

ELVIS FOR EVERYONE

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Elvis Presley died on 16 August 1977 - already fifteen years ago! In recognition of this anniversary, I have put together this short article built around the name ELVIS. One of Elvis Presley's record albums (circa 1965) was called "Elvis for Everyone!". It struck me that there was probably a logological slant to this album title, unbeknownst to Elvis Presley and the RCA record company at the time. What the album title really meant was that the letters of ELVIS could combine in turn with every one of the 26 letters of the alphabet in turn to form a valid word, name or term.

A sampling of my discoveries is revealed here. I have included obsolete spellings, geographic placenames, and telephone directory entries, just to give a feel as to the extent of the ELVIS trans-additions possible. Where a valid Websterian word is shown, I have not attempted to offer a complete list of the obsolete spellings and placenames for the added letter. I have included items which have the same sequence of letters but differ only because of the presence (or absence) of a capital letter, an apostrophe, etc. However, I have striven toward the magic figure of 26. There are no missing letters, although the V and Z examples are rather strained. The list contains exactly one hundred items. What additions? What improvements?

ALIVES (OED) in life, alive

AVILES (W3) debases, vilifies

A VILES (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form

ELVIAS (Rul) girls named Elvia (listed at Elva)

E VILAS (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form

LAIVES (W2) a variant of **laves**, remainders

SAVILE (Hyam) a surname of 14 notable individuals, the most recent being Burchier Wrey Savile, an English theological writer who died in 1888

SEIVAL (TIG) a place in Brazil

SILVAE (W3) treatises on the trees of a region

VAILES (W2) an obsolete spelling of **fails**, **vails**, **vales** and **veils**

VALISE (W3) a travelling bag

VASILE (TIG) part of the Rumanian placename **Vasile Roaita**

VLAIES (W3) temporary lakes

BEVILS (OED) the plural of **bevil**, an 18-19th century variant spelling of **bevel**, a mason's tool; also, a form of the verb **bevil**, an 18th century variant of **bevel**, to cut away or bring to a slope

- CLEVIS (W3) a U-shaped piece of metal acting as a connection
- CLIVES (W2) various plants such as the European agrimony and the common burdock
- CLIVES (RHD) boys named **Clive**
- VELICS (OEDS) upper parts of the soft palate facing the nasopharynx
- VESICL (W2) a reformed spelling of **vesicle**, a membranous cavity
- DEVILS (W3) malignant spirits
- DIVELS (W3) tears asunder
- SLIVED (W3) moved furtively, sidled
- VEILDS (OED) an obsolete Scots form of **wields**, brandishes
- ELVIES (Ru1) girls named Elvie (listed at Elva)
- IEVELS (OED) the plural of **ievel**, a 16-17th century Scots variant of **javel**, a rascal
- LEIVES (OED) the plural of **leive**, a 16th century Scots variant of **leave**, permissions granted to do something
- LEVEIS (OED) an obsolete plural of **leave**, dismissal (in a 1508 illustrative quotation "We suld ... gif all larbaris thair leveis, quhan thai lak curage")
- LEVIES (W3) assessments, duties, taxes
- LIEVES (W3) gladly, willingly, freely
- SLEIVE (OED) a 16th century Scots spelling of **sleeve**
- SLIEVE (EDD) a mountain
- VEILES (OED) the plural of **veile**, a 17th century spelling of **vail**, advantage
- VESELI (TIG) a place in Czechoslovakia
- LIFVES (Str) a 13th century genitive form of **life**, meaning "of life or lives" (shown at **lif**)
- GIVELS (OED) an obsolete verb meaning heaps up (only **givelled**, the past participle, exists); alternatively, occurrences of the word **givel** (citation form plural)
- V GILES (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form which occurs several times
- ELVISH (W3) mischievous, spiteful
- LEVISH (OED) an obsolete variant of **lovage**, a European herb
- SHEVLI (TIG) the name of a place and a river in the former USSR
- VISILE (W3) a visualizer
- J ELVIS (MTD) an initial-plus-surname form
- J LEVIS (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
- S VELJI (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
- VELJIS (LTD) persons bearing the surname **Velji**
- V JILES (LTD) an initial-plus-surname form
- KEVILS (W2) strong timbers for making fast heavier lines of a vessel
- KISLEV (W3) the third month of the civil year in the Jewish calendar
- LEVSKI (TIG) a place in Bulgaria
- SELVIK (TIG) the name of an inlet in Iceland
- EVILLS (OED) the plural of **evill**, a 14-16th century variant of **evil**, a wrong (in a 1590 illustrative quotation "Ther may uppon

- dyvers accidents ensue such and so great evils unto your
Majestie and Realme")
- SEVILL (OED) a 17-18th century spelling of **Seville**, a city and
province of Andalusia, Spain
- VEILLS (OED) an obsolete Scots form of **weals**, wealths
- VILLES (W2) cities, towns
- VELIMS (OED) the plural of **velim**, a 15 and 17th century spelling
of **vellum**, a kind of parchment (no illustrative quotations
actually include this plural form)
- VILMES (OED) the plural of **vilme**, an obsolete spelling of the
noun **film** (although **vilme** appears as a main entry in the OED,
no indication is given of this spelling at **film**)
- ELVINS (OED) the plural of **elvin**, an 18th century variant of
elvan, a type of rock of igneous origin
- ELVINS (Ru1) boys named Elvin
- LEVINS (W3) flashes of lightning
- LIVENS (W3) becomes more lively
- SELVIN (TIG) a place in Indiana
- SLIVEN (CED) a past tense of the verb **slive**, to slip
- SLIVEN (TIG) a place in Bulgaria
- SNEVIL (W2) an obsolete spelling of **snivel**
- SNIVEL (W3) to speak or act in a whining manner
- VILNES (OED) the plural of **vilne**, a 15th century Scots spelling
of **villainy**, evil or wrongdoing (no illustrative quotations
actually include this plural form)
- VILNES (TIG) a place in Norway
- VILSEN (TIG) a place in West Germany
- OLIVES (W3) fruits of the olive tree
- SOLIVE (CED) a joist or beam of secondary importance
- VIOLES (OED) violates
- VOILES (W3) fine soft sheer fabrics
- PELVIS (W3) a basin-shaped structure in the skeleton
- QVILES (Str) the plural of the noun **qvile**, a 15-16th century
spelling of **hwile**, itself an early form of **while**, a period of
time (shown at **hwile**)
- LEVIRS (W2) brothers-in-law
- LIVERS (W3) large glandular organs found in vertebrates
- LIVRES (W3) former French units of value worth a pound of silver
- RIVELS (W3) wrinkles, shrivels
- SILVER (W3) a chemical element
- SIRVEL (TIG) a place in India
- SLIVER (W3) a splinter, a fragment
- SILVES (W2) the plural of **silve**, an obsolete spelling of **self**
- SILVES (TIG) a place in Brazil; also a place in Portugal
- SLIVES (W3) moves furtively, sidles
- LEVITS (OED) the plural of **levit**, a 17-18th century variant of
levet, a trumpet call or musical strain
- VILEST (W3) most physically repulsive
- VILETS (OED) the plural of **vilet**, a 16th century variant of **violet**,

- a plant or flower of the genus *Viola* (in a 1598 illustrative quotation "Roses and viletts strowing")
- VI'LETS (OED) the plural of *vi'let*, a 17-19th century spelling of *violet*, a plant or flower of the genus *Viola* (in a 1697 illustrative quotation "He spoils the Saffron Flow'rs, he sips the Blues Of Vi'lets")
- VILTES (OED) the plural of *vilte*, a 13-15th century spelling of *vilety*, vileness (no illustrative quotations actually include this plural form)
- VITELS (W2) an obsolete spelling of *victuals*
- ELVIUS (Hyam) Peter Elvius was a Swedish mechanic and astronomer (1710-1749)
- VELIUS (Hyam) Theodore Velius was a Dutch historian and poet (1572-1630)
- VISUEL (W2) a visualizer
- VIVEL'S (TIG) the possessive form of *Vivel*, which occurs in the placename *Vivel del Rio Martin*, a place in Spain
- LEWIS V (Hyam) the title of two rulers: Emperor of Bavaria (1287-1347), King of France (967-987)
- SWIVEL (W3) to swing or turn
- WEVILS (W2) a variant spelling of *weevils*, beetles
- WIVELS (OED) the plural of *wivel*, a 16-17th century spelling of *weevil*, a kind of beetle (no illustrative quotations actually include this plural form)
- VEXILS (W2) large upper posterior petals in a pea flower
- VLIXES (EDD) the plural of *vlix*, a form of *flix*, the flax, *Linum usitatissimum*
- SIVYLE (W2) an obsolete spelling of *civil*
- ZLIVES (OED) the OED lists 'ZLIFE (note the leading apostrophe) at the main entry 'Z, and Z'LIFE (note the differently-positioned apostrophe) at the main entry ZLEAD. Disregarding the position of the apostrophe, ZLIFE is an exclamation meaning "God's life"); it could be argued that ZLIVES is the plural form, meaning "different occurrences of the exclamation ZLIFE"

REFERENCES

- W3 Webster's Third Edition
 W2 Webster's Second Edition
 CED Chambers English Dictionary
 EDD The English Dialect Dictionary
 Hyam A Dictionary of Universal Biography, by Albert Hyamson
 LTD London Telephone Directory, 1989
 MTD Merton Telephone Directory, 1990
 OED Oxford English Dictionary
 OEDS Oxford English Dictionary Supplement
 RHD Random House Dictionary
 Rul Name Your Baby, by Lareina Rule
 Str A Middle English Dictionary, by Francis Stratmann
 TIG The Times Index Gazetteer of the World