

BARCELONA

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Summer, 1992: the World Olympics. Numerous hours of televised sport, early in the morning, throughout the day and evening, and late at night. While you're slumped in front of a television set watching hours of physical action, how about giving yourself some mental exercise?

In the February 1976 issue of **Word Ways**, I offered readers a variety of wordplay based on the letters of MONTREAL, the venue of the 1976 Olympics. Sixteen years later, the venue is BARCELONA. What wordplay can be based on those letters?

What transadditions of BARCELONA exist (i.e., BARCELONA plus a single letter)? Here are the only ones which I have been able to find. Are there others?

- +D Carbondale (TIG)
- +H anchorable (W2)
- +L Barcellona (TIG)

If the search is extended to foreign languages, which is particularly appropriate for the Olympics, then the French word BALANCOIRE (+I), meaning "a swing or seesaw", can be added to the list.

What about double transadditions (i.e., BARCELONA plus two other letters)? I could only unearth eight of these. Any more?

- +EP balance rope (W2)
- +EV overbalance (W3)
- +GI coal-bearing (W2)
- +IT baronetical (W3)
- +IT carbonalite (CED)
- +IU canoe burial (W2)
- +TY carbonylate (W3)
- +VY cavalry bone (W2)

I noted that the two-word term CRANIAL BONES appears in Webster's Third: this suggests CRANIAL BONE as a +IN item.

Instead of transadding, how about transdeleting? Transdeletions are created by the deletion of any single letter, and then rearranging the remaining letters. Only five of these have been found. I had hoped to be able to effect a Baltimore transdeletion (i.e., BARCELONA minus each of the letters in turn), but I'm still a long way short. Any help?

- B Carolean (W3)
- B Lecanora (W3)

- N albacore (W3)
- O balancer (W3)
- O barnacle (W3)

What can be found in the way of double transdeletions (i.e., BARCELONA minus two letters)? Ten examples come to light, although one is a reformed spelling which has long since died, and another is a strained comparative form found only in the British Scrabble bible.

- AB carneol (W3)
- AB corneal (W3)
- AL balconer (W3)
- AR balcone (W2)
- BO canaler (W2)
- CO banaler (OSW)
- CR abalone (W3)
- EL carbona (W3)
- EO barnacl (W2)
- OR balance (W3)

Substitute-letter transposals (i.e., BARCELONA minus any letter plus any other letter) are a more fecund group. Here are sixteen examples. What others?

- A+C carboncle (W2)
- B+H Alchornea (W3)
- C+D bandalore (W3)
- L+B carob bean (W3)
- L+D carbonade (W2)
- L+I anaerobic (W3)
- L+R Carbonear (TIG)
- L+R Carbonera (TIG)
- L+T carbonate (W3)
- N+L caballero (W3)
- N+M carambole (W3)
- N+R barcarole (W3)
- N+Z carbazole (W3)
- O+D barnacled (W3)
- O+S barnacles (W3)
- R+N canal-bone (OED)

Delving again into the French language reveals -O+I BALANCIER, a clock pendulum.

Right - now it's your turn. Find all the two-letter words formable from the letters of BARCELONA. And those of three, four, five and six letters (NO, CAR, LEAN, CLONE and CARBON should be sufficient to get you started).

Are there any genuine transposals of BARCELONA? I searched for the term REAL BACON, but couldn't find it. I wondered about EARL BACON, but no luck! I noticed in passing that there were a couple of notables called LEONARD BACON (BARCELONA + DON).

How about words (or names or terms) of twelve letters or more which use all of the letters of BARCELONA? LEONARD BACON has

already been mentioned. INCOMPARABLE is an easy-to-find twelve-letter example, and the sixteen-letter CONVERSATIONABLE also exists. How many others?

Don't look in the back pages of this issue - the answers aren't there. These are meant to be open-ended exercises to keep you mentally occupied throughout the Olympic Games. You may appear to be a couch potato to the uninitiated, but your brain will be frantically ticking over, belying your demeanour.

REFERENCES

- W2 Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition
 W3 Webster's Third New International Dictionary
 TIG Times Index-Gazetteer
 CED Chambers English Dictionary
 OSW [Chambers] Official Scrabble Words
 OED The Oxford English Dictionary

IF I HAD A HI-FI

This is the title of a new (1992) book of sixty palindromic phrases, published in paperback for \$5.99 by Dell Books. The writer is William Irvine and the illustrator, Steven Guarnaccia, collaborators on the earlier (1987) Scribner's book Madam, I'm Adam. A sample of the goodies:

*Tru-Goy Yogurt
 Pamela's Ale Map
 Okie's Seiko
 Megawatt Ottawa Gem
 Stole Coyote Toy, Ocelots?*

Not all palindromes can be readily illustrated, and some you don't want to see (Irvine wisely omits SUPPOSITORY ROT: I SUP PUS). But the illustrated palindrome has been around for a long time; the earliest example I know of is Palindromes by G.P. Clarke (Glasgow, David Bryce & Son, 1887), which contains 32 examples of the genre.