

PALINDROME PALINDROMES

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Palindroming is such an unnatural occupation that it is extremely hard to make an intelligible pal of length, or even a short one involving diphthongs, especially if H is involved. (No, no, the letter, not the drug. But I imagine heroin would make it totally impossible, if not uninteresting.) Hence most pals require and ideally require explanation, as few make easy reading, unlike anagrams which are much easier. With that excuse, I present some more or less identical pals that include and define the word palindrome itself in a new way, so far as I know. All use “dn” (down) and “lap” (do a full circuit around the letters front and back). But I’m not a palindrome scholar beyond *Word Ways* and a book or two, so perhaps these are old hat. Enlighten me please—and darken my reputation if any.

palindrome: Pull up ’em; or dn I lap. Here we have “a vertical expression of a horizontal desire” in a brand new sense, up and dn representing across and back to us left-to-right readers.

palindrome: Put up ’em; or dn I lap. Ditto.

palindrome: Pump ’m up ’em, or dn I lap. Ditto. This is the most forced construction with two different contractions of the one word (them). Yet it’s the one I like best—because of the dare I say poetic imagery of stuffing the word up (or down) itself, a sort of turning itself inside out.

palindrome: Return rut. (= Eremor’ dn I lap.)

palindrome ht.: Pun-up them, or dn I lap. The height of palindroming is either light and fun like a joke or deep and depressing like a gnome (a pal-in-gnome).

Naturally, it is much easier to define a palindrome with anagrams, as shown in this definitive polyanagram from *up/dn* (WW monograph 5):

palindrome: I’m polar end-on-mid relap, an “imploder”.