

VOWEL STRUCTURE

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The vowel structure of a word is defined as its sequence of vowels, such as OIOU in obvious and conscious, or AE in pattern and amend. The only previous **Word Ways** studies of vowel structure focused upon finding as many of the 120 permutations of AEIOU as possible (see "Unsociable Housemaid Discourages Facetious Behaviour" in November 1968, and "An AEIOU Examination" in May 1979). In contrast, this article tackles the problems of (1) finding examples of all 216 types of vowel structure for words having three vowels among AEIOUY, and (2) finding examples of all 625 types of vowel structure for words having four vowels among AEIOU. (One ideally should look for all 1296 types with Y included as a vowel, but there are many holes in such a list even when Webster's Second and Webster's Third are both used.) As a lagnaippe, I also include lists of the 6 types of one-vowel and 36 two-vowel words, supplied by the editor; here, the commonest word of each type (as measured by Kucera and Francis's million-word corpus) is given.

and	data	each	final	program	human	yards
the	are	were	time	one	under	yet
in	said	their	within	nothing	during	trying
of	also	second	into	too	upon	York
but	caught	result	input	would	upturn	syrup
by	may	they	city	only	study	shyly

It would be an exceedingly tedious job to search Kucera and Francis for the commonest words of each type of vowel structure in the 216-word and 625-word lists. To be enjoyed, long word lists should strive to include relatively common but "interesting" words. The concept of interestingness is hard to define. I claim words are less interesting if they contain a common prefix or suffix. In the April 1983 issue of *The Enigma* (of the National Puzzlers' League), Alan Frank suggested that an interesting word is one which is unique in its class, such as ucalegon or naumkeag, instead of one which has many members in its class, such as the name of a New Zealand tree or a genus of spiders. The reader must be the judge of the success with which I have reached my goal. For certain vowel structures such as YYU, IUUU, or UUUU, only one Websterian example could be found. Note that no Websterian examples were located for EUUU, IUUU, UUAU or UUUU.

almanac	leopard	coastal	quota
abase	before	coarse	gumshoe
again	demolish	contain	humorist
matador	redwood	potato	buffoon
abacus	detour	soapsud	furlough
away	bellboy	botany	buoy
agenda	equal	coleslaw	cultural
adhere	deduce	coerce	brusque
majestic	enduring	forfeit	pursuit
cameo	neuron	concerto	unbutton
careful	pendulum	powerful	cumulus
alley	century	donkey	luxury
admiral	clergyman	cordial	pussycat
abide	eye	boiler	buyer
alibi	jellyfish	optimism	undying
airport	beyond	domino	busywork
stadium	bellyful	omnibus	subphylum
airy	greyly	codify	unshyly
aroma	diagram	cocoa	yardarm
above	diaper	booze	gyrate
avoid	finalist	hoodwink	dynamic
aloof	fiasco	boxwood	dynamo
aloud	hiatus	coconut	syllabus
ahoy	diary	bloody	byway
annual	cinema	communal	hyena
accuse	discreet	blouse	flywheel
acquit	imperil	outfit	hysteric
author	fireworks	bourbon	yellow
autumn	lieu	doughnut	lyceum
gaudy	briefly	bounty	mystery
kayak	brilliant	loyal	cynical
aye	divide	foyer	yield
anything	bikini	boyish	lyricist
crayon	billion	pollywog	lyrichord
asylum	minimum	joyful	yttrium
grayly	dignify	coily	typify
deadpan	bifocal	substandard	yoga
beaten	discover	butane	cyclone
derail	illogic	curtain	psychotic
beacon	gigolo	bungalow	plywood
beau	impound	quantum	you
beady	history	gunplay	synonym
cheetah	singular	lukewarm	yucca
beetle	clique	murderer	yule
benefit	biscuit	duelist	dysuric
develop	instructor	dungeon	yupon
cheerful	stimulus	museum	yuzluk
beefy	injury	chutney	syrupy
chemical	shipyard	burial	symphytan
bedtime	bicycle	bruise	syntype
deficit	idyllic	uprising	pygmyism
editor	thirtyfold	curio	gypsydom
premium	cityful	fruitful	Symphytum
deify	lilyfy	guilty	syzygy

maharajah	maidservant	saturnian	teetotal	espousal	hierarchal
avalanche	ambience	jaundice	envelope	exposure	disease
pangrammatist	taxidermist	languishing	electronic	devouring	chieftain
aggravator	latticework	audio	tenderfoot	reconstructor	triceratops
asparagus	adieu	nasturtium	tremendous	reoutput	litteratus
azalea	familial	aurora	effectual	perquadrat	gingerbread
manatee	facsimile	accustomed	revenue	debutante	difference
parametric	pacifism	adultoid	persecuting	equaling	dietetic
pantaleon	ambition	sauropod	hereunto	regulator	piecework
amateur	amphibium	fatuous	selensulphur	decumanus	disrespectful
barbarian	gladiola	avuncular	leviathan	bequeath	criteria
handmaiden	adipose	fraudulent	dedicate	resurgence	likewise
parasitic	palindromic	augurship	enigmatic	euphemism	scientific
lactation	stainproof	manuductor	mediator	resurrector	discretion
palladium	gracious	saururus	designatum	rebukeful	millennium
canalboat	habitual	extravagant	epidermal	enthusiasm	sideboard
catastrophe	fatigue	cleavage	besiege	destructive	mistletoe
paranoid	manicurist	seamanship	epidemic	heuristic	viewpoint
kangaroo	agricultor	separator	preinspector	delusion	fireproof
hazardous	articulus	metacarpus	messieurs	tellurium	righteous
barracuda	panorama	headgear	empirical	neuropath	irregular
marauder	accolade	escapee	definite	neuroses	infrequent
ragamuffin	acrobatic	metathesis	penicillin	neurosis	sinecurism
marabuto	avocado	eavesdrop	petition	pseudopod	ichneumon
abaculus	astronaut	peaceful	delphinium	credulous	lienculus
malfeasant	amoeba	mechanical	regional	precultural	millifarad
acetate	apogee	easier	episode	crepuscule	brilliance
algebraic	pathogenic	realistic	semisolid	repursuit	titillating
malefactor	napoleon	behavior	heirloom	**uuu**	vindicator
tableaux	arboretum	geranium	devious	pedunculus	imprimatur
transcendental	abdominal	steamboat	centrifugal	intratarsal	disinfectant
agreement	favorite	reasoned	epicure	imbalance	insistence
strategic	calorific	seasoning	relinquish	disparaging	infidelism
chameleon	palomino	deadwood	restitutor	thingamabob	vivisector
challengeful	harmonium	breakout	residuum	timarau	milieu
anemia	bazooka	vernacular	melodrama	dialectal	militia
aerie	caboose	creature	desolate	fiancee	incisive
manneristic	apostolic	thesauri	debonair	philatelist	nihilistic
arpeggio	arrowroot	reacustom	detonator	intradermo	inscription
magnesium	amorous	thesaurus	esophagus	distasteful	iridium
pasteboard	carousal	rehearsal	phenomena	financial	fictional
anemone	arouse	repeated	devotee	disclaimer	pinioned
trapezoid	carousing	sleepwalking	theoretic	inartistic	idiotic
aerosol	abcoumb	elevator	phenomenon	dilation	millionfold
gaseous	carborundum	keelhaul	remorseful	disdainful	impious
asexual	ambulacral	beefsteak	begonia	disapproval	bilingual
barbecue	amputate	referee	responsive	vibraphone	critique
grapefruit	acquaint	edelweiss	neolithic	misanthropic	intriguing
parvenudom	adulator	needlework	devotion	picaroon	distributor
wanderlustful	auslaut	cerebellum	sensorium	bigamous	principulus
maniacal	nausea	electrical	mesozoan	triangular	diorama
machinate	marquee	beehive	decompose	immature	biographer
airmail	lacquering	geneticism	geologist	highfaluting	diplomatic
alligator	carburetor	deception	sensomotor	disaccustom	violator
capitatum	chauffeur	emeritus	enormous	midautumn	ignoramus

pistonhead	botanical	horizontal	corpuscular	multivagant	truculental
diocese	organize	noisome	thoughtfulness	cultivate	turbulence
tiptoeing	logarithmic	poisoning	outbuild	guitarist	unsuspecting
rhinoceros	flotation	orrisroot	outhumor	cultivator	curmudgeon
linoleum	solarium	copious	homunculus	ultimatum	unsuccessful
historical	octagonal	continual	rutabaga	businessman	luxuriant
idolize	loathsome	configure	quadrangle	subsistence	subjunctive
violinist	tobacconist	nonliquid	quatrain	quivering	futuristic
incognito	toadstool	contributor	guarantor	subdirector	subsumption
scriptorium	nonfamous	obliquus	subthalamus	guileful	unfruitful
isoglossal	oracular	stoopgallant	fundamental	judicial	submucosal
microphone	goddaughter	bookmarkers	squanderer	cuisine	untutored
microscopic	somnambulism	monorail	mutagenic	subdividing	unsupporting
nincompoop	coauthor	convocator	quaestor	tuition	sulphurproof
riotous	botaurus	footfault	ungrateful	umbilicus	scrupulous
bivouac	northeastward	proofread	substantial	functional	unusual
misfortune	operate	condolence	lucrative	cushioned	subculture
viscountship	dovetail	monotheism	pluralistic	quixotic	unpursuing
withoutforth	moderator	hoosegow	duration	multicolor	**uuuo**
microfungus	overhaul	colosseum	unfaithful	furious	curucucu
iguana	homestead	colonial	ultraformal	curricular	
circulate	conferee	bookie	juxtapose	furniture	
stimulating	sovereign	compromising	ultrasonic	substituting	
simulator	cholesterol	compositor	guardroom	unillusory	
simulacrum	coffebush	doohickus	turnaround	curriculum	
misunderstand	poetical	footboard	unfactual	subcoastal	
misjudgement	obedient	bookstore	subclause	quotable	
diuresis	profeminism	chronologic	unamusing	suffocating	
innuendo	collection	footstool	subadjutor	subcontractor	
liqueur	proscenium	cookout	multangulum	unboastful	
minutia	overcoat	monocular	upheaval	subpoena	
disguise	lonesome	concourse	sublease	fluorescent	
linguistic	foregoing	monoculist	uncertain	unpoetic	
illusion	notebook	nonconductor	unreason	unforetold	
diluvium	gorgeous	monoculus	bureau	purposeful	
circumpolar	molecular	conjugata	thunderhead	utopia	
misquote	conjecture	computable	puppeteer	quotient	
sinusoid	overruling	mountain	squeezing	unforgiving	
virtuoso	overtutor	formulator	superhero	unpoison	
virtuous	overtrustful	postulatum	suspenseful	suboptimum	
bimuscular	oligarchal	boulevard	numerical	unconsonant	
minuscule	cogitate	fourteen	juvenile	mushroomed	
disulfuric	coinhabit	souvenir	unbefitting	unconsoling	
iuuo	dominator	housework	question	unorthodox	
Didunculus	choriambus	countersunk	unmerciful	humorous	
propaganda	societal	postsurgical	shuffleboard	unpopular	
propagate	committee	outline	gruesome	clubhouse	
coattail	soldiering	populistic	unbecoming	surrounding	
proclamator	codirector	bouillon	bulletproof	subbourdon	
nonassault	monsieur	postludium	murderous	unthoughtful	
collateral	convivial	soundboard	unequal	fulgurata	
coalesce	coincide	foursome	queue	fluctuate	
nonpareil	optimistic	boudoir	undercutting	undulating	
octahedron	cognition	soup spoon	undersupport	subsquadron	
romanceful	chromidium	congruous	tuberculum	**uuau**	