

LONDON WORDPLAY

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Over the years, *Word Ways* has presented a variety of material concerned with placenames. United States statenames and placenames have figured extensively; there have been several articles about 'strange' British placenames; and there have been numerous mentions of foreign placenames satisfying this or that logological phenomenon. However, I believe that the material presented here is new, and is not a rehash of material previously published.

What is here is a brief study of some of the logological phenomena associated with placenames in and around London. In London is relatively easy to describe, but around London becomes rather more vague. How far around -- 10 miles, 25, 50? I haven't set any definite limit, so there may be a few placenames geographers amongst you might want to argue over.

Throughout the rest of this article I have capitalised the in-or-around London placenames. All other words have been spelt in lower case. Dictionary sources are given; a guide to the abbreviations used is at the end of the article.

TRANSPOSALS

The first list presents straightforward transposals of London placenames into other words or names:

ACTON canto W3
 ANERLEY enlayer (enlay is a W2 variant of inlay; W2 also lists inlayer; thus, enlayer is a reasonable inference)
 BARKING braking W3
 BARNET banter W3
 BATTERSEA Atrebates W2
 BEAN bane W3
 BETHNAL (Green) benthal W3
 CHEAM meach W3
 CHELSEA leaches W3
 CROYDON Corydon W2
 DALSTON daltons W2
 DATCHET chatted W3
 DEBDEN bended W3
 DORKING king-rod F&W
 DOWNE owned W3
 EALING lineage W3
 EASTCOTE ecostate W3
 EDGWARE ragweed W3, waghered W3

ELSTREE steeler W3
 ELTHAM hamlet W3, Thelma RHD
 ENFIELD enfiled W3
 EPPING pigpen W3
 EPSOM mopes W3, poems W3, pomes W3
 ERITH their W3
 ESHER sheer W3
 FULWELL wellful OED
 GOLDERS (Green) lodgers W3
 GREENWICH rechewing W2
 HAMPTON phantom W3
 HANWORTH hawthorn W3
 HARLESDEN rehandles W3
 HARTLEY earthly W3
 HAVERING rehaving W3
 HESTON honest W3
 HORNSEY nosherly OED2
 ILLFORD florid W3
 ISLEWORTH whorliest (W3 shows **whorly** but not the -ier or -iest forms)
 IVER rive W3
 KENLEY keenly W3
 KENSAL (Green) ankles W3
 KENTON nekton W3
 KEW ewk W2
 LEE eel W3
 MERTON mentor W3
 MORDEN morned W2, rodmen W3
 NEASDEN enneads W3
 NINE ELMS linesmen W3
 ONGAR argon W3, groan W3, orang W3, organ W3
 OSTERLEY Tyrolese W3
 PALMERS (Green) sampler W3
 PONDERS (End) respond W3
 PRIMROSE (Hill) primeros W3
 PUTNEY puntney W2
 PURLEY purely W3
 RADLETT rattled W3
 RAYNES (Park) yearns W3
 REDBRIDGE rebridged W2
 RUSH GREEN hungerers W2
 SELHURST hurtless W3, hustlers W3, ruthless W3
 SELSDON oldness W3
 SHIRLEY relishy W2
 SIDCUP cupids W3, cuspid W3
 SLOUGH ghouls W3, loughs W3
 SOHO hoos W3, oohs W9NCD, shoo W3
 SOUTHALL thallous W3

SOUTH EALING Leiognathus D24
 STAINES satinés W3, tansies W3, tisanes W3
 STANMORE monaster W3, Monstera W3, on-stream W3, storeman
 W3, transome W3
 STEPNEY peyntes OED (see paint, verb)
 STONE notes W3, seton W3, tones W3
 (St.) PAULS CRAY capsulary W3, scapulary W3
 SUTTON untost OED (see 1819 quote at untossed)
 TULSE (Hill) lutes W3
 WEST HAM Mathews WBD
 WISLEY wisely W3

The second list presents London placenames which can be transposed to form other London placenames. Both the examples here depend on the use of initials: NE for north-east, N for north, and S for south.

KENSINGTON N.E. KINGSTON
 N. KENSINGTON S. KENNINGTON

TRANSADDITIONS

Transadditions are quite numerous. To create a transaddition, take a London placename, add one letter, and rearrange the letters to create another word or name. There are probably many other examples; readers' contributions would be welcome.

ABRIDGE bearding W3, breeding W3
 ACTON canton W3
 ALDGATE galeated W3, gladiate W3
 ALPERTON prelation W3
 ARKLEY rokelay W3
 ARSENAL analyser W3, prenasal W3, sangreal W2
 ASHTEAD HALSTEAD
 BANSTEAD bastinade W3
 BARBICAN Caribbean W3
 BARKING breaking W3
 BARNES bankers W3
 BARNET baronet W3
 BELVEDERE rebelieved W2
 BETHNAL (Green) benthual C
 BRENT banter W3, BARNET
 BOW blow W3
 BROMLEY bloomery W3, sombrely W3
 CAMDEN (Town) decuman W3
 CARSHALTON achromate W2
 CATERHAM achromate W2
 CHARLTON antichlor W3
 CHELSEA bleaches W3
 CHESSINGTON touchingness W3
 CLAPTON platonic W3
 DARENTH adherent W3, threaden W3, unthread W3

DENHAM headman W3, headmen W3, herdman W2
 DOWNE snowed W3
 EAST HAM masthead W3, schemata W3
 EAST SHEEN manesheets W3
 EGHAM homage W3
 ELSTREE reelects W3, reselect W3, resettle W3, teaseler W3, tree-
 less W3, verselet W3
 ELTHAM FELTHAM, LAMBETH
 ENFIELD enfilade W3, fedelini W3, inflexed W3
 ERITH zither W3
 EUSTON tonsure W3
 FAIRLOP fire-opal C, paliform W3
 FELTHAM half-term W2, half-time W2
 FULHAM harmful W3
 GARSTON negators W3, organist W3, roasting W3
 GOLDERS (Green) pledgors W3
 HAINAULT ailanthus W3
 HAMPTON phantom W2
 HARTLEY leathery W3
 HAWLEY wealthy W3
 HERNE (Hill) hereon W3
 ILFORD Florida W3
 ILSEWORTH fish-trowel C
 KENTON nektons W3
 KINGSTON knottings W3
 LEE keel W3, leek W3
 LETCHMORE emery-cloth C
 LEYTON novelty W3
 MAWNEYS yes-woman OED2
 MILE END demilune W3, endemial W3
 MITCHAM mismatch W3
 MORDEN doormen W3
 MOTSPUR (Park) no-trumps W3, protiums W3
 NUNHEAD unhanded W3
 OLYMPIA polymnia W3
 ORPINGTON organ-point C
 OSTERLEY areostyle W3, polyester W3, proselyte W3
 OVAL volta W3
 PENGE peeing W3
 PERIVALE reprieval W3
 PINNER spinner W3
 PUTNEY unpiety W2
 RAINHAM chairman W3
 RAYNES (Park) barneys W3
 RICHMOND monorchid W3
 RUISLIP plurisie C
 SELSDON boldness W3, coldness W3, loudness W3
 SHIRLEY slithery W3

SIDCUP cuspid_s W3
 SLPSON pistons W3
 STANMORE empatrons W2, marlstone W3, Maronites W3, martenots
 W3, matronise C, monasters W3, monastery W3, monsteras W3,
 rent-a-mobs C, Romanesta W3, semantron W3, storesman W3,
 transmove W2, transomed W3, transomes W3

 STANWELL wall-newts C, wall tents W3, stonewall W3
 SURBITON obtrusion W3
 SWANLEY Wesleyan W3
 (Thames) DITTON dotting W3
 TOOTING tootling W3

 TULSE (Hill) lusted W3
 UPNEY pungey W3, PUTNEY
 WADDON downa-do C
 WAPPING swapping W3
 WELLING swelling W3

 WOKING working W3
 YEADING readying W3

BEHEADMENTS

Here are ten straightforward beheadments -- that is, deletion of the first letter results in another word or name. Note that three of the resultant words are placenames, too!

BARKING arking W3
 EWELL well W3
 FELTHAM ELTHAM
 HARROW arrow W3
 HAYES ayes W3

 NUNHEAD unhead W3
 PADDINGTON ADDINGTON
 PINNER inner W3
 SELSDON Elsdon RHD
 SHENLEY HENLEY

Double-letter beheadments are beheadments achieved by removing the first two letters of a London placename. Four of the resultant words are also London placenames. Note that the placename DENHAM is arrived at by doubly beheading both ALDENHAM and SYDENHAM. I wonder how many other placenames there are in the world which result in DENHAM when doubly beheaded.

ABRIDGE ridge W3
 ALDENHAM DENHAM
 EALING ling W3
 EGHAM HAM
 ENFIELD field W3

 EPPING ping W3
 ESHER her W3
 EWELL ell W3
 HAYES yes W3

HOMERTON MERTON
 ILFORD ford W3
 SYDENHAM DENHAM
 TWICKENHAM ICKENHAM
 WOKING king W3

REVERSALS

Reversals of London placenames are very rare. I have only unearthed three examples, all of which are only three letters long.

BOW wob W3
 HAM mah W2
 LEE eel W3

TRANSDELETIONS

Transdeletions are effected by taking a London placename, deleting one letter, and rearranging the remaining letters to make a new word or name. There are many examples of these, so I have chosen to present only the more interesting ones, those where the initial placename is eight or more letters long, or those where the new word is also a London placename.

ALPERTON planter W3
 BELGRAVIA variable W3
 CHOBHAM COBHAM
 DAGENHAM headman W3, managed W3
 HESTON STONE ETON
 LAMBETH ELTHAM
 PLUMSTEAD pulsated W3
 PUTNEY UPNEY
 STANWELL wallets W3
 UPMINSTER impurest W3, imputers W3, rumpiest W3, stumpier
 W3, terminus W3, unpriest W3, unripest W3

LETTER SWITCHES

Letter switches are achieved by changing just one letter in a placename to some other letter, and arriving at a new placename without having to rearrange any letters. Letter switches are classified by the ordinal position of the switched letter. Can anyone find a fifth-letter change?

- 1 BEDDINGTON - TEDDINGTON, CATFORD - WATFORD, HAMPTON - LAMP-
TON, HESTON - KESTON
- 2 HERSHAM - HORSHAM
- 3 KENTON - KESTON, NED ADDINGTON - N.E. PADDINGTON, NEW EL-
THAM - N.E. FELTHAM, SUDBURY - SUNBURY
- 4 CRANFORD - CRAYFORD, HARLOW - HARROW, KENNINGTON - KENSING-
TON
- 6 BARNES - BARNET

SPECIALS

A second-order reduplication is a word in which the first half is repeated but with the first letter changed, as in **bowwow**. A non-London placename example is HONG KONG. The only London placename example of a second-order reduplication is MILL HILL.

Single- and double-letter beheadments were dealt with earlier in this article. This paragraph looks at those placenames which can be transformed into other placenames by the excision of one or more letters from positions within the placename. Here are the few examples which I have found.

C(H)OBHAM COBHAM
 D(AG)ENHAM DENHAM
 KEN(NING)TON KENTON
 KEN(SING)TON KENTON
 KE(N)S(ING)TON KESTON
 WAL(LING)TON WALTON

If any readers have further observations about the material here, or wish to add to it, I would be delighted to receive such offerings. If there is sufficient material to generate another **Word Ways** article, I shall prepare one.

One related project which I wish to undertake is to examine the names of all the stations on the London Underground system. This collection of approximately 280 names has never been examined logologically before. Any contributions or suggestions would be welcome!

DICTIONARY ABBREVIATIONS

C Chambers English Dictionary
 D24 Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary (24th edition)
 F&W Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary
 OED Oxford English Dictionary
 OED2 Oxford English Dictionary (2nd edition)
 RHD Random House Dictionary
 WBD Webster's Biographical Dictionary
 W2 Webster's New International Dictionary (2nd edition)
 W3 Webster's Third New International Dictionary
 W9NCD Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary