## FAMILIARITY BREEDS CONFUSION

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Here's a game to whet your appetite, or (great expectorations!) wet your appetite for spelling challenges.

243

The phrases below may be as familiar to you as your old stamping (or is it stomping?) grounds, but when it comes to spelling them, you may be in dire straights (or is it dire straits?). Like the cat that ate cheese and then breathed into the mousehole, I'm sure you're waiting with baited breath (or should that be bated breath?) and chomping (or perhaps champing?) at the bit. May your answers and mine jibe (or maybe jive?) completely so that you don't miss by a hare's breath (hare's breadth? hair's breath? hair's breadth?).

For each phrase that follows choose the preferred spelling. Answers are in Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue.

- 1 all in vain/vane/vein 2 anchors away/aweigh 3 beyond the pale/pail 4 bloc/block voting 5 champing/chomping at the bit 6 a ceded/seeded player 7 declare marshal/martial law 8 dire straights/straits 9 doesn't faze/phase me 10 fow1/foul weather 11 a friend in deed/indeed 12 a full complement/compliment of 13 give free rein/reign 14 grin and bear/bare it 15 a hair's/hare's breath/breadth 16 hail/hale and hearty/hardy 17 to have a flair/flare for 18 it doesn't jibe/jive 19 just deserts/desserts 20 a matter of principal/principle 21 might/mite and mane/main 22 the old stamping/stomping grounds 47 test one's metal/meddle/mettle 23 on the lam/lamb 24 peak/pique/peek one's interest 25 pi/pie in the sky
- 26 pidgin/pigeon English
  - 27 plain/plane geometry
  - 28 pore/pour over an article
  - 29 praying/preying mantis
  - 30 rack/wrack one's brain
  - 31 raise/raze Cain/cane
  - 32 reckless/wreckless abandon
  - 33 rapped/rapt/wrapped attention
  - 34 reek/wreak/wreck havoc
  - 35 right/rite of passage
  - 36 a seamless whole/hole
  - 37 a shoo/shoe -in
  - 38 sic/sick the dog on someone
  - 39 sleight/slight of hand
  - 40 sound bite/byte
  - 41 spit and/spitting image
  - 42 stanch/staunch the flow
  - 43 strike a responsive cord/chord
  - 44 swear like a trooper/trouper
  - 45 toe/tow -headed youth
  - 46 toe/tow the line

  - 48 to the manor/manner born/borne
  - 49 wait with bated/baited breath
  - 50 whet/wet your appetite