

A FRIENDLY ALPHABET

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In a recent communication, the editor suggested to me that the standard alphabet isn't very friendly; adjacent letters don't get along well. For example, there is no word in NI containing all four of the letters WXYZ. I have found a way to rearrange the alphabet so that any group of six adjacent letters can be found in a word. The procedure was two-fold: select a group of long words which contain several uncommon letters which may then be bunched together in the final alphabet, and then use common sense to link them together with vowels and other common letters. The final step of finding examples for some of the combinations was done with computer assistance. All the words listed can be found in NI2.

M C V I T L B Z O U X F R N E D H W Y J K A S O P G

MCVITL BZ: victimizable
 ITLBZOU quizzability
 LBZOUXFRN benzofuroquinoxaline
 UXFRNE refluxing
 XFRNED transfixed
 FRNEDH friendship
 RNEDHW underweigh
 NEDHWY honeydew
 EDHWYJKA jayhawked
 WYJKAS jayhawks
 YJKASO jackboys
 JKASOP jackpuddinghoods
 KASOPG kampongs
 ASOPGMC campgrounds
 OPGMCVIT overcompensating

Having done this, I suspect that a 7-friendly alphabet can be found. Another possibility is to find a 6-friendly one in a smaller dictionary. For that, 'quixotizing' might be a useful start. For collectors of unusual-looking words, while looking for a GMPSTV word in an earlier attempt I found 'impervestigable', an obsolete word meaning 'incapable of being thoroughly investigated'.