2)
unlustiest (p) spermatocyte demasculinizes (Sted) condensabilities
zoolatrous brunetteness claustrophobic
outwinters crustalogist cyndricality (w2)
hyposulphate multiplicating pre-Shakespearian
attractivity (w2) granuloplastic (Sted) prespecification (w2)
melifluously (w2) Marianolatrist undisinheritable
histologists reprehendatory dispensabilities
misconstruct authenticators ecophysiological
exiguousness effectuousness trithiocarbonate
transitorily extraplanetary hypergeometrical (w2)
stridulatory executioneress reincarnationism
mystifyingly autoregressive pneumosepticemia (Dor)
frictionlessly controllableness (w2)
storytellers (Cham) recompressions agrotechnologist
suppressions inspectorships interspecificity
supportingly enteroneuritis (w2) nonjudgementally (Cham) dispersoidological (w2)
storyologist coquetishness nondeterminately
roisterously (w2) unconspiringly (w2)
ALTERNATE NUMERICAL PALINDROMES

02/20  arab
03/36  Aeby (both a Christian name and a surname)
04/40  bubs
05/50  clarat (claret)
06/60  awards
07/70  Anamboambo (Madagascar)
08/80
09/90

12/21  coif  bocage (woodland)
13/31  alls (also)  bobbin
14/41  Ives (St. Ives is in Cornwall, England)  heaven  bedrabbed
15/51  arisen  Indianan
16/61  Freyer (a surname)  credency
17/71  algraphy (printing from aluminium plates)
18/81  excretes
19/91  Ivashyay (Lithuania)
20/02  pada (an Indian lyrical poem set to music)
21/12  bask  banged  caddiced (w2)

23/32  dusk  feebly ascended
24/42  crux  copier  Ichabodian
25/52  swayed  chancery
26/62  frisky  kyanised (Cham)  coalescing
27/72  bytwex (betwixt)  expiates
28/82  Indianizes
29/92  driography (a printing process)
30/03  larb (p)  banana
31/13  marl  gashed  Naiadaceae (aquatic plant family)
32/23  yogh  raider  radialia

34/43  stow  jester  decahedron
35/53  jotter  attainer  Coriariaceae (a plant family - w2)
36/63  openings  malignancy
37/73  subtotal  glamorized
38/83  expulses  crownmaker (w2)
39/93  crithology (the gathering of barley)
40/04  scua (skua)  Fatagaga (an electronic musician from Germany)
41/14  warm  mashie (an iron club in golf)
42/24  vets  paused  amperage  gibble-gabble
43/34  Roys  strife  schedule  aboundable

45/54  inputs  situated  alternades
46/64  syrtis (a quicksand)  frostier
47/74  twazzy (peevish - w2)  grizzler  endotherms  consolidated
48/84  coprisoner (w2)
49/94  privations  frigorimeter (a low temperature thermometer - w2)
50/05  Jaybhaga (Bangladesh)

51/15  serene  Sechoana (language)
52/25  parers  jargonic  back-washed  Piedraiaeae (a fungi family)
sanity annexing absconding
shorts thirteen afflicters
geotropy carburizer (w2) infidelities
ruptions astringer (a keeper of goshawks)
sunsetty frequently
antioxidizer (w2)
Yandua (Fiji)
octangle
sixish laterals marchantia (plant genus)
curative depainting
rightist weathering
scissors Zimmenthal displacement
twistors contortion
platypuses
poltergeists
Sasandra (Ivory Coast)
Sazoza (DR Congo)
misdrive fore-palate
partying famulative
trueness wifeliness
puttying remorseful
sputorum outrolling
outwritten (w2) pneumotropic (Dor)
overgrievous (w2)
Zavaleta (Argentina)
verb-adverb
zionward
unremarkable
relinquish
optimisers unsquandered
unorthodox unwieldiness
trustingly intervention
soliloquists
Talasanaye (Afghanistan)
Warapotana (Sri Lanka)
televerite (Cham)
paratorium (w2)
womanizers
scrutators unsignifying
stutterers spiritualize
reupholsters
southernmost termitophagous (feeding on termites)
DUAL STATUS WORDS

TAUTONYMS
The word CAVEAT is both a NT and an ANT (both 26 26). Thus it is a Dual Status Numerical Tautonym which involves 2 numerically-different digits. Here are others of this genre:

- BALAAM (a prophet) = 15.15 (NT) 15/15 (ANT)
- FLABLE (a fan) = 19 19
- HELPED = 25 25
- CONDOM = 32 32
- BOREHOLE (w2) = 40 40
- VENEERER = 46 46
- TORSOS and OCTODONT = 53 53
- UNFOUGHT = 56 56
- TENMKS = 52 52
- UNFRAGANT = 60 60
- SYSTYR (sister) = 63 63
- PRE-SHAKESPEARIAN = 83 83
- SUPPRESSIONS = 95 95

PALINDROMES
Dual Status Numerical Palindromes are less restricted. They can be divided into the following categories:

A. those in which the NP and ANP are the same
HEAVEN = both 14 41
JESTER = both 34 43
FOAMIEST = both 35 53
CONTOPTION = both 67 76

B. those in which the 2 NP digits swap positions in the ANP
SEWS = 24.42 (NP) 42/24 (ANP)
SEWERS = 24.42 (NP) 42/24 (ANP)

C. those in which the NP and ANP are different
(i) either the NP or ANP is configured from a single repeated digit:

a) NP configured from a single repeated digit
SCUA (skua) = 22.22 (NP) 22/22 (ANP)
ARCHIE = 22.22 (NP) 13/31 (ANP)

b) ANP configured from a single repeated digit
DIKERS = 24.42 (NP) 33/33 (ANP)

(ii) neither the NP nor the ANP is configured from a single repeated digit
WADE = 20.20 (NP) 20/20 (ANP)

MULTI-STATUS WORDS
RACIAL is a Multi-Status Word. It is a NT, NP, an ANT and an ANP, each represented by 22 22. Similarly, DEXIES (ospd) has a 4-way claim to 33 33, whilst REFOOTED and UNDEREAT each have a 4-way claim to 44 44.

nb. Alternate Letter Numeracy also produces results in fields other than tautonymic and palindromic ones. Below are examples of Alternate Numerical Number Sequences:

- JOBS = 12/34
- CLONES = 23/45
- AUTUMN = 34/56
- WATT = 43/21
- VACATIONER = 65/43
- GREYNESS = 45/67
- COMPONENTS = 56/78
- CRYPTOLOGY = 67/89
- OUTSWARM = 76/54
- RAVENOUSLY = 87/65
- VERMIFORMOUS = 98/76