SIAMESE TRIPLETS

PETER NEWBY
Chesterfield, England

BLACKBIRD
LACK BID
LAC ID
LA I
A AI
AI AIS
I DAIS
IT DIS
HIT IS
WHIT DIS
WHITEFISH

Alongside is a nine-letter word example of my latest development in the technique of insertion/deletion. As many long words consist of two or more simple words, one can, by considering these elements independently, bring into the realm of wordplay many long words otherwise denied standard treatment. Beauty of presentation is maintained by restricting all action to within the confines of a rectangle, though other possibilities will be mentioned later. For convenience, therefore, I will refer to the original example as a rectangular triplet.

To demonstrate the practicality of rectangular limitation, I append six examples of the conversion of ten-letter words to their anagrams. Interestingly, the first of these, RANGERSHIP/SPRINGHARE, mutually transpose to REPHRASING!

RANGERSHIP STONEBRASH MATTERLESS STINKSTONE
RANGE HIP TONE RASH MATTERLESS SINK TONE
RANG HI ONE ASH MATE ES SIN TON
RAN I ON AS ATE E IN ON
AN AI O A AT ED I O
AIN A BO AR A LED OI OE
PAIN AE BOA OAR TA LIE O E
PIN ARE BA OR TLS IE NO ES
SPIN CARE BAS TOR TEAM LE NOT ESS
SPRINGHARE BASE TORN STEAM LES KNOT TESS
BASSET HORN STREAMLETS KNOTTINESS
OPENSTITCH STITCHWORK MATTERLESS STINKSTONE
OPENSTITCH STITCHWORK OPENSTITCH STITCHWORK MATTERLESS STINKSTONE
OPENSTITCH STITCHWORK

Apart from the fact that the phrase OPENSTITCH STITCHWORK provides a link between the final two examples, a nearer connection lies in their termination in rustic missiles! Notice the original perceptions of the words RANGERSHIP, SPRINGHARE, STINKSTONE, OPENSTITCH and the mathematical relationship between all pairs of intermediate words.
The perception of RANGERSHIP as RANGERS + HIP is just as valid as my own RANGER + SHIP. The same is equally true of STINKSTONE and OPENSTITCH; it is purely a matter of taste. Unlike their close relatives (see "Triplets: An Added Dimension" in the November 1991 issue), rectangular triplets are not bedeviled by the need to harmonize mathematically as they do it of their own accord. Words of an odd number such as BLACKBIRD automatically devolve into pairs of words with an odd total. Even-numbered words such as STINKSTONE give rise to pairs with an even total. Either way, successful conversion is merely a matter of word power, not mathematics.

The perception of a full-length internal word is rather interesting. In the figure on the left, MAL TREAT has arisen from MAL + TREAT, but continuation has been made on the basis of MALT + REAT (wrong-doing). Whatever the original eight-letter word happened to be is of no consequence; our concern is with a ten-letter word conclusion. At some stage prior to the penultimate line, the rectangular shape is discarded to provide for the essential expansion.

This final example of ten-letter anagramming shows how one can cope with the difficulties of a word whose natural perception (MIS + FORTUNE) has an intractable element (FORTUNE). Reconsidered as MIS + FOR + TUNE, it is now well within the scope of play. Even though it was not necessary to vary the position of the central column (no pairs of words would have accidentally conjoined to produce an invalidity), I did so to illustrate a means of avoiding such an unfortunate occurrence.

Must all perceptions be genuine words? I would say yes; otherwise, one could bend all rules to the point where it ceases to be an exercise in the English language.

Finally, despite any brickbats that might be hurled from Arizona, I detail the most valuable of all words in any activity of this nature:

Single-letter Words A, E, I, O, U, Y. These have been discussed in my previous "Triplets: An Added Dimension" article.

Two-letter Words The world's finest collection is the yet-unpublished two-letter word dictionary compiled by Jeff Grant (I, for one, hope that it will not be too long ere it is seen in print). Apart from my discovery of the word CI in a 19th-century tome on the origins of British place names, Jeff will not disagree with any given below. The editor of the Oxford Minidictionary also rejected the word, as it does not occur in any dictionary which is above reproach. That same editor, incidentally, also agrees with me that players in the United Kingdom Scrabble Championship
are in error in the acceptance of CH as a word. Neither Chambers
(from where it is taken) nor any other authority call it a word.
Players who use the following mnemonic from Pears Advanced Word-
Puzzlers Dictionary will find most of the words defined in either
the OED or Web 2:

* every word beginning with a consonant is always followed by
  a vowel (exceptions: ji ju jy qa qe qo qy ve xo xy yy zu)
* every word beginning with a vowel is always followed by every
  letter of the alphabet including itself (exceptions: ag aj ap
  aq av az ej eq ev ez i i j ij iq iu iy iz og oj oq oz ub
  uc ud ue uf ui uj uk ul uq uw ux uy)
* whilst Pears lists double-consonant words, these have been ig-
  nored here in the interest of making constructions appear gen-
  uine to the casual (as opposed to the specialist) reader

As the Pears mnemonic is concerned solely with lower-case two-
letter words, readers familiar with Ju and Oz (both of which are
perfectly acceptable for any type of triplet) will not be in the
least surprised to discover that Jeff can validate quite a few of
my exceptions — even two-letter words in lower case!

Armed with a lexical arsenal of this nature, the reader who
wishes to develop Siamese Triplets has every opportunity to bedazzle
us with his or her logological wit.

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Can't either of you transpose SIAMESE to anything other than
MISERACE?!!