

LETTER HEIGHT LIPOGRAMS

ANIL

Perth, Australia

lipo-marylambs

mar's wee ewe

mar owns a wee ewe; ewe owns a snow cover.

o o

mar's moves cause ewe same sure moves.

o o

as mar comes on courses, so ewe comes on. — a no-no!

ewe amuses coursers, roar “ewe on courses! eux-eux-eux!”

Libby, Pig

libby dig light pig, light pig dig libby,

libby ‘fly’, pig fly,

d b

libby fly High, pig fly High. — Ill, it!

q p

lippy kid ilk bid “pig fly high? yip-yip-yip!”

Eux-eux-eux and yip-yip-yip are dialect laughs, perchance resembling your own? (eux eux) The verses, a pleasingly sleek one of short letters (**acemnorsuvwxz**) and a relatively baroque-looking one of tall letters (**bdfghijklpqty**), reflect the fact that a mere 2-3% of pocket dictionary words contain only short letters—despite having half the alphabet and four vowels—while all-tall words at 1.5 vowels make up only a quarter that many. All-tall is so restrictive I had to change Mar’s name and pet (but lambs can’t fly anyhow) and school, *assuming* Mar’s was Primary school. The original Marylamb is 15% short words (*a, was, as, snow, sure, one, see*) and 2% tall (*it*). But only 3 of over 10⁶⁶ named *numbers* are short (*zero, one, seven*) and 1 tall (*fifty*).

lipo-sesquipedalia

The longest short- and tall-letter words await discovery. Among *Chambers Anagrams*’ 110,000 ≤15-letter alphomes the longest shortie is **curvaceousness** (14; plural 16), the longest tallie is **fifty-fifty** (10) or, unhyphenated, **flightily**, **highlight** and **hillbilly** (9). I also checked **A** and **I** in Web-3. The biggest A short was **aversenesses** (12), but **acrocereousnesses**—properties of or like a fly genus—is an inferred 19(?). Ironically the biggest I tall was **itty-bitty** (9) or, unhyphenated, the tautonym/near-palindrome **ipilipil** (8; a shrub). Would you buy **ipilipilibility** (15)? I thought not.

lipo-pangrams

SHORT WORDS: zax, sun rove cwm. (The zax, like the sun, traverses the valley regularly.) This 13-letter sentence is a perfect [*ly ridiculous*] pangram sentence of official Scrabble words. The zax in the story is shared around, being the only slate-working hatchet in the whole Welsh valley.

TALL TALES: A perfect tall-letter pangram requires abbreviations: **Light by JFK pdq!** These tall sentences repeat only i’s and use the only tall Scrabble q word, **qi** (chi, life force):
1(16) **gild pith qi by kif j!** (Brighten your core energy via a kif cigarette!)
2(17) **kid “qi jib”, filthy pig?** (Does the nasty cop ridicule this “energy sail” claim [for kif]?)
J is slang for joint (Cassell Dictionary of Slang), the rest are Scrabble words. My best all-Scrabble sentence (#2) required some “creative” phrasemaking.