

KICKSHAWS

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Kickshaws is currently being assembled by a series of guest editors. All contributions should be sent to the editor in Morristown, New Jersey.

Doubly-Linked Sentences

At the 1981 National Puzzlers' League convention, a contest was held in which the participants were required to compose paragraphs of doubly-linked sentences. In a doubly-linked sentence, each word shares at least two letters with its neighboring words. The judge gave preference to the efforts which were least strained and which had a high proportion of short words, since short words are more difficult to incorporate. I had the pleasure of winning the contest, and herewith publish my entry for the sake of posterity:

When Herschel Chalutz, the pediatrician, started dating Sandra Greenblatt, Rachel (her mother) crowed. "How wonderful! We wanted an attorney or doctor for our daughter's husband. Also, Herschel has such charming parents. They're quite wealthy, at least that's what Shuska always says." Sandra asked Herschel over for Friday's dinner. Conversation centered around doctors' salaries. Rachel restrained herself from mentioning marriage more often than necessary - seven times. Eventually Herschel screamed "Please, stop this intolerable meddling!" and departed. Rachel learned an important lesson: Don't count your boychicks before they're hitched.

Miscegenation Terms

Q: What do you get if you cross Typhoid Mary with Sir Edmund Hillary?

A: You can't cross a vector with a scalar!

The above may be funny only to bio-mathematicians, but the game of naming the offspring of mixed races has been played by everyone for centuries. I became interested in miscegenation terms when I happened across the Webster's Second definition of MARABOU: "One having five eighths negro blood; the offspring of a mulatto and a griffe." Not only did I have difficulty imagining the circumstances under which this term would be useful, but GRIFFE was also new to me. I decided to track down as many analogous terms as possible.

The results below were gleaned mainly from Webster's Second, the 1935 Funk & Wagnalls, and The American Language: Supple-

ment 1 by H. L. Mencken. To begin with, consider the following half-and-half mixtures of two races:

White/Black	mulatto
White/Chinese	chino-blanco
White/SA Indian	mestizo
White/NA Indian	half-breed
Black/Chinese	zambo-chino
Black/SA Indian	chino (Indian father) mameluco, zambo (Black father)
Black/NA Indian	cariboco, zambo
Chinese/SA Indian	chino-cholo
Chinese/NA Indian	---

Some races calibrate their mixtures more carefully:

Black/White

1/16 Black	quintroon, white
1/8 Black	octoroon, griffado, quintero
1/4 Black	quadroon, quarteron
1/2 Black	mulatto
9/16 Black	pardoc
5/8 Black	marabou
3/4 Black	griffe, cubra, zambo-negro

Black/SA Indian

1/4 Black	zambo-claro
1/2 Black	mameluco, zambo, chino
3/4 Black	zambo-negro

SA Indian/White

1/4 SA Indian	creole
1/2 SA Indian	mestizo
3/4 SA Indian	mestizo-claro

These lists have some gaps. What is the word for someone who is 3/8 Black and 5/8 White? Are there other terms such as MAMELU-CO and CHINO which differ only in the sexes of the parents? In both the original Funk & Wagnalls and American Language lists, the respective sexes of both parent races are given. Interestingly enough, the White parent is always male. Are there separate words for the children of White mothers and non-White fathers, or are the definitions phrased so as to be least upsetting to a racist/sexist culture? Perhaps logologists would help in collecting all such cross-race, cross-culture terms. To start things off, here are three more: METIS (a Canadian term for someone who is half Canadian and half NA Indian), MESTIZO (which can be used to describe a Chinese-Filipino), and CREOLE (what Alaskans call the offspring of a Russian and an Eskimo).

So far, I have neglected the true diversity of the human species. Words for the mixtures of two races, no matter how precisely they specify the relative proportions, can hardly describe all of the world's population. Here are some tri-racial terms:

1/8 Black, 1/2 SA Indian, 3/8 White	mestizo
1/4 Black, 1/2 Chinese, 1/4 White	chino
1/4 Black, 1/4 SA Indian, 1/2 White	chino
1/4 Black, 1/2 SA Indian, 1/4 White	chino-oscuro
1/2 Black, 1/4 SA Indian, 1/4 White	mulatto-oscuro, zambo

Anyone know a quad-racial term?

Paradoxes

Judy Swank pointed out to me that it's no better to have a fat chance than a thin chance, and this brought to mind other "paradoxes" of the language. There are the old pseudo-opposites flammable and inflammable. Or, the -less in priceless, which means the opposite of the -less everywhere else: hopeless, pointless, valueless, etc. Another favorite is head over heels, which my Webster's Collegiate tells me means "upside down." Frankly, that's my position when I'm rightside up. Finally, there is the expression "I couldn't care less," sensible enough in its own right, but rendered just as often as "I could care less."

Album Side Labelling

Record album sides are generally labelled in a boring fashion. The vast majority use one of the following label-pairs: 1/2, I/II ONE/TWO, A/B, or a/b. A few rock albums, however, use more imaginative schemes. Here is a partial list, arranged as follows: label for first side, label for flip side, album title (artist):

Side 0, Side 1	Numbers (Cat Stevens)
This, That	Catch Bull at Four (Cat Stevens)
In The Beginning, Afterwards	Astral Weeks (Van Morrison)
Aqualung, My God	Aqualung (Jethro Tull)
Heads, Tails	Sleepy Hollow (Siegel-Schwall Band)
Live One, Live Too	Real Live John Sebastian (John Sebastian)
"The Easy Side", "The Hard Side"	Hermit of Mink Hollow (Todd Rundgren)
East Side, West Side	Manifesto (Roxy Music)
Yesterday, Today	Between Today & Yesterday (Alan Price)

Up, Down	The Up Escalator (Graham Parker)
One Side, Another Side	American Pie (Don McLean)
Face Up, Face Down	Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables (Dead Kennedys)

Note that the albums "Catch Bull at Four" and "Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables" have both sides' song listings printed on the same physical side of the album.

Unusual Definitions

What does FARCTATE mean? Well, it depends on which reference you go to. I tried the OED, Webster's Second, and Webster's Third. The results?

OED: Stuffed, crammed or full; without vacuities.

NI2: Bot. Not hollow or tubular.

NI3: of the stipe of certain fungi: having the center solid but softer than the peripheral layers.

These are the entire entries for FARCTATE in each of the dictionaries.

Or what about SCUNGILAGINOUS? It appears in The Grandiloquent Dictionary by Russell Rocke (similar to Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary) defined as "of the semifluid gelatinous consistency of male genitalia."

And then there's GYNOPHAGITE. Webster's Second gives the definition "an eater of women. Rare." Two hypotheses occurred to me: 1) The definition contains a typo, and there exists somewhere a group of people who enjoy ingesting undercooked females, or 2) Webster's thinks that oral sex is much less prevalent than Kinsey does.

Dubious Distinctions

Blurb writers for paperback book jackets are continually forced to come up with exciting things to say about books which have nothing to recommend them. My favorite of these is

The Sign of the Scorpion, long out of print, has been widely regarded as the best erotic mystery to emerge out of the 1930s

Pornography and Words

Pornography (literally "writing about whores," but usually generalized to include black rubber, German shepherds, and oblong fruits) has much of interest for the logophile. Although the market is enormous, there are no mainstream publications devoted to the subject, and therefore no general esthetic, analytic criticism, or quality control. This situation gives the author of pornography a freedom unknown in any other mass publishing genre.

Authors take advantage of this freedom in various ways, the most common being the use of punny titles and pseudonyms. Representative titles include:

From Dawn to Lust	The Joyce is Yours
Great Sexpectations	She's Stacked in his Favor
Every Mother's Fun	Ready, Aim, Desire
Good Spouse-Keeping	Seductive Reasoning
Four Play	His Cher of Pleasure
Chick-or-Treat	Someone's in the Bedroom with Dinah

Humorous pseudonyms fall into two broad categories: redivisions of common words or phrases, and vaguely (or not so vaguely) suggestive terms. Examples of the former are:

Lyons Denn	Fran Scene	Pete Erbread
Juan Tonsoup	Bud Deboy	Hugh Topia
Justin Kase	Val Entine	Woodrow Olivetti

I include the last name in honor of the editor's new electronic typewriter. The latter class of names includes:

Seymour Fleshe	Bonnie Cockcroft	Sue Wanamore
Kathy Kisse	Edward Krotch	Melissa Treats
Twyla Twacht	Miles Peter	Darlene Fondler

Another peculiarity of pornography which can be mined by the word-lover is the liberal use of onomatopoeic coinages. Where else but in dirty books could one find NHGGGGG, YEAHOOOW, AAERGH, GRUGHM, ERGHM, and CSK? These grunts and exclamations can be used to fill in or extend various word lists.

The following key for sources' will be used:

MYB = May's Young Boarders, by Art Domingo
 JHN = Junior High Nurse, by Merle Aarons
 MADD = Momma and Daughter's Dog, by Tim O. Forrest
 TF = Teacher's Favorites, by Carol Wilson
 SCS = Sleeping Car Swinger, by Neal Sarti
 WPOS = Win, Place, or Seduce, by Lyons Denn
 ST = Sensuous Tales, by Anonymous
 TLD = The Liberated Daughters, by "F"
 SY = Secret/Yearnings, by Joanne Denbeck
 ERB = Ever-Ready Betty, by Candy Wilde
 BLFD = Betty's Lust-Filled Days, by Seymour Fleshe
 TMTS = The More the Sexier, by Twyla Twacht

Capitalization and punctuation have been retained since they both seemed integral to the "word" as used.

In a recent **Word Ways** article, Alan Frank listed long digrammatic strings for each pair of letters; details can be found in the May 1982 issue. For EI he had the word IEIE, which pales in comparison with EEIEIEIEIEIEIEieieieieieieeee!! (SCS). Similarly, the entry for NO, the word NONNOMAD, can be greatly improved with

nonononononononononononononononono (TMTS). SUSUS, the entry for SU, can be replaced by Jesss-sssusssss (WPOS). Other improvements are possible using words in the lists below.

BOOKKEEPER, long famous for its three consecutive doubled letters, can't hold a candle to CCCCAAAARRRUUUMMMBBBAAAA!! (MYB), GGGRRREEEEAAAATTTT!!!, or WWWHHHHEEEEEPPPPPEEE!! (SCS).

The all-vowel word list can be expanded by IIIIEEEEE!!!, AAUUUUOOO!, OOOOOOEEEEEE!!!, OOOUUUUUIIIIEEE!!!, IIIUUUUUEEE!!! (MYB), aaaaiieeeee! (TF), EEEEIIIIEEEEEEEEEEE!!!, OO..OOO...-OOOO!! (SCS), AAAAIIIIIIIEEEEE..., oaoouuu (WPOS), and words mentioned in the lists above and below.

We can increase the all-consonant word list with grm, ck, sck, csk (WPOS), mmmmmmmnnnnnn! (JHN), nhggggg!, nghhhhh! (MADD) and words mentioned in the lists above or below.

Finally, as has probably become obvious by now, we can break most previous records for longest single-letter string in a word. Here are the longest such strings that I was able to find for each of the letters:

A aaaaaaaaaahhhhhh (BLFD)
 B CCCCAAAARRRUUUMMMBBBAAAA!! (MYB)
 C cccccuummmmmiiinnnnngggggg! (ST)
 D Thaddddddd! (ST)
 E EEEeeeEEEEEeEEEEE (SCS)
 F mmmfff! (TLD)
 G uhhhhhggggggg! (JHN)
 H aaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh (SY)
 I AAAAIIIIIIIEEEEE... (WPOS)
 J
 K WHACKKKKK! (MADD)
 L alllll (WPOS)
 M mmmmmmmmmmmmmmm! (ST)
 N fir-rinnnnnnng (WPOS)
 O nooooooooooooooooooooo! (BLFD)
 P WWWHHHHEEEEEPPPPPEEE!! (SCS)
 Q
 R AAAAAUUUUURRRRR!! (MYB)
 S yessssssss! (WPOS)
 T ssshhhhiiiiittttt! (TF)
 U oooooouuuuuuu (JHN)
 V
 W noooowwwww! (ERB)
 X
 Y
 Z lezzzzzzz (WPOS)

Readers are invited to fill the gaps, or make improvements, from their own pornography collections. My vote for most interesting exclamation goes to AH-UH-OH-AAAAAHHHHOooooo! (WPOS).

Tom Swifties

For the entertainment section of this Kickshaws, I offer some Tom Swifties (or variants thereon) composed by Alan Frank, Susan Assmann and myself:

"The prisoner is going straight to hell," she said condescendingly
 "I got the first three wrong," he said forthrightly
 "I've often thought about where we'll go after we die," she said
 sublimely
 "Now that's how I like my hot dogs!" he said with relish
 "I'm wonderful," she said irately
 "I guess I have unusual sexual preferences," he said sheepishly
 "I can't see you until this afternoon," she said mournfully
 "I know where the locket is," he said independently
 "I tend the flock," she purred
 "That's a non sequitur," he said in New Jersey
 "I'm a separatist," she mentioned
 "Please give me a few," he said handsomely
 "2 to 1 he's not as good," she bet her

Last and least:

"Don't throw that fence at him," he castigated her

Likely and Unlikely Scrabble Words

Since 1978, the official reference dictionary for Scrabble, both in club play and sanctioned tournaments, has been a volume called the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (OSPD). This aptly titled book, put together by G. & C. Merriam Company, is an amalgamation of the major collegiate-sized dictionaries, with certain kinds of words removed. These removals include capitalized words, words containing hyphens or apostrophes, words having bases longer than eight letters, and abbreviations.

This dictionary has become an integral part of every Scrabble player's life. Throughout the country, people are struggling to commit as much of the OSPD to memory as possible, in as efficient a way as possible. Any serious player quickly memorizes the 86 two-letter words ("the twos"), and must make the additional effort to learn the 908 threes. The top players also knock off the 3,686 fours, and a fair number of the 8,181 fives. The problem with this is that the only way to win high-level Scrabble games is by playing seven- and eight-letter words, of which there are respectively 21,726 and 26,444. How to learn them?

Many approaches are being tried. Perhaps the simplest is that of reading ten pages a day, and starting over again when you reach the end. This requires eidetic memory, however, a gift many of us lack. Alternatively, some players make vast lists of words grouped by various categories such as trees, proper names acceptable in Scrabble, or words ending in -fish. This is a great mnemonic aid for many, but doesn't really solve the problem of how to cram tens of thousands of words into an unwilling head.

Mathematically inclined players who lack infinite memories are suggesting another course. They point out that there is a vast difference in the chances of getting various words. For example, since the Scrabble set contains one Z and two blanks, you will see PIZZAZZ played as often as you see five aces in poker (and with the same opponents). This fact implies that it is very productive to memorize the more common words, and more or less worthless to learn the rarer words, which may show up on the average only once in a million games. Simple math formulas, plus a computer, allow you to arrange all of the OSPD sevens and eights in order of probability.

Having ordered the OSPD in this way, we can at last answer the question "If I picked seven tiles from a full Scrabble bag ten million times, what would I get most often?" - you'd get AELNORT. Unfortunately, no OSPD words can be formed from these letters alone. The most common word that you'd get is TRAINEE, which can also be transposed to RETINAE. The most common sevens (with acceptable transposals in parentheses) are: retinae (trainee), aneroid, aileron (alienor), elation (toenail), erosion, and atonies. The most common eights are: aeration, aointed (ordinate, rationed), oriental (relation), notaries (senorita), and aerolite.

Having resolved this important issue, we can now go on to a totally useless one - what are the words in the OSPD which you are least likely to draw? The answer will be phrased in a quiz, to give you a chance to discover these beauties for yourself. Since the odds are that they will never, ever show up in a real game, you may be grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Unscramble the following racks, which are arranged in descending order of probability:

Sevens: CCHKMSU, CCHHRUY, BCJKMUU, CCSSUUU, CCHKPUU, MMSUUUU
 Eights: BLLLLOOY, CCHKPSUU, CCHKMSSU, BBCHKSUU, BCCSSUUU,
 CCHHOOWW

Reverse Hooks

Competitive Scrabble players know a wide collection of "hook" words, or "hooks." A hook is a common word from which a little-known word can be made by adding a letter to either the front or the back. For example, MUST is a good hook, since one can append an H (MUSTH). Likewise, EROTIC takes an X in front (XEROTIC). Hooks give a player the opportunity to set up high-scoring plays which the opponent cannot take advantage of (assuming, of course, that the opponent doesn't also know the hook!).

It is clear why hooks are extremely useful to Scrabble experts. This is a column for word-lovers, however, and thus I will concentrate on a related, completely useless topic: reverse hooks. A reverse hook is a terribly obscure word from which some common word can be formed by adding a letter either to the front or the back. Knowing lists of reverse hooks may add a little shock value to your Scrabble playing, but this advantage will be more than com-

pensated for by the fact that you are essentially setting up your opponent since he, by definition, knows exactly which letter can be added on. Nevertheless, here are some of my favorite reverse hooks:

-quate	-solate	jeopard-	haik-
galax-	practic-	-regnant	jalop-
-jaculate	warfarin-	-omentum	tragi-
-armonica	-roquet	-equites	-viator
baboo-	-ulva	-ghast	-verbid

I've even gone so far as to create the term "fake reverse hook!" A fake reverse hook is a bizarre word which nobody knows, but which everyone knows takes a letter at the front or back, and everybody is wrong. The only word that I know of (in the OSPD, of course) that fits this description is SKIMO (note that SKIM itself is a regular hook). Although SKIMO is defined as "an Eskimo," ESKIMO itself is not acceptable because it is capitalized!

Acknowledgements

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3000 SOUND-ALIKES AND LOOK-ALIKES

This is the title of a 60-page booklet compiled by Mary Louise Gilman for the National Shorthand Reporters Association; it is available for \$6 postpaid from 118 Park Street, SE, Vienna VA 22180.

This booklet contains (1) sound-alikes (Mary/marry/merry, adds/adze, friar/fryer) and (2) look-alikes that can be confused (taped/tapped, persecute/prosecute, douse/dowse/drowse) arranged in a single alphabetical list with brief definitions. Sound-alikes are, of course, known as homonyms to the logologist; a more comprehensive collection by Dora Newhouse was reviewed in November 1978. Look-alikes are a generalization of confusibles, a term introduced by Adrian Room in a dictionary reviewed in May 1979; look-alikes are confusibles if the component words also have similar meanings.

Because these lists have been designed to meet the needs of court reporters, they do not contain oddities or rarities. The author writes "Many of our members are now using computer-aided transcription (CAT), for which they have to prepare a 'dictionary' from their stenotype outlines. In their original shorthand they might write cite/sight/site all alike, and rely on their knowledge of English to tell the difference. But, the computer can't make such decisions, so most CAT writers try to modify their shorthand to avoid the most common conflicts." This booklet tells them likely candidates for such differentiation.