

# MAMMARY VOWELINDROMES

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The association between vowelindromes and the female breast, noted by Stephen Chism in the August 1993 **Word Ways**, is even more widespread than he realizes. Besides PAP and TIT, both part of the vowelindromes PAP-PEP-PIP-POP-PUP and TAT-TET-TIT-TOT-TUT, there exist BUB (a woman's breast) and DUD (a teat). The words in the corresponding vowelindromes BAB-BEB-BIB-BOB-BUB can all be found in the Oxford English Dictionary, and DAD-DED-DID-DOD-DUD in the English Dialect Dictionary.

Double vowelindromes are much harder to find, but even with the breast requirement I have found two:

BAAB a surname in the Vancouver TD

BEEB colloquial for BBC (Chambers Dictionary)

BIIB a fruit-dove of the Caroline Islands (Palauan)

BOOB a breast (Chamber's Dictionary)

BUUB to fly or run away (Somali)

TAAT to make rugs with tufts of hair (English Dialect Dictionary)

TEET old spelling of TEAT, a breast (OED)

TIIT Jamaican English variant of 'teeh' (Dictionary Jamaican English)

TOOT to go on a spree (OED)

TUUT in Tuut-Balyktaakh, a place in Russia (Times Atlas)

## ***A GAZETTEER OF POLITICAL ENTITIES***

*The area of the United States is divided into sub-areas in a three-level hierarchy: states, counties (or equivalents such as parishes, in Louisiana), and minor civil divisions (townships, villages, towns, boroughs, etc.). The names of these entities, some 45,000 in all, are given in the four-volume **American Places Dictionary** (Omnigraphics, 1994; \$350) edited by Frank Abate. Each entry is accompanied by information on 1980 and 1990 census population, land and water area, date of formation or incorporation, elevation, and name origin (if known). Entries are arranged hierarchically by county within state, and civil division within county, but an alphabetical index is provided as well. Note that unincorporated towns and villages are generally not listed, nor are geographic features (except a few of general importance); such names must be sought in the eleven-volume Omnigraphics **The Omni Gazetteer**, reviewed in Feb 1992.*