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Editor's Note: This article continues the survey of the letter rebus begun in the February 1984 Word Ways; readers should refer to that issue for a general discussion including taxonomy.

Relative Position of Rebus Letters to Each Other (Continued)

Further examples of words indicating position above include:

DisProof 74, Proof boxes 83
SUPERimposed 51
acros*Tic*S 36, Lacrosse 37
nickelod*Eon 83 [load on]
the Band Played* on 63, DandElion*S 75
ONE is superior to the OTHER 58, superior WisConSin USA 58
PontooneD 65, periodontoSis 80
HERbert hOover 73
slipCoverS 81
a BaD hangover toDaY 81
jamES MonROE 73
GROover head 82
WaGonS-lit 75
THalidOmidE 75
Flies over the seAs 58
Flights overseas 77
aVAcant apartMenT upstairs 79
make up theIR MinDS 80
CATAmount 80, mountEBank 83

There are numerous rebuses with a stack using two ons, but apparently no one has bothered to construct a stack of three, despite the existence of words such as cONfrONTaTION.

To indicate below, one has the following vocabulary:

MisunderSTandinGS 23, FLOunderS 23, SunderS 26
round underneath the MOon 36, underneath the PlanO 51
upS and downS 25, upSIDE down 26, Hand-ME-down 30
DOWN beneath the WILLOW 42, Be beneath you* 53
SneathS 29, One at HOME 29
six degrees below zero 27, FURbelowING 51, below PAR 70
topS and bottomS 25, HEPatopHLEbotom*Y 62, copper bottomS 80
at the bottom of the BaY 39, AT the bottom of the sea* 52
highFlowN 26, SWAlow 27, overFlow BASin 29
SaY it with FlowerS 27, Flower Lover 37
EARS lowered 80
the netherlandS 39
overCrowDED subWaYS 40, subFUSC 65, 1AMbus 77 [suber]
EaVESdropped 44
ONE is inferior to the OTHER 58
SelF-abasement 80

A rather similar vocabulary is used to indicate letters diagonally up or down from each other:

sign OF fall 82
ConeFlower 23, BlowerS 49, when KnighTload WAS in Flower 51
SlowS up 25, Pro*lo*Cu*to*Rs 27, lowLandS 29
Coffee 27, Flies off the HandLED 30
OUTLawry 54
SWanSdown 28, SIT down in front 48, WatERShip down 74
Dazed Campers and then dropped letterS 34
eye*dropS 74, dropPinGS 76, HYdropatH 82
niagraRa RapidS 39 [suber]
YES depress YOUR dimmer switchES 73
gasOline linES 74 [suber]
A raised and sunken SYstem 75, sinkYoneS 79
A subscripEtion RatE 79
under six Flags 81, THunder on the left 39
HUT at the foot of a HILL 62
REConsideR 56, under ConsideRaTIon 41
Lover’S right 28, after the Ball is oyer 43
LonG Stopover 55
raised the RafterS 68, BotH sides i arM 76 [suber]
slowS up 25, CatSup 26
DOWry 63
right off the Bat 51, vertical TAKEoff 70
EvEsoR 81 [suber]
PUT up OR SHUT up 23, SlowS up 25, CatSup 26
highBrowS 31, highLand FLinGS 33
night-Blooming CereUS 32
closeD MinDS MaDE up in advance 76
HE is upright .. 60, upright PlanO 48
A foe disputes ME not 72 [suber]
over AND above besideS 49
Stop in FOR a short viSit 72
great UnwASHed 80 [n.w.: northwest]
tenneSseE 73 [n.e. = northeast, s.e. = southeast] X~

The word in can be embodied in a rebus in many different ways. The usual method is to center a letter (or letter group) inside a horizontal sequence of letters:

TMT: MInTs 24, TUNE: UnInTErEsting 27, TFLY: FLInTY 26
CCDCC: in the midst of the CrowD 55, TINGSH: midst of THINGS 63
URTND: midURNDIsT 74 ["my durndest"]
APYRL: PYRamidalIs 37, ECETS: aCETamides 42, AAEAA: admiAsi 59
RDO: in the middle of the ROAD 57
STOS: rightS and leftS TO the midsection 46
CBLET: intraCTaBLE 57

In addition, a verb for
DRTI A: r
Snow 83, SNOW
enterTaINEnT
REBUSS: state

The inserted three
many of these
---
---

A
HEF: HE
R

However, of a longe
F
ECMEN: some

One can also
WSOHLEVE
AFTME: e
AAGLEIs:
DAUESTRo:
MJAAICDK:
BrEoEy:

Furthermore, letters to cl
In addition, there are a considerable number of rebus using a verb followed by the word in: LCHUR; left in the LURCH 49, DRTL A; robeRT inDIanA 83, OEO: Obispo pinE 81, GLS; shovelinG Snow 83, SEGLWS: SparkLinG WinEs 74, PSE: inFEstationS 74, ETAD: enterTainED 58, SCAF: SCAPfolding 79, SUGBER: nIggard 80 [suber], REBUSS: stuffinEss 83, GOOG: stampinG Grounds 81.

The insertion of a letter can be done vertically instead, using many of the same synonyms for in:

```-ING- readING between the lines 43

DEBECKS: Between DECKS 25

STSASDY: SainT SwithinS Day 28, WAGTANCEDLK: within WALKinG Distance 55

NL1 : interNatIonAL 39

ITMNS: insert THIN soleS 40

NCCOE: CoinciDence 26, ITN: inside INforMaTion 47

EVE: innerVatEs 44, TDB: Dinner at eight 81

XCEDI: intoXicATed 69, ELECEDWEN: intoXicATed 80, SH: dropped a letter into the BOX 39

DTE: DEcentraliSt 62, DEDE: DEcenterED 73

Hudson: of time and the river 42

SPO: middle Platter Of ormerS 83

KMN: the interior LineMen 70

STPES: the President of the united StaTes 72
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In recent years, this technique has been supplanted by one that encloses letters in larger ones, notably G in words ending in -ing (see page 5 in the February issue).

Another nuance is created for in if the surrounding symbol can be readily split in two. This is achieved by replacing the letter W with UU (as in LaW 60, mideWAY), by an Arabic numeral (5TO: LaTin 77, lPO: PinXit 81), or by a Roman numeral (lPV: Pinafore* 49, D1D: one in a thousand 54).

All of these rebuses keep the letters being enclosed entirely separate from the letters performing the enclosing. However, this need not always be the case; a letter can be counted as part of the enclosing set (shown in quotes for clarity): US: Sin'US'itis 27, T: Tin'TYPE' 21, DAHOMEY: a HOME in the country 83, FORMATION: Misin'TFORMATION' 30, BRAN: Raisin 'BRAN' 48, E ER: Easin'ESS A Y'EaR 82, POWHATAN: WHAT's in a name, TEA: in'TEasting 32. A related rebus is illustrated by BILLS: Sends the 'BILLS' 45.

Shifting one’s viewpoint, one can, instead of using in, describe the act of placing letters around a letter by a combination of the follow right and precede left operations described previously:

DSIE: inSIDE out 29, SGT: outSTandinG 40, SL1H: outLandISH 47
YMEE COO: without ME YE Can d0 nothing 40
SHAFROEKE'S: splitting SHAKES with a FROE
ARN: AN outside R 37, ULU: outside the Law 60
OUES: inn*UendOES 46, SBS: BadneSS 72 [suber]
HIGT: aroundIght 54, HOMER: One arM around HER 60
K1DOPFENG: a bout OF DRinkING 55, BITS: BoneS about IT 68
Mpy: thorn in MY side 81
HERO: Householder 82
XYT: oXYhemaTin 81
CLEBURNCLE: BURN the CandeLE at both ends 58
XAX: chiefTAin 83
AHUPEM: HE gets UP in the morning 76
NM11: MINISkirts 67
HCS: Hands across the C* 72, XITOX: O Tides a redness orca
The positional rebuses discussed in the past few pages are located in the standard position — halfway between the title and the verse below. More recently, rebus constructors have discovered how to incorporate the positional rebus in the title. Some examples:

- **PREBUS**
  - B: RE US: the Bison theRe 75
  - E: extra PatronIUM 79
  - TB: REDBUS: REload the BUS 78

Note that in every case the letters of REBUS play a role, with other letters added as needed.

Similarly, the positional rebus can appear in the verse below:

OL: inverse proportion 83
RT: errors and PRIME: undercapitalism 82
TB

A handful of negative positional rebuses have appeared. Two very similar ones are HERBERT HOOVER: Governor 30 and GHIJKL: overHand Knots 72. Both C: topnotCH 73 and MO: MonotonY 57 show the inverse of the negative statement. G gS: the GRandParent of five little GRandSonS 82 demonstrates the equivalence of aren't off and on. One rebus combines a negative statement with its title: SUB R: MonotonE 80.

**Groups of Identical Letters**

If the word or phrase describing the rebus contains the letter S, it is not uncommon to see the preceding letter presented two or more times in the rebus: IIIII: allles 21, WWW: theWS 22, RRRRT: someRsET 22. In addition, the number of times a letter or symbol appears in the rebus can be specified. For single appearances, one has:

- HoneY 22, oneIDA 25, won*DER 25, byGoneS 23, BoneS 26
- Nonesuch 61, Done such 61
- singleT 22, singleHandED 25, singleD 26, singleTonS 35
- None 25, ConceRTinAS 72, eNSconce 75
- loneLinEsses 24, loneLY 25, lone HandS 29
- A lonely afternoon 47, lonesomeR 27
- aBalone 21, I'M alone 26, B: let her* alone 37
- soleN 22, Asole 46, MT: soleMni*Ty* 27, insert THIN soleS 40
- soloist 37, soloMonS 47, soloN 48
Rebus-makers have devised a very large number of ways to exhibit exactly two letters:

PPP RR: Pro*to*Rs 27, SonG with out woRds 58
double UP 22, a double Play 24, capital doubleD 30, REDoubled 28
twice 33, singleHandED twice 45, XEXE: cross a 'Te' twice
anImated 23, Mismated 37, HAmated 42
both ERS 24
eNTwinEs 24, twinERS 53, EASt wind* 69, Atwain 28
match point 77, Mismatched 37, UNmatched 53
a pair of specs* 29, a pair of black eyes* 33, IMPaired 53
lIs 29, GOO: sibling 73 [suber], c*anNAbis 72, bISHOP 76
Teach ER DEparts 29, Beseech* 35, AN un derSTandinG Teach ER 65
HH: mediate 72 [suber]
ex traCT 33, extraORDinaRY 39, extraPOlate 70
Has a swell asH 69
slow down There Where's the Fire pete* 68
repeAting Firearm 47
repeatedLY 53, A repeated low Blow 59, repeated rightS .. 64
oo: sparr*Ow* 67
puRported 75 [suber]
TireprintS 53
TITanother1UM 52
presentaTION copy 83
dualisM 25, dualAS 39, inDIvidual 60, Cloud*Y 72 [suber]
nearLY the same 70
OBLiterated 58, ALLiterated 61, SS: illiterateS 77
duplicateD 40
STand againST 60, niagara falls 72 [suber], niagaRa 82 [suber]
Credo 83, Shoder 81 [suber]
DO DO
HA HA HA HA : HAd it to DO over again 80
LoudLY 38 [suber]
AA B: A gem in a tea Ball 78

Representations for three or more letters are less often encountered:
threePs 22, three jays* together 65
a triplex 22, tripleTs 25, EEE: tripol*st* 35
With rice 59
eIbertA 72 [suber], ENGelbert 78 [suber]
triCERatopS 67, KKK ISM: MiniSkit 73 [suber]
Eternal 73
Histro 75
hol* rine Hart WinSTon 80
WINter 33, terPscHlorE 72, HEH HEH HEH OO: HE*terOcercal* 34

UUUU: for*Ho
quadrup* six of the sev
Weight
LEOnin
tenOstil de cuPL
Unspec
a variety
SO mar
li: e al les* someR
likewis much / polyde
ALoft 3
ever Discont
EEEEE: allover
Ghost a Sandlo
multiP
SAY IT
SeveI massAcc ex-tral
One reb
alone in horizonta
Other te
words ro
CONseq .breakF
Orange
crossro
q*Uart
Malign
anling
OOO: r
aT all
lays to exhibit

REdoubled 28 'twice

ired 53 IOP 76 Teacher 65

hts .. 64

a 82 [suber]

encountered:

s to exhibit

REdoubled 28 'twice

ired 53 IOP 76 Teacher 65

hts .. 64

a 82 [suber]

encountered:

UUUU: q*Uartet 74 [suber]
for*ehsies* 24, lill: four-eyes* 24, for*Ks 25
quadrupleTs 25

six of one and half a dozen of the other 75, sExisM 77 [suber]
the seven seas* 35, TTTTTTT: seventies* 81
Weight 29, eighthS 24, MaGNate* 39, EEEEEEE: eighties* 81
LEOnine 73
tenOstitis 28, DisContenTED 29, Oftentimes 22
decuple 69

Unspecified repetitions of a letter or letter-group are clued by a variety of words:

SO many times 69, Dynamos 39 [suber], mani*aC 27
l l: equalize* 64
alles* 21, all around the WorLD 27, all fives 34
someReST 22, 8 am, 2 pm: sometimes 24, Handsome 1s .. 26
likewise* 24, DislikeD 27
much ADO about nothing 25
polydeuces 28
ALoFT 30, Soft 33, of time anD the river 42, Soften 35
severalmize* 31
Discontinued 31
EEEEE: Esteem 32, SSSSS: eSteems 32
alloverhisH 83, aCTual lover 79
Ghost 49
Sandlots 46
multipleX 38
say 1T over and over again 62
Sever 72
massAc*hU*setts* 34
ex-traPeze* 68

One rebus achieved a repetition by negation: TTTTTTT clued noT alone in 1974. Although none of the above words implies a straight horizontal line, most were conventionally presented in that manner. Other terms of multitude more specifically suggest eveness; the words row and line are the ones most commonly used:

CONsequences 75
breakFasT cereal* 82
Oranges before breakFasT .. 81
crossrow 22, CrowDs 27, highBrows 31, aPone*uRos*is 29
G-string 33
q*Uartet 74 [suber] [q = queue]
Maligned 42
anline 29, iSaBELline 29, DandElion* 34, Clo*theSline 37
OOO: rings central information 82
at all events 39, evenTs 43, Hampers and SlowS even StopS 64

extraPeze 38