

# EXCHANGING ANTONYMS

SUSAN THORPE

Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire

thorped@hotmai.com

Antonyms have long been favourites of the readers of Word Ways, either as themselves (ODD - EVEN) or in disguise. In the latter case, they may be hidden in other word pairs such as in FATE - THINE, SHIN - SHOUT and BANDED - BORED where they occur at the beginnings, ends and in the middles of the word pairs respectively, **the other letters remaining the same**. In the August 1994 Kickshaws (page 169), Dave Morice listed 24 such word pairs in an item entitled *Letter-Addition Opposites*. Now I offer further examples and also extend the concept to include pairs of words in which the antonyms are **split**, appearing in 2 places in each of the two words, the other letters always remaining the same.

My list includes both antonyms and near-antonyms. Most of them can be found in *Chambers Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms* ed. Martin H. Manser, 1993.

Excluding certain proper names, most of the word pairs can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition. w2 = Webster's Second Edition.

Those examples which appear in WW94169 are asterisked\*.

## EXCHANGING BEGINNINGS

alls (also) - nones

alteration - fixation

asker - teller (one who counts money)

badge - Goodge (a name)

bane - licensee

barter - letter

bested (placed) - worsted (a fine, smooth yarn)

binds - frees (frieze)

boomed (what the foghorn did) - slumped (in chair)

bottomed (having a bottom) - toped (toppled or fell over)

boyling (boiling) - girling (a young salmon)

breadwort (the knot grass) - waterwort (plants of genus Elatine)

breaker (a small keg or flask - on a boat) - mender

burdener - rider

calmer - diner

calming - wilding (a crab-apple tree or Michael)

clearing - fainting

Cleary (a name) - dully

closely - startly (apt to start, jump)

comet - got\*

covered - striped

dayly (dally) - nightly

dived - soard (sward)

dressed - striped

Easter - wester (wind - w2)

ebber (manifest, unconcealed) - flower

emptying - fulling (the process of cleansing and thickening cloth by beating and washing)

## EXCHANGING ENDS

Ada (a name) - adzed (cut with an adze)  
farm - fleg (a fright, scare)  
neart (be) - nescience  
rebless - recurse (to recur)  
scenter - sedge  
scold - sheat (a pig under one year old)  
scold - swarm  
scool (school) - swarm  
Adie (a name) - alive  
undies (under garments) - unlives (deprives of life)  
redress (reparation of a wrong) - restrip (w2)  
bedrop (to drop upon, cover or wet with drops) - behold  
pearly - plate\*  
uneasy - unhard (soft)  
miseasy (miserably) - mistrying (trying wrongly)  
upend (to set something on its end) - upstart (someone who has suddenly risen in importance)  
center - cleave  
seven - slumpy  
sever - snever (narrow)  
infall (material that falls or has fallen) - inrise (to rise in opposition)  
forefeet (the front feet of a quadruped) - forehands (shots in tennis)  
afind (to find out) - alose (a fish)  
afoot (astir) - ahead  
refresh - retired  
unfriendly - unreserved (not put to one side)  
forgive (to pardon) - fortake (to take away)  
shave - slack  
shere (share) - sthere (steer = a young ox)  
chers (cheers) - chis (fastidious)  
phot (a unit in physics = one lux maintained for one second) - picry (a manoeuvre in piquet)  
sill - swell\*  
spinner - spouter  
clad - class  
landlady (runs a Bed and Breakfast) - landman (a countryman, peasant)  
Roland (a name) - rosea (plant species name)  
flax - frigid  
underlay (for carpet) - understood  
cleave - clinger  
sleave (sleeve) - stake  
slender - sower  
underlie - understand  
overlie - overtruth (a statement in excess of the truth)  
clinger - crush  
sloath (sloth) - swilling  
alose (a fish) - awin (to win)  
slow - stall  
blower - braise  
slower - supper  
slowest - stop

Romany - roone (roan)  
remiss - reobserve  
ostomy (type of operation) - ostoyour (soldier)  
smyth (smite v.; also a surname) - struth (strewth)  
gnew (past tense of gnaw) - gold  
snippy - swarm  
doff - don\* (themselves antonyms)  
Dover - dunder (the dregs of cane juice used in the West Indies in the fermentation of rum) groover - grunder  
apeace (appease) - Awar (a member of the people of the North Caucasus)  
repure (to purify again) - revile (to use abusive language)  
squeer (squire) - swell  
unrest (disturbance) - unwork (to undo or detach from something)  
trough - twell (till)

### ALL POSSIBLE EXCHANGES

The same pair of antonyms may occur in different places in different pairs of words, specifically at the beginning, the end or in the middle of words. Alternatively, the antonyms may be split and appear in two, corresponding, separate places in each word. Below, each different pair of antonyms appears in at least 3 of the 4 columns.

<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Separated</b>
<u>am</u> - <u>them</u>	<u>oar</u> - <u>other</u>	<u>baa</u> - <u>bathe</u>	n/a
<u>Andes</u> - <u>ores</u> * (a phrase)	<u>randy</u> - <u>Rory</u> (a phrase)	<u>errand</u> - <u>error</u>	<u>attend</u> - <u>otter</u>
<u>canon</u> - <u>canton</u>	<u>decanate</u> (deanery)- <u>decantate</u> (repeat often)	<u>scan</u> - <u>scant</u>	<u>Chan</u> - <u>chant</u> \ (a name)
<u>colden</u> - <u>hoten</u> \ (to make cold) \ (promised)	<u>scolded</u> - <u>shoted</u> (shouted)	<u>scold</u> - <u>shot</u> *	<u>could</u> - <u>hout</u> (hoot)
<u>evenly</u> - <u>oddly</u> (strangely)	<u>severer</u> (a hit for 7 runs) - <u>sodder</u> (solder)	<u>seven</u> - <u>sodd</u> (sod of earth)	
<u>finer</u> (penalises) - <u>wets</u>	<u>refines</u> - <u>rewets</u> (w2)	<u>refine</u> - <u>rewet</u>	
<u>footway</u> (path) - <u>headway</u>	<u>hot-footed</u> - <u>hot-headed</u> (silly)	<u>afoot</u> - <u>ahead</u>	
<u>greenie</u> - <u>redie</u> (ready) \ (a large wave before it breaks)	<u>chater</u> (chatter) - <u>clover</u>	<u>sea-green</u> - <u>seared</u>	<u>greaten</u> - <u>rated</u> \ (great)
<u>hater</u> (clothes) - <u>lover</u>		<u>shate</u> - <u>slove</u> \ (p.t. shoot) \ (split)	
<u>iller</u> - <u>Weller</u> (Sam)	<u>silly</u> - <u>swelly</u> (a depression in coal strata)	<u>dill</u> - <u>dwell</u>	
<u>income</u> - <u>outcome</u> (result)	<u>shined</u> - <u>shouted</u>	<u>bin</u> - <u>bout</u>	<u>Finn</u> - <u>fount</u>
<u>match</u> - <u>patch</u>	<u>smatter</u> - <u>spatter</u>	<u>puma</u> - <u>pupa</u>	<u>meat</u> - <u>peat</u>
<u>noses</u> - <u>yesses</u> (pl. yes)	<u>Enos</u> - <u>eyess</u> \ (Bible: son of Seth) \ (a young hawk in training)	<u>Eno</u> - <u>eyes</u> \ (Eno = a proprietary name)	<u>Enso</u> (name) - <u>eyess</u>
<i>(note: the same word, 'eyess', is here used in 2 of the columns. This is possible because of the double 'ss').</i>			
<u>offer</u> - <u>oner</u>	<u>coffy</u> (coffee) - <u>cony</u> (a rabbit)	<u>toff</u> - <u>ton</u>	<u>coiffe</u> - <u>coine</u> \ (coif) \ (coin)

<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Separated</b>
<u>overbalance</u> - <u>underbalance</u> \ (fall)	Hoovers - <u>houters</u> \ (moneywise)	<u>plover</u> - <u>plunder</u>	
<u>pasted</u> - <u>presented</u>	<u>repasting</u> (wallpaper) - <u>representing</u>	<u>repast</u> - <u>represent</u>	<u>pascit</u> - <u>prescient</u> \ ( <i>Roget's Thesaurus</i> )
<u>theme</u> - <u>use</u>	<u>mathemes</u> (matins)- <u>Mauses</u> (creek in PA)	<u>anthem</u> - <u>anus</u>	<u>thermal</u> - <u>ursal</u>

### ADDITIONAL SPLITS

Here are some more examples of split antonym exchanges:

#### (a) **Beginning and End**

chame (a fissure) - whent (quaint)

drey (a squirrel's nest) - weet (to know)

easily - tensile

hale - shale

heard - trail

loess - Moore (a name)

louse - mauke (maggot)

pumill (pommel) - pumish (pumice)

rinse - snag

shafe (sheaf) - wheak (a squeak or whine)...weak in the sense of unguarded

trender (a wool winder) - trough

theorem - uores (journeys)

treuce (truce) - wear

#### (b) **Beginning and Middle**

flinder (to break into flinders or pieces) - sleeker

fletcher (an arrow-maker) - slender

#### (c) **Middle and End**

ranted - roter (one who repeats by rote)

minn (type of old Irish ornament) - mount

#### (d) **Beginning, Middle and End**

Here is a 3-way *split* pair of antonyms ('these' and 'those'):

threstle (trestle) - throstle (a thrush)

### ALTERNATIVE SPLITS

The 2 words FARER (traveller) and NEARER offer a choice of 2 positions for the antonyms FAR and NEAR: FARER - NEARER and FARER - NEARER.

There are, however, 2 words which go one stage further, offering a choice of 3 positions for the antonyms MAS (several mothers) and PAS (several fathers):

MASSES - PASSES

MASSES - PASSES

MASSES - PASSES

Both the above examples owe their existence to the presence in the words of repeated letters, R and S respectively.