

SIAMESE TRIPLETS

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BLACKBIRD	Alongside is a nine-letter word example of
LACK BID	my latest development in the technique of inser-
LAC ID	tion/deletion. As many long words consist of two
LA I	or more simple words. one can, by considering
A AI	these elements independently, bring into the
AI AIS	realm of wordplay many long words otherwise
I DAIS	denied standard treatment. Beauty of presentation
IT DIS	is maintained by restricting all action to within
HIT IS	the confines of a rectangle, though other possi-
WHIT FIS	bilities will be mentioned later. For convenience,
WHITEFISH	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	STONE RASH	MATER ESS	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 LIED	O E
PLN ARE	BA OR	TEA LIE	NO ES
SPIN CARE	BAS TOR	TEAM LE	NOT ESS
SPRINGHARE	BASE TORN	STEAM LES	KNOT NESS
	BASSETHORN	STREAMLETS	KNOTTINESS

OPENSTITCH	STITCHWORK
PEN TITCH	TITCH WOR
PE ITCH	ITCH WO
PIE ICH	ICH O
PI IC	IC PO
I I	I POI
IN OI	OI PI
PIN O	O I
PINT ON	OW IC
PIT ONE	TOW SIC
PITH TONE	TROW SICK
PITCHSTONE	THROWSTICK

Apart from the fact that the phrase OPENSTITCH STITCHWORK provides a link between the final two examples, a neater connection lies in their termination in rustic missiles! Notice the original perceptions of the words RANGERSHIP, 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.

A EAT
MA TEAT
MALTREAT
MAL RAT
MA RA
A A
AE AT
E ATE
EN GATE
DEN GRATE
DENIGRATED

The perception of a full-length internal word is rather interesting. In the figure on the left, MALTREAT 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.

MISFORTUNE
IS OR TUN
I O UN
IO LO U
O LOB EU
OU OB E
U' FOB ME
UN FO MES
UNIFORMEST

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 xe 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 ib ii ij ip 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 ignored here in the interest of making constructions appear genuine 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.

