

## IAMBIC DOUBLE VOWEL SHIFT CASCADES

ANIL

Perth, Australia

VOWEL (SHIFT) CASCADES (02-53,192) are sentential or meaningful WORD LADDERS that run thru the vowels in one spot, eg, **Bad bed bid bod bud**. (Bedbugs, VD or pregnancy?) Vowel cascades can also be PHONIC: **Bait beat: “Bite!” bought boot** (The Shoe of the Fisherman). Susan Thorpe (11-155) calls meaningless examples PHONETIC VOWEL ROTATIONS, although rotator has a prior wordplay meaning as a non-mirror word inversion like up/dn (see *up/dn*). She gives many good non-sentential examples with long vowel sounds but ignores short vowels.

Now meet an even more rarefied form, the PHONIC *DOUBLE* VOWEL SHIFT CASCADE, a ten-step ladder running through two sounds per vowel, aAeEiIoOuU—a short (or other non-long) vowel sound followed by a long. An iambic pentameter. Of sound but not consistently of rhythm. I partly cover for the ladder deficiency with a rhythmic iambic pentameter title.

A survey of common unisyllabic words uncovered only five complete ten-phone sets. Five more, grown from Susan’s list (bade, bane, Kate, male, nate), qualify if proper and exotic words are allowed. Mine are all in the *Oxford Pocket Dictionary* but for three words from the *Oxford American Dictionary* (beaut, dahl, rad). Compulsively I tried to turn them into meaningful sentences, but none made a credible story, as my intrepid but fun efforts attest. Many steps allowed some word choice and helped avert worse disasters, but the stories definitely still require translations.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
a)	Mat	Fall-	Bat	Dahl	Rad
A)	mate	-fail-	bait	Dale	raid:
e)	met;	-fell	bet	(dell)	red
E)	meat-	Feel,	beat;	deal:	reed
i)	mitt	fill	bit	“Dill	rid
I)	might.	file,	bite,	dial-	‘ride-
o)	Mot	foul	bought	doll,	rod’
O)	mote,	foal	boat–	dole	road
u)	mutt	full	but	dull	rudd
U)	mute!	fuel!	beaut!	duel!”	rued.

1. The boxer rendered his mighty but dim sparring partner speechless with a little witticism.
2. *The Power of Negative Thinking*. “My spontaneous abortion is your fault, you damned psychosomatic-abortogenic Feeling of Inadequacy that filled my head and full fueled my foul foal [fetus]!”
3. A punt on a bat-derived fish lure paid off big and they ate into the money to buy a lovely boat.
4. A valley in India famous for its lentils “arranges” for bimbo call girls to stage mindless fights.
5. A radicle invasion by a red reed overgrew and ate up a hotrod road so disliked by a certain fish that was recently the Prime Minister of Australia.