

MAMMAL MAGIC

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A curious linguistic phenomenon that has received little attention in recent years is the fact that you can take an ordinary English word, add a letter of your choice to it, scramble all of the letters, and produce the name of some mammal. A few examples of this phenomenon:

TAG + O = GOAT

SOME + U = MOUSE

GRADE + B = BADGER

RETIRE + R = TERRIER

By exercising a little forethought, it is even possible to produce two different mammal names from a given base word. Some examples:

GROAN + A = ANGORA (cat), GROAN + E = ONAGER

PEARL'D + A = PARDALE, PEARL'D + O = LEOPARD

PANELET + H = ELEPHANT, PANELET + O = ANTELOPE

In the case of the word GROAN, we don't even need to add an extra letter to produce mammals. One rearrangement of the original five letters gives us ORANG, while a second rearrangement yields NAGOR.

Longer words can also be turned into mammals by the process of transaddition. Listed below are 25 nine-letter words and terms. Your problem is to take each one, add some letter of your choice to it, and juggle all ten letters around until you perceive the name of a bona fide mammal in them.

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| 1. MECHANIZE | 14. POMADEDLY |
| 2. DANGEROUS | 15. REDEPOSAL |
| 3. SUBCELLAR | 16. THREE-SPAN |
| 4. ASCERTAIN | 17. BAT-OWNING |
| 5. STIRRABLE | 18. TAN-NAILED |
| 6. REGINALD'S | 19. ANTI-LOTTO |
| 7. OVERCHANT | 20. EVER-AIRED |
| 8. MISLOCATE | 21. BILE-SWEET |
| 9. PLACODERM | 22. IRON HORSE |
| 10. ETHERATES | 23. BOAT CAPES |
| 11. TRAPHOLES | 24. FELLOW GOD |
| 12. ANTIPAGAN | 25. ROMAN PINE |
| 13. SUSAN-LIKE | |

All of the animal names you are seeking can be found either in the Second or the Third Edition of Webster's Unabridged. Almost all of them are in both dictionaries.

To help you solve these problems, we point out a number of interesting facts about the solution names. Two of them, designating entirely unrelated animals, begin with exactly the same combina-

tion of five letters. Another two names, designating two different animals both belonging to a large mammal group, happen to end with precisely the same combination of five letters. Yet another two names, both terminating with the same three letters, are identical synonyms. Finally, there are two names, bearing no resemblance to one another in letter content, which are also identical synonyms, although neither one of these two names is that name by which the animal frequently appears in crossword puzzles.

The correct answers to this exercise can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

A FURMIDABLE CYFURING PERFURMANCE?

An Illustrated Accidence, subtitled a Gallimaufry of the English Language, lightheartedly plays with language by juxtaposing queuerious words with droll lithographs or woodcuts:

defur (the hairless skieleton of a dinosaur)

Mickey moose (a moose with the body of a potato)

aepartheid (two orangutants sitting back-to-back)

offal (a cheap cigar)

swindle (a female hairpiece)

Most, however, are relatively straightforward illustrations, such as twins (two small children), or swine (a large hog). This 112-page paperback is available from The Main Street Press, William Case House, Pittstown NJ for \$8.95.