

KICKSHAWS

Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will appear occasionally.

Alphabetical Panama

A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL: PANAMA! Leigh Mercer wrote that immortal palindrome, but he could've written many others with the same structure. Here is a set of 26 PANAMA clones, each ending with a word beginning with a different letter of the alphabet. Except for those whose end-words start with vowels other than A, all the palindromes are A-univocalic like Mercer's. All the words, including PANAMA, appear in Webster's Second Unabridged (SAVAN, QASABA and XA below the line). All except the article A are nouns (some are proper nouns), and no word but A is repeated in different palindromes. Out of necessity, XA is repeated within its own palindrome. Oddly enough, the version ending with PANAMA makes the most sense. Three of its words (PAPAYA, YAPA and PANAMA) include tropical trees in their definitions. Here are the clones:

A CAB, A TAG, A GAT: ABACA!
 A TAL, A BAG, A MAGA: BALATA!
 A LAB, A CRAB, A BAR: CABALA!
 A RAMADA, A MAP, A MAA: DAMARA!
 A HAKE, A NAB, A CABANA: EKAHA!
 A FAN, A TAN, A TANA: FA!
 A LAG, A LAGAN, A KANA: GALAGALA!
 A BAHAR, A TAB, A BATARA: HABA!
 A LIP, A GAG, A GAP: ILA!
 A CAR, A RAJ, A BABA: JARARACA!
 A LAM, A KAS, A KASA: KAMALA!
 A MALAR, A PAX, A PARA: LAMA!
 A JAR, A HAMAL, A LA: MAHARAJA!
 A RAB, A NAP, A TAPA: NAGARA!
 A DOG, A CAT, A CAG: ODA!
 A MAN, A PAPAYA, A YAPA: PANAMA!
 A BAS, A QUAT, A TAU: QASABA!
 A MAR, A MARA, A BAA: RAMARAMA!
 A DAL, A STAB, A BAT, SALADA!
 A TAR, A TAM, A MA: TARATA!
 A CUR, A LASS, A LAR: UCA!
 A SAVAN, A MAT, A MANA: VASA!
 A RAM, A WAP, A PA: WAMARA!
 A XA, A XA, A XA: XA!
 A HAM, A YAM, A MAMA: YAMAHA!
 A RAP, A ZAP, A PAPA: ZAPARA!

Four Aces

There's a bug crawling around, looking for a way to achieve its fifteen famous minutes. Its name is Speovelia aaa, and its fame is four consecutive A's. Mark Isaak found the bug listed in an article titled "The Cavernicolous Fauna of Hawaiian Lava Tubes". The authors say it's notable for being the first known troglobitic heteropteran, but they don't even mention the four consecutive A's. The etymology given in the article says "The Hawaiian word for lava cave is 'a'a'a, 'geological structures used extensively by ancient Hawaiians for shelter, food storage, and for burial of persons of high rank.'" Note too that 'A'A'A is a multiple deletion of LAVA CAVE.

TGIFs For The People

Following up on the February Kickshaws, Oren Dalton came up with some new TGIF phrases. His are aimed at specific groups of people.

BLAST = Backup, Lilywhite, And Start Truckin' (truckers)
 RATTs = Rise And Try To Shine (patient parents to teenage children)
 REGRET = Rest's Ended, Gotta Rise Early Tomorrow (laid-back professors)
 WEGWET = Weekend's Ended, Gotta Wise Early Tomorrow (Elmer Fudd)
 TWOBAD = The Weekend's Over, Back Atit, Dude (street kids)
 GOBS = Get Outta Bed, Sailor (naval noncoms)
 OW!BOF = Only Wednesday? Bring On Friday (pugilists)
 OW!COPF = Only Wednesday? Come On, Friendly Friday (craps players)

Cleriwho?

Harry Partridge sent a few clerihews, and he asked "What should a writer thereof be called? Clerihewer? Clerihewist? Clerihewter?" He also sent some limericks, which makes him a Limericker.

Rembrandt van Rijn	Gerard ter Borch
Never visited Spain	Sketched himself eating pork
What I want to ask is:	Out of the Prince of Orange or
Was he jealous of Velasquez?	Somebody else's porringer.

Ferdinand II of Aragon	The River Ni
Wed Isabel the Castilian paragon.	In Virginia to the Po lies nigh.
When she died, le roi	In Italy the River Po
Married Germaine de Foix.	Has no Ni to lie nigh to, though.

Sir Walter Raleigh
 And Queen Bess never did dally,
 Although she thought he was a real nice bloke
 To do what he did with his cloak.

Hameed, the Mad Mullah of Merv,
 Would celebrate feast days with verve
 Till, disguised as a shrimp, he sky-dived from a blimp
 And became a gigantic hors d'oeuvre.

Numbered Letters

Fred Crane has an efficient method for using numbers to save space in spelling words: "I wou² like ² sug⁴ th² a great ⁴ of space in news⁶, mag⁶, and ⁵ could ² saved by substi⁶ digi² for eas³ guessable wor² or let⁴. Printers ³ read³ cou² m³ use ² a spec³ dict⁶ ² ⁵ like si²-ll, oq⁵, rav⁹, ³ trisl³, which, alth⁴ ³ easy ² gue², ³ more or ⁴ unambi⁵, for o² rea³ or ⁷."

One-Track Adjectives

Some adjectives are followed most of the time by only one specific noun. Fred compiled a list of them: PIED, NEAP, FELL, GRAVEN, FATTED, ARTESIAN, FOREGONE, BLITHERING. On reading them, I wondered how odd it would sound to match them up with other words. The result is this one-paragraph story called "The Neap Salesman":

One fell day, the neap salesman stopped at the graven house on the fatted end of the block. He knocked on the artesian door. The pied lady who answered bought everything in his suitcase. Overcome with gratitude, he said "Thank you for your blithering business". And he went on his foregone way.

Longfellow By Name

Fred recalls a name version of a short Longfellow poem. "Mary Had A Little Lamb, made up of people's names in the latest Kickshaws, reminded me of a poem I've been carrying around in my head ever since I read it in a kid's magazine. It may not be quite accurate after 55 years. Some of the credit goes to H.W. Longfellow."

Liza Greatman Al Remindus
Wee Ken Maker Livesy Blime,
Andy Parting, Lee B. Hindus
Footbrin Johnny Sands F. Time.

Fabricated Quiz

About the quiz that follows, Fred explains "A lot of fabrics take their names from the places where they were made or from which they were exported. But the English language always loved to naturalize the names of exotic places (e.g., Livorno, Italy becomes Leghorn). How many of these fabrics can you identify with the places for which they were named: buckram, calico, cambric, cashmere, chambray, damask, denim, fustian, jean, jersey, lawn, lisle, muslin, satin, shaloon, spandex, tulle, worsted?"

Self-Referential Sums Revisited

In the November 1994 Kickshaws, Monte Zerger noted that ONE + SEVEN both adds to eight and has eight letters; many such self-referential sums are possible. Leonard Gordon suggests a harder problem: adding or subtracting consecutive number words starting with ONE so that the

numerical sum equals the total number of letters. The only two sequences using 20 or fewer consecutive number names are ONE + TWO - THREE - FOUR + FIVE = 1 and ONE + TWO - THREE - FOUR + FIVE - SIX + SEVEN + EIGHT + NINE - TEN + ELEVEN + TWELVE - THIRTEEN - FOURTEEN = 5 (other sequences of plus and minus signs are possible). Alternatively, Leonard allocates the number names ONE through FIFTEEN, ONE through NINETEEN and ONE through TWENTY to the two sides of a mathematically-correct equation in which also the number of letters on the left equals the number of letters on the right:

ONE + FOUR + SEVEN + TEN + ELEVEN + THIRTEEN + FOURTEEN = TWO + THREE + FIVE + SIX + EIGHT + NINE + TWELVE + FIFTEEN

ONE + THREE + FIVE + SEVEN + NINE + SIXTEEN + SEVENTEEN + EIGHTEEN + NINETEEN = TWO + FOUR + SIX + EIGHT + TEN + ELEVEN + TWELVE + THIRTEEN + FOURTEEN + FIFTEEN

ONE + THREE + SIX + NINE + TEN + TWELVE + THIRTEEN + FIFTEEN + SEVENTEEN + NINETEEN = TWO + FOUR + FIVE + SEVEN + EIGHT + ELEVEN + FOURTEEN + SIXTEEN + EIGHTEEN + TWENTY

Of course, the number of letters no longer agrees with the mathematical sum.

Lee Sallows has constructed an alphamagic square of self-referential sums. The numbers and the letters total to 33 when added horizontally, vertically or diagonally:

THREE + FOUR + SEVEN
ONE + TWO + SIX
THREE + SEVEN

TWO + FIVE
ZERO + TWO + NINE
ZERO + ONE + FOURTEEN

ONE + FOUR + SEVEN
TWO + THREE + EIGHT
ONE + SEVEN

Equilateral Number Words Revisited

Equilateral number words, introduced in the last Kickshaws, are numbers spelled with the same number of letters. ONE, TWO, SIX and TEN is an equilateral set. An equilateral set can be either self-referential (the number of members is a member of the set) or self-enumerating (the number of members is equal to the number of letters in a member). As shown before, the thirteen-member set of eight-letter number words is self-referential. Monte Zerger notes that, if ZERO is included as a number word, it goes in the set ZERO, FOUR, FIVE and NINE which makes this set both self-referential and self-enumerating (four members, four letters).

Starring Robert Trebor

In reply to my query about actor Robert Trebor in the May Kickshaws, O.V. Michaelsen offers this info: "He starred in the 1950s film *Face of Fire*; in the 1970s and 1980s he worked as an announcer for Pacific Bell (directory assistance) and KGO radio in San Francisco. He hosted a talk show on the same station during the period under the name Bob Trebor, and used his palindromic name in Hollywood."

The Real Name of the King's Dog?

The May Kickshaws also carried a nursery rhyme with a question in it and some possible answers. In the rhyme, two kings meet. One has a dog, and the other wants to borrow it. "There's the dog, take the dog," says the one king, and the other asks "What's the dog's name?" The first king says "I told you already."

Frank Rubin says that it's stated clearly in the first line quoted above: the dog's name is Take. When I read his letter, I had my doubts; Take doesn't sound like a dog's name. Then Peter Newby sent a letter containing a lot of information about the secrets behind nursery rhymes which convinced me that Take is probably right:

British nursery rhymes tend to be satirical verses with convoluted symbolism as in the case of *The Cow Jumped Over The Moon*. This was an ironic comment on the court of Queen Elizabeth I, she being the cat who fiddled, and each other character a member of her court. As far as I can recall, the dish (who ran away with the spoon) was one of her favourites (such as Essex) who escaped from her amorous designs by eloping with another lady. A much later verse, *Ring a Ring o' Roses*, refers directly to the Great Plague which first manifests itself as a red ring around the neck to be followed by sneezing, then death (all fall down). Your riddle verse strikes me as being yet another of these. The king meeting a king in a narrow lane seems a curious venue for a royal diplomatic meet, and to go hunting with a doe rather than for a doe is curious to say the least. If such is the case, then one should not look for a childish answer but, rather, explore the history of the period when the verse was written and not expect to find a nice, easy answer along the lines of *As I Was Going To Saint Ives*, which has a mass of detail confusing the listener, who then fails to realise that the answer is "one"! However, if you want yet another possible solution, read the whole thing in a Cockney accent and discover the phrase "Tyke the dog"!

April Showers and Other Names

Jay Ames notes April Showers in a Toronto telephone directory, matched by the more fanciful *Aprile Schauers* in a Philadelphia one. The latter also contain the matched pair *Rainbeau Smith* (male) and *Rainbow Smith* (female). And how about *Cistine Chappelle*, *Jesus DeChristo* and *Nazzareno DeJesus*, all of whom were mentioned in a Toronto newspaper?

Batman Forever: A Wordplay Review

At last a movie in which the wordplay is better than the plot itself! The story pits Batman and Robin against two foes, Two-Face and The Riddler. During the course of the movie, The Riddler (aka Edward Nygma) leaves four riddles for Batman (aka Bruce Wayne). After solving them, Batman has to figure out what they mean as a group. Unbeknownst to the Caped Crusader, they conceal the Riddler's secret identity. Can you equal Batman's dexterity at logology by answering the riddles separately and then figuring out how they go together to answer the big puzzle?

(Hint: you can solve the secret identity without answering the riddles.)

Count the numbers on my face. You won't find thirteen anyplace.
Tear me off and scratch my head. What once was red is black instead.
The eight of us go forth, not back, to protect our king from the foe's
attack.
We're five little items of an everyday sort. You'll find us all in a
tennis court.

Plurality of Meaning

Peter Newby's Pears Advanced Word-Puzzler's Dictionary states that XENIA, the supposed influence of foreign pollen upon that pollinated, has as its plural XENIUM. But XENIUM, a present given to a guest or stranger, has as its plural XENIA!

MG v GM; VC's CV

Peter suggests making palindromes using the initials of groups, companies, organizations, etc. He notes that the concept "is bedevilled by the fact that we have differing acronyms either side of the pond but here are two which make sense to the Brits. MG is a British car marque, and VC a holder of the Victoria Cross."

Palandromes

In an earlier Word Ways, AND was mentioned as a difficult word to include in a palindrome. Regarding this, Peter writes "Ignoring the ploy of using its D as a pivotal letter, ..AND NA.., the only 'solution' that suggested itself to me was to contrive DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) into all manner of 'running back again' statements. However, I have just seen the 'missing link' CLIODNA! Apparently, it is a female's given name of which I know but one example, Dr. Cliodna McNulty, a microbiologist at the Gloucester Royal Infirmary. True, one has to construct 'dromes whereby such females have ..AND OIL C.. at some point in their sagas. But is CLIODNA a common enough name for palindromists to employ? Do readers know of any other females? Better still, do they know of any other DNA words?"

Though not as common as the redoubtable EDNA (who sinned with Dennis), CLIODNA joins the ranks of OTIS, EMIL, ADAM, EVE and other characters who've walked back and forth on the palindromic stage. KIDNAP also reverses DNA. To fit it into a palindrome, I used ASA, the first name of a professor at the University of Iowa: A SAP AND I KIDNAP ASA. As for CLIODNA, she is a daredevil trapeze artist in the following: NO NETS? A HAND OIL? CLIODNA, HASTEN ON!

Palindddromes

Susan Thorpe, answering Peter's challenge to write palindromes with three or more consecutive letters in them, sent ones for L, G and D:

DILL LID (top of a pickle jar?)

O, MINOR EGG, GERONIMO (someone who dislikes large eggs?)
 ODD 'DO' (leading to a bad hair day?)

To this I add BAT AT A BAA! A BAT, A TAB and KNOCK CAT, SEE (PURR!)
 RUPEE STACK--CONK! Examples now exist for A,B,D,E,F,G,I,L,O,R,S,T.

Pals On Ice, Starring Anissina

Susan found more wordplay in the world of sports: "Did anyone notice the fascinating names sported by certain contenders in the 1995 World Ice Dance Pairs Championship held in England in March? They relegate the tennis SELES and her ilk to the sidelines. The female half of the French pair was M. ANISSINA, but she and her logologically inferior partner, G. Peizerat, were up against severe competition by way of the crowd's favourites, the Finnish pair SUSANNA Rankamo and Petri KOKKO."

Elemental Extractions

Elemental symbols have been used to form words before, but Susan has mixed the elements in a new way. An elemental extraction is a word made of elemental symbols whose capital letters and small letters taken as consecutive strings spell two smaller words. She emphasizes that they're not easy to find (PUNCE, meaning "punch", is below the line in Web 2).

CHoIr = CHI + or	CONiEs = CONE + is	HoArSe = HAS + ore
CoRnY = CRY + on	StEarINeS = STAINS + ere	PoUNCeRs = PUNCES + or

The Hidden Element

The name of one element appears as an unbroken string in the names of four other elements. Which is it, and what are they?

Shy About It

Susan writes "There exists a two-word phrase which embodies a nine-letter palindromic sequence. It is presented for outstanding achievement in a range of activities. What is it?" Why is the title relevant?

From Headline to Palindrome

The Iowa City Press-Citizen had this headline in its sports section recently: WEST NETS TENNIS TITLE. Reading it in reverse, I noticed it might fit into a palindrome. I tried it out and came up with the surprisingly natural-sounding line PUN: WEST NETS TENNIS TITLE, FELT IT'S IN NET'S TENT SEWN UP. Can you work a longer one into a palindrome?

Suggestive Deletions

In *Language on Vacation*, Borgmann discussed synonymic deletions in which removing letters from a word results in a smaller word with the same meaning. In his example ContAiNer, the two words are not really synonymous. Instead of that requirement, the form should permit anyh meaningful relationship: synonymic, antonymic, or merely suggestive.

Here are some examples (the last four in reverse):

beLIEve	DEtErMine	detectAPhone	petrOchemIcaL	abSolutELY
cARToon	poSITION	pLagIarizE	PRelIMinARY	poSitivELY
NoUgaT	suPerFLUous	LOnlineSS	iLlumInaTed	benEVOLent
PAssaGE	suPeRiOr	pLagIARist	sCholArSHip	culTuRAL

Class Multiple Deletions

A class multiple deletion results in two or more words that fit into the same category but may or may not relate in meaning to the host word. COMMUNICATORIALLY (an inferred adverbial form of communicatory) is one: dropping certain letters results in four new words, each referring to places where people live. NOTHINGNESS deletes to four words closely related to it. USHERS, noted by Richard Lederer, deletes to five pronouns in solid strings uninterrupted by blanks. SMITHERY, by Peter Newby, deletes to eight pronouns.

COMMUNICATORIALLY	NOTHINGNESS	USHERS	SMITHERY
COMMUNI T Y	NOTHING	US	S HE
CO UN TR Y	NO N E	SHE	M Y
CO UN T Y	NOT	HE	I
C I T Y	NO	HER	IT
		HERS	THE Y
			TH Y
			HE
			HER

James Cook, Lexicographer

"It has recently come to my attention," Ben Pewtery writes, "that when Captain Cook first observed a large marsupial bounding along in the Australian bush he turned to a native guide and enquired as to the name of this curious beast. Cook diligently recorded the native's reply of 'kangaroo', totally oblivious of the fact that this translates as 'don't know' in Abbo. That being the case, I wondered if the great navigator was the unknown Englishman who posed the question to a luscious member of a Persian harem as to what was the magic word which captivated her lord and master, evoking the noted reply A BRA, CAD, A BRA!"

O.J. Wordplay

Early in the Simpson trial, the lawyers were discussing how to share a meager supply of hair samples. Judge Lance Ito asked if the prosecution would be cutting the samples with a scissors to divide them. Prosecutor Marcia Clarke replied "Yes, your honor, we will be splitting hairs."

Recently a CNN panel was discussing the strike by thirteen members of the jury. They wondered how Judge Ito would deal with it. John Burse, one of the panelists, said that the strike was good for the jurors, adding that "It gives the jurors an opportunity to lance the boil".

One evening on Larry King Live, Andrea Ford of the Los Angeles Times, speaking of the trial, said "The jurors like Kato Kaelin. It's difficult not to dislike him." I agree. In fact, I don't doubt that it isn't hardly impossible.

Right now, David Letterman is discussing the trial on the tube. He just asked whether the jurors should be forbidden to watch television and whether they should be allowed to have videotape programs instead. He also asked whether Simpson is the "most valuable player" in the trial and he invited America to answer. Here's my initial interpretation of what he said: ABC PM MC: "KO TV? OK VCR? OJ MVP? RSVP, USA".

Dole Makes White House Run

The line above is another Hydra Headline. This one can be interpreted in dozens of different ways, ten of which appear here. (It shouldn't be hard to figure out the real synopsis of the story.)

- 1 Sen. Robert Dole hits a homer during the annual senatorial baseball game on the White House lawn
- 2 Sen. Dole announces he is running for president
- 3 Sen. Dole enters a charity race called The White House Run that begins at the Senate Office Building and ends at the White House
- 4 Sen. Dole throws a party featuring an ice sculpture of the White House, which he partially melts with a candle so the sides run with streams of water
- 5 Sen. Dole visits the White House and accidentally trips Hillary, causing her to get a run in her stocking
- 6 A dole (grant of government funds) beefs up the Secret Service to help keep the White House running
- 7 A dole (used sarcastically) collected to cover Clinton's legal fees enables him to carry out his presidential duties
- 8 The welfare dole gives the White family enough gas money to run their mobile home
- 9 The Dole Pineapple Company confronts Clinton about his threat to raise the pineapple tax, and the president retreats
- 0 The Dole Pineapple Company delivers pineapples (makes a run) to the White House

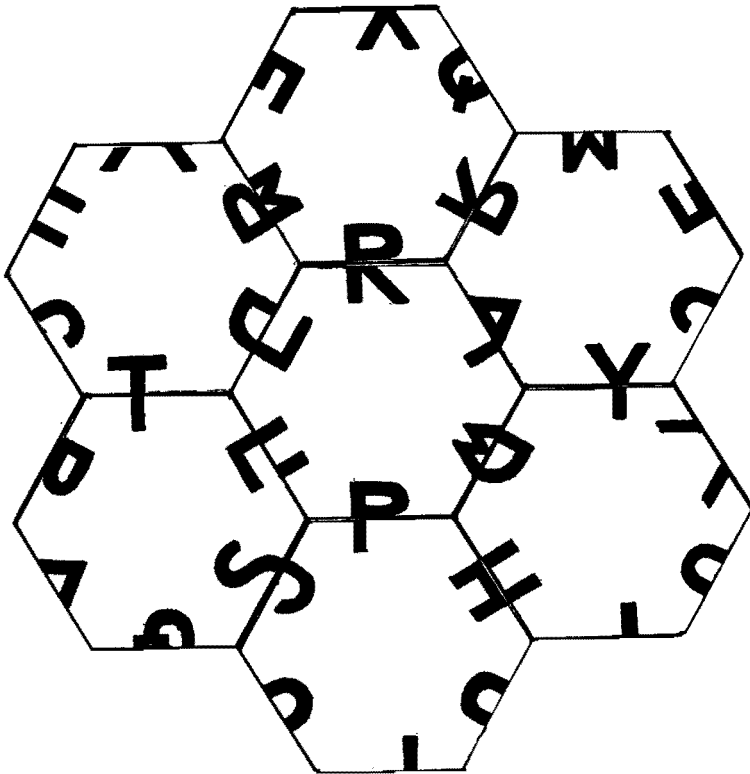
The New Chevy Open House

This phrase popped up in a local commercial. When I first heard it, I thought that the Chevrolet company had named their latest large-sized convertible the Open House. That suggested other possibilities:

- The Ford Billboard (has big bumpers for lots of stickers)
- The Mercury Thermometer (doesn't look that great, but its heater and air conditioner are the best available)
- The Chrysler Gyp (a lousy car with an honest name)
- The Pontiac Pushover (so light you can parallel park by getting out and shoving it sideways)
- The Buick Weight-Watcher (half as wide as a normal car)
- The Chevrolet Werewolf (a slow car, except at full moon)
- The Volkswagen It (a thing that defies description)

Seven Puzzling Hexagons

The hexagons below can form letters of the alphabet when the correct sides are placed next to each other. As they are now arranged, they show the letters T,R,Y,S,P,H which invites you to TRY Seven Puzzling Hexagons. To solve the puzzle, rearrange the hexagons in the same pattern to form a letter at every adjacent side for a total of twelve different letters. Then rearrange them again to find an additional twelve letters, all different from the first set, for a total of 24. As you work the puzzle, you'll run across some of the non-letters. They have been included for your viewing pleasure.



Swinging Singles Riddle

If you go to a DISCO DANCE, you'll rock to the sound of music, some of which might have a lot of dissonance. DISSONANCE rhymes with DISCO DANCE. Can you add a letter to DISCO DANCE to make a synonym of DISSONANCE?

Drink Up

NOGGIN in Webster's Seventh Collegiate has three definitions: (1) a small mug or cup, (2) a small quantity of drink, (3) a person's head. With such definitions, one could say that A NOGGIN OF NOGGIN COULD GO TO YOUR NOGGIN. Equally interesting is the fact that NOGGIN splits into two other drinks, NOG and GIN. Do any other words split into pairs of related words that are not directly related to the host word (as TAXI and CAB are to TAXICAB)? One that works this way is CRACKPOT, which

splits into CRACK and POT, slang terms for a type of cocaine and for marijuana.

Pig Latin Epic

Pig Latin is an oral language code that many children learn and that you probably know. Do you know of any others? Are there any books or articles that discuss Pig Latin? On rare occasions, a movie character will speak it. For instance, in an old Little Rascals program, the kids say "Ouyay ashway othesclay" meaning "You wash clothes". At least two Pig Latin words have become commonly used as words in their own right--OFAY and AMSCRAY. (The first is listed in Webster's Seventh Collegiate.) The Pig Latin word for POEM suggests that poets should receive money for their work: POEM = OWE 'EM? PAY! The following poem is offered at no charge. The rhymes are Pig Latin.

As I was walking on the beach, each bay
Was sunny, and I tried to reach each ray.

I found some gold. I thought that more ore may
Be hidden. In the ancient lore, ore lay

On islands where the farmers hold old hay
In caves that wind around the bold old bay.

A map had shown the ancient wits its way
To treasures buried in the pits: its pay

Was large enough to fill a bin in bay.
By silent night, or by the din in day,

I vowed that I would search the sand and say
That I would find the golden land and lay

Within the cave. I'd cook some meat, eat. May
The horses join me in the heat, eat hay,

And gallop to the ocean's springing spray,
Until I see my fortune's ringing ray.

With luck, I'll find the places. Aces play
A lucky hand. Ten paces? Aces pay.