

KICKSHAWS

Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor (new address: 618 8th Avenue, Coralville IA 52241). All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will appear occasionally.

The Patron Saint of Logology

In the Penguin Dictionary of Saints, it is written: "ST ALDHELM (circa 640-709), the bishop of Sherborne, was the first English scholar of distinction. In his lighter moments he liked to play with words and composed Latin verse and metrical riddles. His reading was extensive and he had a wide influence in southern England. His feast day is May 25th." In a transcendent moment, Peter Newby discovered the holy riddler's bio, and he suggests that St. Aldhelm be forever known as Logology's Patron Saint. Instead of a prayer, Peter has composed a riddle to be said in times of puzzlement: "Whose wordplay is old hat?" The answer: Aldhelm (ald = old, helm = hat). On his feast day, the true logologist wears an old hat!

The Sorcerer's Lost Luver

The year: 1966. The question: Can an algorithm be produced to translate dictionary pronunciation listings back to the original words? The answer: A 1716-page report titled Phoneme-Grapheme Correspondences as Cues to Spelling Improvement, published by the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. With government funding, a research team directed by Paul R. Hanna selected a 17,000+ word corpus, representing a "common core vocabulary," from the Thorndike-Lorge Teacher's Word Book of 30,000 Words and the Merriam-Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (6th edition). The team devised a 62-phoneme classification system for the New Collegiate, created an algorithm of 3130 rules, and employed a computer to do the dirty work. The four-step process moved from dictionary word to pronunciation listing to codified representation to decoded new word. Out of 17,009 words attempted 49.8% were spelled correctly. The results break down to 8,483 correct, 6,195 with one error, 1,941 with two, 390 with 3 or more. In this example of an incorrect spelling, ANYWAY becomes (1) anyway, (2) 'en-e,wa, (3) E3 N +I3 .W A, (4) E N I W AY.

Anyway, the algorithm worked half the time, and the other half it produced interesting results. The book's appendix is an "Error Listing from Algorithm" - a logological treasure trove that has been buried among countless other government documents published

over the years. It is divided by number of errors in the word, from 1 to 5 (e.g., HIDDEN/HIDDEN = 1, NESASERALLY/NECESSARILY = 5). The following poem takes 50% of its words from the error listing. Although the misspellings are modern, they ironically give it a Middle English or Scots dialect flavor.

A, once apou a time, the prity dauter
 Of an oald pirot dove intew the wauter.
 Sow inosent was shee, air shee was taecen
 By pation's kice, hoos eco wood awaecen
 The riem and rithm of a luvver's pleser.
 And swam ashore. A sorserer then sed,
 "Sweat Rosmary, my aengeoul, let uss bed.
 In intamasy, Y shall sing tew ew
 A wiserd's him entill the moro's due.
 Let's hery tew begin our lulaby."
 Tew thice, her blew ys terned toerd the scy,
 Hoos breases brushed icroc her moc-brn hair.
 "Sapose," shee sed, "at dabraek Y wor gon
 Like elo butercops before the daun?"
 Hee kiced her silcon cheak and sed, "Ow, now,
 Iff ew shal mary mee, ew'll never gow.
 Y am a sorserer, Y am a king:
 Ew need not bee afraed of enithing."
 The jerny tew his casle yet foerboad
 Licuiez a horer sumwheer on the road.
 Aet hapened neer a creak--a hoop! a roer!
 A dragen flaimed amunst the trees--and more:
 Apon itc back, a gargoil and a noem!
 The gargoil shreaked: "Ew shal not take her home!"
 The sorserer unsheathed his dredful sord,
 But as hee did, his fighting arm was gored.
 "Begon!" hee shted, "or Y'll smight thee ded!"
 Thay wood not move. Hee slaet the gargoil's hed
 And cot the noem in haf, but miced the beast,
 That dragen, hew wasa craeving for a feast.
 Before the sorserer could stop his fow,
 Aet snatched his sweathart in itc mth, and low!
 In clds of smoke aet vanished with a hice,
 Just as the diing maeden threw a kice.
 Hee rushed back tew his casle in a rage,
 And at the draubreadge tore a golden page
 Out of a book of magic. "With the trooth
 Eaxxisting on this sheet, Y'll save her ooth."
 Hee cast aet in a fntin just inside
 And waited there tew see his vergen bride.
 Her Magousty, Rosmary, came at night,
 A riben in her hair, a fantum light.
 His Lordtip kiced the boosum of her gost:
 She moened. Her gwn fell off for her brave host.
 With cloths undun, thay copped hapily:
 Now aparition has falc modesty!

Misspelling Bee

Now that you're familiar with the system, how many of these words can you misspell correctly? Which is the longest word with one error? Which is the shortest with five errors? Which words misspell to other dictionary-sanctioned words? Which word misspells to a non-dictionary anagram of itself?

HELLO	KERCHIEF	GROTESQUE	LAUGH
CLIMB	IDYL	KNIGHT	IDENTIFICATION
SUFFICIENCY	YEARLY	WEAPON	SCISSORS
OKAY	BREAKFAST	DOMICILE	QUIZ
REASON	CEASE	QUICKSAND	TYPOGRAPHY
PENDULUM	MIRROR	JOUST	ZOO

Daniel's a Nurdy, Tiddling Wretchock, Doll!

Jeff Grant sent a list of words found in the English Dialect Dictionary. He asks: "What do they have in common?"

anthony, cadma, barling, croot, crowly, daniel, dalling,
doll, ducky, gramfer, greck, harry kerdidwin, nesquaw,
niskol, nurdy, pedman, poke-shakings, rinklin, rit, runnock,
tiddling, treseltrype, wankling, wretchock, wrig

Hermanizing

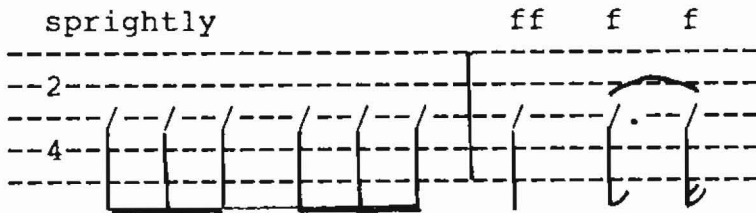
Vernon MacLaren sent a mob of Hermans and Hermanettes that were "culled from family, friends and eligible strangers." The Herman is a quote followed by a punning name, and the Hermanette joins the quote and the name to form an overlapping thought. Here are 25 Hermans and 5 Hermanettes:

"I'm drawn to you," said Art
 "I feel very English," said Britt
 "I love these tiny flowers," said Bud
 "I've finished excavating the ditch," said Doug
 "Bless this food," said Grace
 "I have a message for you," said Harold
 "I'm a milliner," said Hattie
 "These blue denims are mine," said Jean
 "You're putting me on!" said Josh
 "Hooray! I've been cloned!" Joyce rejoiced
 "Me, too!" Mark remarked
 "I have deep feelings for them," said Karen
 "I have a British truck," said Laurie
 "I'm on a no-fat diet," said Lena
 "I feel like a little bug," said Nat
 "I sang do, re, mi, fa, sol, ti, do!" said Nola
 "Pass the butter," said Pat
 "That was a deception by Father," said Patrick
 "I'm often out," said Peter
 "Here's my new chemical compound," said Polly Esther
 "See how much gas the tank will take," said Philip
 "Why do I steal?" said Robin

"I like to cause pain," said Sadie
 "Take a card, any card," said Trixie
 "I'm making my way over there," said Wendy
 "How do you like your eggs?" Benedict asked
 "I'm opposed to this gang," Buster said
 "I collect fancy glass," Crystal said
 "You're welcome," Matt said
 "I'm making a hamburger," Patty said

"Hickory Dickory," Doc Said

In the last Kickshaws, Oren Dalton introduced the Hermanette, but his inspiration for it goes back to a poem he wrote much earlier. As he explains, "I wrote this poem many more years ago than I freely admit to, in either a Sociology or Economics class. I lean toward the Sociology class because, as I'm sure you'll agree, its texture has that bored-in-Sociology-class feel to it. This feeling has a different quality from what one would expect from bored-in-Economics-class output. On the other hand, it has a darn good rhythm and the following is a kind of pseudo-musical illustration suitable for bongos and monotone penny whistle."



"Hick-o-ry Dick-o-ry," Doc said. "The
 mouse ran up ," Rock said. "The
 clock struck ," Juan said. "The
 mouse ran ," Don said .
 "Hick-o-ry Dick-o-ry," Doc said.

Hermanette Alphabet

Joyce Holland has come up with 26 Hermanettes in question-and-answer form. Each quote in the answer ends with a different letter of the alphabet leading into the name of the speaker to complete a word or a phrase.

Are they behind the ship? - "Yeah, they're A," Sterne said
 How does a chemist mix liquids? - "With a B," Kerr said
 Are we headed inland? - "No, we're going C," Ward said
 Who is Beelzebub? - "An evil D," man said
 How will we get that woman out? - "We'll have to E," Victor said
 Will this take a lot of work? - "No, just a little F," Art said
 What is this set of chromosomes? - "It's a G," Noam said
 When will the wine be ready? - "When it's H," Ed said
 What's that tower called? - "It's the I," Phil said

Why did they arrest you? - "Because I'm a J," Walker said
 Is that a cat? - "No, it's a K," nine of us said
 What's that in my face? - "It's my L," Bo said
 Is the fire out? - "Yeah, but don't touch the hot M," Burr said
 Why do you hate her? - "She's my N," Emmy said
 What kind of a stone is this? - "A genuine O," Paul said
 Why can't I look? - "No fair P," King said
 How can I play better pool? - "Put chalk on the Q," Tip said
 Did the house burn down accidentally? - "No, it was R," son said
 Do you sell houses? - "Yeah, I'm into real S," Tate said
 Where are you pouring the Lipton? - "Into the T," Potts said
 How can we go back in the car? - "Make a U," Turner said
 What will you use to drive? - "I'll need a V," hick'll say
 What kind of odds are there on this bet? - "You can W," Manny said
 What kind of photo is this? - "It's an X," Ray said
 Are you getting smart with me? - "Yeh, they call me Y's," Guy said
 How do you photocopy this? - "Just make a Z," Rock said

Wrecker Slogans

Wreckers, who pick up the pieces after auto accidents, sometimes have slogans painted on their trucks. I've noticed a couple in Iowa City: U SMASH 'EM, I FIX 'EM, and YOU HOLLAR, I HAUL 'ER. Any other wrecker slogans bashing about?

The Ascent of Man

MAN According to Howard Richler, "this is a ladder of the phy-
MAT lo-genetic scale. The changing of one letter at a time mimics
OAT the evolutionary process whereby the mutation of the DNA
OPT molecule would eventually allow novel life forms to emerge.
APT I hope I haven't offended cat lovers by placing their cher-
APE ished tabbies below their canine rivals and just above rats."

ARE I have a cat, and I think the position is perfectly rea-
ARM sonable. However, as an experienced lowan, I am somewhat
AIM surprised by the omission of PIG, SOW, HOG, COW, EWE,
DIM and other three-lettered beasts of agriculture. Many lowans
DIG trace their ancestry to one or more of these animals. And
DOG what about the noble GNU? How else do we account for the
DOT inhabitants of Gnu England, especially those of Gnu York
COT and Gnu Jersey?
CAT

RAT Howard's groundbreaking work in Logological Darwinism
BAT is to be applauded, but further research is needed to fill
BIT in the missing links.
AIT
ANT

"Scrabble, Scrabble, Eh, Mr. Pound?"

Are there any number names whose Scrabble letter values add up to the same number? To summarize: AEIOULNRST = 1, DG = 2, BCMP = 3, FHVWY = 4, K = 5, JX = 8, QZ = 10. Surprisingly, only one such self-referential number name occurs: TWELVE. But Scrabble

rules allow flexibility in actual play. Using one or two blank tiles (worth 0) decreases a score; and placing the letters on multiple-value squares increases it. With these variables, many other self-referential number names can be constructed. ONE spelled with two blank tiles equals 1. TWENTY-FIVE with two one-point letters on triple letter squares and one blank substituting for another one-point letter equals 25. In fact, for the numbers 1 to 25, all number names except NINE, TEN and NINETEEN can be made self-referential. What is the largest possible self-referential number name that can be played?

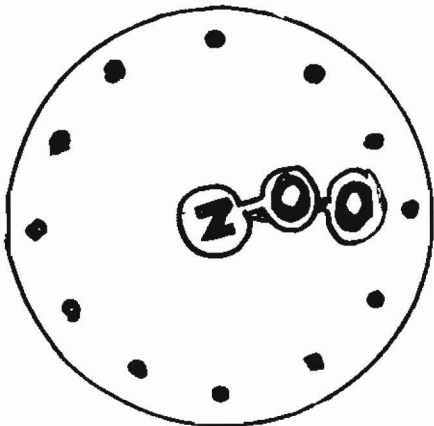
A self-referential set of number names can be constructed by placing the words horizontally and vertically on a Scrabble board. In this case, the individual number names need not be self-referential, but the total of the numbers they represent and their total Scrabble score must be equal. Two different challenges: (1) Form the highest scoring self-referential set of number names; (2) form the self-referential set with the most number names. There is no limit to the letter stock; however, no more than two blanks may be used for a single number name. For multiple-word number names, the words are written together, as ONEHUNDREDFIVE. All number names in a set should be different. Let the games begin!

Search Me!

M Y B S L E N O	This grid of jumbled letters has two palin-
A R R L E I N E	dromes which begin and end in diametrically
O N E E D O N O	opposite corners, and all but two of the letters
N O E A N R R A	are used in one or both of the palindromes.
D I N D E B Y M	Begin at the correct corner and trace horizon-

tal, vertical, and diagonal paths till you've finished one palindrome, then start up again and find the other. Peter Newby built this square. Can you dismantle its secrets?

The Zoo Clock



The director of Ooze Zoo is proud of his establishment's clock, which was installed by the Peter Newby Horologological Company, Ltd. The hour hand displays the word ZO (a hybrid yak), and the minute hand has a single letter O. "Thus, at 3:15 precisely," as the director is fond of saying, "the ZO is back in the ZOO." The clock has an additional feature -- another single letter at one of the hour positions on the dial. Which letter is it, where is it situated, and why?

That Old Time Music

Rock and country music titles have been held up to the microphone of logology, but old time sheet music titles of 1900-1929 vintage have yet to be heard. Ladies and gentlemen, here, with a

Shim-Me-Sha-Wabble...

If You Talk in Your Sleep Don't Mention My Name
 I Work Eight Hours Sleep Eight Hours That Leaves Eight Hours
 for Love
 Tres Moutarde (Too Much Mustard)
 Movin' Man Don't Take My Baby Grand
 If He Can Fight Like He Can Love, Good Night, Germany!
 We're Goin' to Knock the 'Hel' out of Wilhelm (and It Won't Take
 Us Long)
 My Red Cross Girlie (the Wound is Somewhere in My Heart)
 Maid in America
 Who Paid the Rent for Mrs. Rip Van Winkle?
 Where Did Robinson Crusoe Go With Friday on Saturday Night?
 Carbarlick Acid Rag
 Undertakers' Blues

Two For the Price Of...

...WONE is a word like no other. According to Webster's 3rd, it is actually two words, both spelling variants of two other words that are homonymic with itself. The first variant can be found by a beheadment of WONE, the second by a curtailment. WONE = WON + ONE.

Self-Defining Words

As many people have noticed, some dictionary definitions use the word being defined to define the word itself. This is especially true for sound words. One can imagine the editors spending the entire day arguing among themselves about certain definitions, and then heading for the local saloon at night, tipping a few, and saying "What the hell! Let's call a spade a spade." Here are a few of the more blatant examples. My personal favorite is SHOO, which conjures up the existential image of a person shouting the word and then racing away in terror.

CHUNK: v.i. To make the noise represented by the pronunciation of **chunk**

CLANK: n. --usually expressing a duller sound than **clang**, and a deeper and stronger sound than **clink**

CLINK-CLANK: n. A noise made up of clinks and clanks

PLOCK: v.i. To make a sound suggestive of the word **plock**

SHOO: v.i. a To cry "shoo!" b To go, flee, etc., at the cry of "shoo!"

WHEW: n. An utterance of "whew"

WHEW: v.i. 2. To utter the interjection **whew**

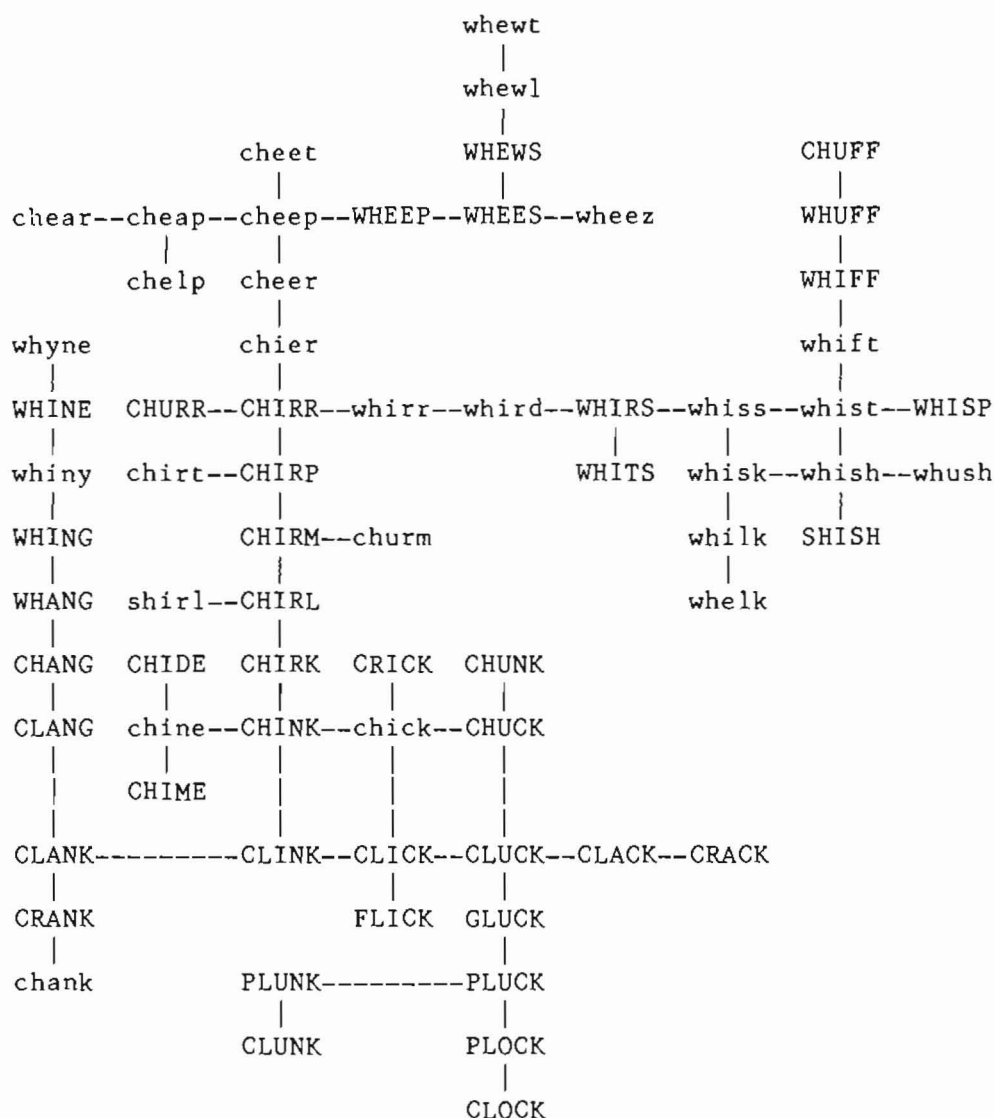
WHISH: n. A slight sound, as of one saying "whish"

WHOA: v.i. To call "whoa!"

Sound Network

In "Onomatopoeia: Things That Go Bump" (see last issue), the editor introduced a taxonomy of onomatopoeic words and presented a two-dimensional array of sounds organized by pitch and duration.

His article focused on the spoken rather than the printed aspect of sounds. A surprisingly large network of sounds can be created using words from Webster's 2nd. The network of five-letter words below is based on a broader group of sounds than the previous article. It includes words that have "sound" or "noise" in their definitions (capitalized), as well as any that refer to other words defined as "sound" or "noise". It also has plurals of four-letter words and words below the line. Excluded are words defined as phonetic terms, foreign letter names, or musical instruments.



Hair Apparent

Soon after his second birthday, my son Danny and I went to the Patio restaurant for root beer in frosty mugs. After a few gulps he said, "You have a head." I said, "Yes, I do." He said, "Me have a head, too." I agreed again. Then he pointed and said, "That man don't have a head." I looked to see who he was talking

about, and there sat a man without a head -- of hair. "He's bald," I said, "like the bowling balls at the video arcade." Danny frowned and said, "Poor man." Instead of explaining to him about hair loss, I made up a poem and recited it to him:

If hair | Weren't there, | We all'd | Be bald

Real-Life Koan

At the Patio, the menu sign near the door advertises Mexican food. Some Buddhist wannabee removed a letter from one of the words and scooted the rest together to spell TAO SALAD. I told the waitress they should serve it with fresh green lotus. She replied, "I don't think it's in season."

Collinear Algebra

In the last Kickshaws, Leonard Gordon presented several chains of three-letter collinear words, which can be plotted on a straight line in space. That is, the differences between the corresponding letters in each adjacent word pair is the same respectively (END-PAL-ANT has a difference value of 11,13,8). None of Leonard's 21 chains had any meaningless trigram gaps. Allowing for gaps, he's found much longer collinear chains of three-letter words and an astounding chain of four-letter words, mostly from the OED. In these examples, which circle around to their beginnings, actual words are capitalized; the rest are UFTs (Unidentified Fragmented Trigrams).

OKK-HOU-ASE-TWO-MAY-FEI-YIS-*rmc-kqm-duw-WYG-pcq-iga-bkk-uou-nse-gwo-ZAY-SEI-LIS-emc-xqm-quw-jyg-ccq-vga-* (11 words)
 INN-TAV-END-PAL-ANT-LAB-*wnj-HAR-snz-DAH-onp-ZAX-knf-VAN-gnv-RAD-cnl-NAT-ynb-jaj-unr-faz-qnh-BAP-mnx-xaf-* (13 words)
 RAA-ENG-RAM-ENS-RAY-ENE-RAK-enq-RAW-enc-rai-eno-rau-ena-RAG-enm-RAS-ENY-RAE-ENK-RAU-enw-RAC-eni-rao-enu- (15 words)
 BRAG-VENT-PRAG-JENT-DRAG-xent-rrag-LENT-FRAG-zent-trag-NENT-hrag-BENT-vrag-PENT-jrag-DENT-xrag-RENT-lrag-FENT-zrag-TENT-nrag-HENT- (15 words)

In addition, Leonard sent an extensive list of four-letter collinear line segments with no gaps. The list includes one seven-word segment, thirteen six-word segments, and over one hundred five-word segments. Of the latter, most use letters with a difference value of 13 in one or more positions. Much rarer are non-crashing sets -- only five in all. The non-crashers include:

agha-cowp-ewle-geat-impi	bibb-tyke-loth-deck-vuln
amid-lith-weel-happ-swat	dali-skat-hupe-weep-lota
ayal-loca-weep-huge-skit	

Viewed geometrically, a pencil of collinear lines is a set intersecting at one common word. A collinear triangle is a set of three segments with common end words connecting to form a three-sided shape. First a pencil, then a triangle:

ayer-lore-weer-hure-SKER-dare	date-SKER-hupe-wear-lole
dace-SKER-huge-weir-loke	eare-amer-wyre-SKER-owre-kier-gure

AGER-nore-awer-nere-AMER

KIER-oore-suer-ware-AGER

AMER-wyre-sker-owre-KIER

Newspaper Oxymoron

A recent story on the arrest of Columbian drug lord Pablo Escobar said, "Escobar was whisked by helicopter Wednesday to a LUXURY JAIL..." It must be nice. My wife and I spent four years in a maximum security condominium.

Dictionary Paths

From a single dictionary, select any word, go to the first content definition (including synonyms), and pick the first noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, or adjective. Look up the definition of that word, and repeat the process until you loop back to a previous word or until you come to a dead end with a grammar definition. Ignore articles and prepositions, or else many paths end quickly and predictably. THE, for instance, loops back to itself: THE-THAT-THE. So does TO-IN-INTO-TO. Finally, if the first word is a derived form, like PUZZLING, convert it to the form listed in the dictionary (in this case, PUZZLE) to look it up.

The lower limit for loops is three words: MARK-TARGET-MARK. For dead ends, two is the minimum: WANTING-NOT. Many other examples of shortest paths could be found, but what is the longest? Using the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary, I tried six wordplay terms. All but CONUNDRUM wind up at the same loop. ANAGRAM and PALINDROME, curiously enough, follow the same path and have the same length. The paths for REBUS and ACROSTIC are almost the same. PUN has the longest -- 24 words. Can you find a longer path starting with any word?

conundrum-riddle-puzzling-bewilder-perplex-disturb-interfere-come-approach-move-go-move (11 words)
 anagram-word-something-some-one-being-existence-continuance-continuing-remain-be-equal-same-being (13 words)
 palindrome-word... (see anagram path) (13 words)
 acrostic-composition-act-thing-matter-subject-person-human-relating-give-make-cause-something-some-one-being-existence-continuance-continuing-remain-be-equal-same-being (23 words)
 rebus-representation-act... (see acrostic path) (23 words)
 pun-humorous-temperament-characteristic-serving-toil-laborious-industrious-diligent-characterized-describe-represent-present-something-some-one-being-existence-continuance-continuing-remain-be-equal-same-being (24 words)

Follow The Yellow Brick Food

The road to Oz was paved with yellow bricks. Why is it that the aisle of generic food at the supermarket is paved with yellow cans and boxes? I figured it out when I picked up a can and read the fine print. It said "12 OZ."

I Can't Believe It's Not Butter

In case you haven't seen it, I Can't Believe It's Not Butter is one of the great trademarks of the 1990s. Like any inspired trademark, it's bound to be copied for other merchandise, as this story illustrates:

I left the tub of I Can't Believe It's Not Butter out all day, and it melted. As I put it back in the refrigerator, some of it dripped on the floor. I had to use I Don't Give a Damn If It's Not Cleanser to wash it up. The cat was hungry. I gave her a bowl of She's Too Stupid To Figure Out It's Not Meat. I looked out the window, which was dirty, so I washed it with You're So Sloppy You Won't Even Notice It's Not Windex. Outside the birds were chirping and pecking at the feeder full of They'll Never In a Million Years Guess These Aren't Edible Seeds. When my wife came home, she brought me a box of He Couldn't Possibly Fathom They're Not Chocolate Chip Cookies, and I ate two of them with a glass of She Didn't Fully Comprehend It's Not Actually Pasteurized Homogenized Milk. Delicious!

When I got up from the table, though, I slipped on a streak of I Can't Believe It's Not Butter that I'd missed with I Don't Give a Damn If It's Not Cleanser, kicked the bottle of You're So Sloppy You Won't Even Notice It's Not Windex, which went sailing through the window and landed in They'll Never In a Million Years Guess These Aren't Edible Seeds, crashed against the bowl of She's Too Stupid To Figure Out It's Not Meat, crushed the box of He Couldn't Possibly Fathom They're Not Chocolate Chip Cookies, and spilled the entire carton of She Didn't Fully Comprehend It's Not Actually Pasteurized Homogenized Milk. I got up, aching from the fall, and took a couple of It Didn't Occur To You That These Might Not Be Pain Killers But Sugar Pills Instead. Within minutes, I felt a whole lot better.

The Amana Range

In the August 1987 Kickshaws, Edward Wolpov discussed towns surrounded by other towns with the same name preceded by compass directions. For instance, WOODSTOCK, Connecticut, is encircled by NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, and WEST WOODSTOCK. Iowa boasts a similar cluster called THE AMANAS. Individually, they are AMANA, SOUTH AMANA, EAST AMANA, WEST AMANA, HIGH AMANA, and MIDDLE AMANA, but no NORTH AMANA. As more cities crop up in the area, I look forward to seeing LOW AMANA, RIGHT AMANA, LEFT AMANA, FRONT AMANA, BACK AMANA, NEAR AMANA, FAR AMANA -- but this can only lead to...

...Amanamania

Amana and Awomana
 Got married and had twins
 Aboya and Agirla
 With fresh Amana grins

 They had apaira pets,
 Adoga and acata,
 Which shared the family barn
 With afroga and abata,

Abulla and acowa,
 Agoata and agoosa,
 Ahoga and asowa,
 And an apaloosa.

 Amana said, "I have
 Aquestiona to aska:
 "Why don't we move away to
 Alabama or Alaska?"

"Anoa!" said Awomana,
 "Alifa like athisa
 Provides alotta things
 Akida would amissa."

To that, Amana said,
 "Agirla and Aboya
 Amissa this afarma?
 Ah, don't let it annoya."

Mirror Visions

IVY MOUTH WAX, a fictitious toothpaste brand concocted by the editor, includes all the capital letters that read the same in a mirror. This made me think about starting a tri-state Japanese import car company, called IOWA-HAWAII-OHIO TOYOTA-MAXIMA AUTO, with a vertical sign rotating the letters. I'm going to hire the TOTH triplets, TAMMY, TIMMY and TOMMY from OMAHA, and each will wear a T-shirt with his or her name printed vertically on the TUMMY so it can be worn inside-out with no confusion. Each will also wear a transparent HAT with TOTH emblazoned up and down the front. They'll ride on a YAMAHA while singing the company's jingle for TV, and their TWO-year old baby brother will conclude the commercial with his special whistle, the TOTH TOT TOOTH TOOT. Here's the jingle:

O, I HOP OHIO.	A MIX, A MAXIMA!
A TOY? O, TOYOTA!	AW, O I'M IOWA,
I? I, AW, AH! HAWAII.	O, HOT U, AUTO, HO!

The letters of the jingle, which is a line-by-line palindrome, will be evenly spaced and stenciled on the glass door to the showroom for customers to read as they go in and out. The U in the last line refers to U-turn. For promotional purposes, the company will offer a free service to anyone who drives in with a dirty car. TAMMY, TIMMY, and TOMMY will greet the customer with a cheery "HI! MAY I WAX IT?" The customer will reply "OH, YES, YOU MAY!"

The Pronoun Phenomenon

While we're overdoing the subject, I should mention that a high proportion of contemporary English personal pronouns are mirror words: I, I'M, MY, YOU, HE, HIM, IT. Some English question words also reflect on their letters: WHO, WHOM, WHAT, WHY, HOW. A number of Spanish pronouns work the same way: YO, MI, MIO, TU, TI, TUYO. Do any other languages display this phenomenon? There are two more well-known reversible pronouns in English. They are?

Who's Hoo?

In the February 1989 **Word Ways**, Peter Newby's Trivia Challenge article remarked that the word SMITHERY contains 17 different pronouns: HE, HER, HERS, HIM, HIS, I, IT, ITS, ME, MY, SHE, THEIR, THEIRS, THEM, THEY, THY, and YE. In the May issue, Sir Jeremy Morse added the demonstrative pronoun THIS. Peter has now found five more, all of which are obsolete forms of HOO, an equivalent to one of the above. HOO has had a multitude of spelling forms over the centuries, and five of them -- HEY, HI, HIE, HY, and HYE -- can be discerned in SMITHERY. Among the other forms are HE, HEE, and HEO. Who's HOO? It's not WHO you think it is!

The Roman Centurion

Many English words have Roman numerals in them. MeseMbryan-theMuM in Webster's 2nd may be the highest (using the less preferred but necessary form of repeating four numerals). Can all Roman numerals from 1 to C be found? I located fifty, which appear capitalized next to their values in the list below. Most of the words are bold-faced unhyphenated main entries, but some are not. By Roman numerals, the exceptions are XVIII (under EXUVIATE), XCIII (under EXCUSABLE and pluralized), LVIII (under LOVE and hyphenated), XLV, LXIV, XCVII (all below the line), and XLVI (below the line and inferred).

1 It	14 eXpensive	49 sILk	62 LuXurlatIon
2 IbIs	15 eXtroVert	50 Lab	64 LuXIVe
3 InhibIt	16 eXuVIate	51 Llp	90 eXcept
4 glVe	17 eXuVIatIon	52 LIalson	91 eXCItte
5 eVe	19 eXtIspeX	53 LtIgatIon	92 eXCiplent
6 VIne	20 eXonarthex	54 LIVE	94 eXCessIVE
7 VItRIfy	21 eXotoXIn	55 LoVe	95 eXcurVate
8 VItlatIon	40 aXLe	56 LeVItty	96 eXCaVatIon
9 nIX	41 eXpLosIon	57 LeVInIng	97 eXCaVatIonIst
10 oX	42 eXpLoltatIon	58 LoVe-InspIrIng	99 hIck
11 eXIt	44 eXpLetIve	59 heLIX	100 Cab
12 eXIgulty	45 eXoLVe	60 LoX	
13 eXhIbitIon	46 eXoLVIng	61 LuXatIon	

Sign Off

On the Coralville Strip, a motel advertises itself in large neon letters, LODGE ("an inn or a resort hotel"). It's hardly that. I did a double take one evening when I noticed the middle letter was burnt out, spelling LOGE ("a small partitioned area"). Now that's more like it. Truth in advertising through the fateful intercession of logology. If the E burns out and leaves LOG ("a usu. bulky piece or length of unshaped lumber"), then the sign will really describe the place. At that point, I'll knock out the G myself, leaving passers-by to shout, "LO!"