HYPHEN-STRADDLING BIGRAMS

EDWARD R. WOLPOW
Brookline, Massachusetts

Our 26 letters allow 676 possible bigrams, and various searches have been made to find as many of these as possible in certain logological categories, particularly at the beginning and at the end of words. What follows is an attempt at discovering as many as possible of the 676 pairs straddling the hyphen in compound words. Webster's Second Edition (NI2) viewed hyphenated words more favorably than Webster's Third (NI3). In spite of the tendency to drop hyphens from the newer edition, it appears that our newest words, as found in the Addendum to NI3, have a greater likelihood of hyphenation than even NI2.

In this article, I have not allowed (1) entries with more than one hyphen (for example, jack-in-the-pulpit), (2) hyphenated pairs in which one member is only a single letter (for example, Susy-Q), or (3) hyphenated pairs in an entry with extra words (for example, red-headed pine sawfly. Furthermore, NI3 (and Addendum) words were used in preference to NI2 words. NI2 words are noted with an * and NI3 Addendum words with a +. Eight proper names have been taken from the NI2 gazetteer.

Since at most one pre-hyphen word was found to end in the letters J, O or V, these three letters have been omitted from the columnar tabulation on the next four pages. Each column contains only 25 entries, for no post-hyphen words beginning with X were found. The only pre-hyphen words that I found ending in J or Q are:

Absuj-Terna* cinq-cents

The editor has noted that hyphenated words are actually rather rare in normal English text. In fact, in the Kucera-Francis corpus of one million words sampled from books, magazines and newspapers printed in the United States in 1961, only ten appeared more than 20 times:

| 39 long-range | 26 anti-trust | 23 anti-Semitism |
| 32 long-term | 26 part-time | 22 middle-class |
| 32 so-called | 25 twenty-five | 21 Anglo-Saxon |
| 24 full-time |

An eleventh word, Bang-Jensen, appeared 25 times, all in a single 2000-word sample.

Can readers fill in any of the holes using Websterian sources?
ultra-atomic
opera-bouffe
terra-cotta
canna-down
camera-eye
Buddha-field
sea-god
alpha-hypophamine
extra-illustrate
ultra-Julian
da-kua
sea-lane
sea-maid
alpha-naphthol
beta-oxidation+
gutta-percha
quia-quia*
sea-run
sea-salt
Jura-Trias
Uva-ursi
Atharva-Veda*
delta-winged
jnana-yoga
ta-zaung
spend-all
red-bait
red-carpet
red-dog
red-eye
red-figure
second-generation
red-hot
red-ink
cold-jaw
god-kin
red-lead
bad-mouth+
red-neck
spaced-out+
demand-pull+
wood-quest
red-roan
second-string
gold-tail
paid-up
wood-vamp
field-wren
hundred-year*
mid-zone*
grab-all
comb-back
gib-cat
flub-dub
club-ended*
comb-footed
web-glazed
job-hopping+
thumb-index
sub-jugate*
rib-knit
plumb-line
sub-Mycenaean
sub-nosed
comb-out
sub-Pyrenean
sub-rosa
club-shaped
scarb-tree
scrub-up
rib-vault
web-winged
crab-yaws*
sub-zero
face-about
kettle-bottomed
face-centered
name-drop
blue-eye
white-faced
vice-governor
face-harden
write-in
knee-jerk+
vice-king
face-lift
vice-master
face-nail
face-off
vice-president
vice-queen
tree-ripe
face-saver
vice-treasurer
paste-up
pole-vault
spindle-wood
drive-yourself
white-zoned*
arctic-alpine
arc-back
music-copying*
manic-depressive
zinc-etched*
lilac-flowered*
Ac-globulin
lilac-headed*
comic-iambic*
Duroc-Jersey
basic-lined
civic-minded
quoc-ngu
arc-over
tic-polonga
democratic-republican
panic-stricken
franc-tireur
Capac-Urcu*
lilac-violet*
arc-weld*
back-alley
quick-bread
quick-char
blick-dik
blick-ear
quick-fire
cook-gene
shock-heal
look-in+
slack-jaw
flick-knife
duck-leg
weak-mind
stark-naked
freak-out+
jack-pudding
quick-ques
folk-rock
quick-set
jack-tar
block-univ
neck-vers.
quick-with
thank-you
going-away
ring-barked
kicking-colt
whing-ding
jug-eared
ring-fence
wrapping-gown
jug-handled
throwing-iron
jumping-jack
king-killer
big-leaguer
frog-march
ring-neck
carrying-on
ring-porous
long-quartered*
smoking-room
king-size
talking-to
hang-up+
big-voiced*
swing-wing+
ylang-ylang

back-alley
quick-break
quick-change
dik-dik
slick-eat
quick-fire
cook-general
shock-head
look-in+
slack-jawed
flick-knife+
duck-legged
weak-minded
stark-naked
freak-out+
jack-nutting
quick-questioning*
folk-rock+
quick-set
jack-tar
block-universe
neck-verse
quick-witted
thank-you
gosh-awful
earth-ball
Yueh-chi
crash-dive
fish-eye+
flash-forward+
heath-game
witch-hunt
teach-in+
fish-joint
dough-kneading*
earth-lit
rough-machine
north-northwest
psych-out+
Dutch-process
high-quality*
high-rise+
earth-smoke
flash-type
fetch-up
lymph-vascular
heath-wren
reddish-yellow*
aleph-zero

semi-axis+
billi-bi+
semi-comatose+
semi-double
ti-es
sci-fi+
Tupi-Guarani
Yi-heung+
bi-lilac
quasi-judicial
Esh-Kongo
quasi-legislative
bakti-marga
twi-night
quasi-optical
quasi-public

quasi-reorganization
demi-sec
karri-tree
quasi-uplift*
demi-vierge
quasi-wicked*
ki-yi
anti-Zionism

sperm-aster
custom-built
vacuum-clean
jim-dandy
worm-eaten
cram-full
gum-gum
lyam-hound
Chatham-Island*
slim-jim
trim-kept
stem-line
quantum-mechanical
worm-nest
neem-oil
jam-pack

stem-root
krym-saghyz
arm-twisting+
jam-up
gram-variable
whim-wham
yum-yum
chor
Dry
tray
tch
Focus
grown
Giggers+
It
wed
knitted
lice
nild
nosed
It+
roof
quilled*
eat
ster
-u-vase
waited
yielding*

you-all

Tu-chung
Feu-duty
Limu-elele
EU-form
Chateau-Gontier*
Neu-Hannover*
Neu-Isenburg*
Ulu-juz
Limu-kohu
T'u-lao
Mu-meson

Targu-Ocna*
Namtu-Panghai*
Urucu-rana
tau-sagy
wu-t's'ai+
you-uns*

Wou-wou
Fu-yang*
Zou-zou

By-alley
Lay-by
Arty-crafty
Heavy-duty
Fifty-eight
Fifty-five
Nitty-gritty+
By-hour
Buy-in+
Joy-juice
Fly-kick
Heavy-laden
Ready-made
Fifty-nine
Fifty-one
Jiggery-pokery
Jury-rigged
Forty-six
Forty-two
Lay-up
Many-valued
Ready-witted
Yackety-yack

Know-all
Low-browed
Low-cut
Low-down
Low-end
Low-frequency
Low-grade
Know-how
Low-intensity*
Hollow-jawed*
Low-key
Low-level
Low-minded
Low-neck
Show-off
Low-pressure
Crow-quill*
Low-rate
Low-set
Low-test
Slow-up
Crow-victuals
Low-warp
New-year

Ex-all
Wax-billed
Wax-chandler
Six-day*
Ox-eyed
Tax-free
Ax-grinder
Mix-Hellene
Sex-influenced
Pyx-jury
Ex-king*
Sex-link
Six-master
Box-nailing*
Six-ounce*
Six-pack
Ex-quay*
Six-room*
Six-shooter
Fox-trot
Mix-up
Ex-voto
Six-wheeler
Six-year*

Whiz-bang
Topaz-colored*
Quartz-diorite
Laissez-faire
Topaz-green*

Gunz-Mindel
Laissez-passer

Jazz-rock+
Quartz-syenite
Buzz-track

Topaz-yellow*