The zealous logophiles who follow the Word Ways banner are known to be very susceptible to following a different drummer. While pursuing an elusive word through the dictionary, our interest is often detoured into areas completely foreign to the original search. Let’s face it -- none of us is completely immune to this!

So, I invite you to suffer through the most recent vagary that has afflicted me. Start by selecting an eight-letter word -- a common one, such as might appear in Webster’s Pocket Dictionary. Divide the word in the following manner: XX/XXXX/XX. Once so divided, the middle four letters should form a common four-letter word, and the opening and closing letters then brought together should form a second four-letter word -- all letters remaining in the same relative positions, not transposed. (Members of the National Puzzlers’ League will recognize this as a Word Deletion.)

The two four-letter words are finally arranged to form a more-or-less logical phrase. Alas, this is not always possible -- take the word REBELLED, which can be divided into REED and BELL, but placing these two together does not produce a meaningful phrase (other than some zany using them as the title of an article). Let’s try again. RECENTLY gives birth to CENT and RELY, and DE-FRAYAL will produce FRAY and DEAL. Got it?

Below, I offer a list of personal definitions. Each loosely paraphrases a phrase comprised of two four-letter words. You have the task of deriving the two four-letter words, plus the eight-letter word out of which they were formed.

1. transmitted small coin
2. genuine glove for catcher
3. salver for the brew
4. evil act
5. spoor of the wild game
6. food vessel for midgets
7. impersonator passed on
8. muddy wound mark
9. final wharf
10. you stockings!
11. scoff in fine style
12. sport involving fluff
13. command flat-bottomed boat
14. lateral rip
15. sacred tree dwelling

I could go on -- but why hit a man while he’s down? You’ve suffered enough to have gotten this far. Refer to Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue if you’re stumped to any degree.