

KICKSHAWS

DAVID MORICE

Iowa City, Iowa

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

Beatleverse

To quote one of their songs, "It was twenty years ago today, when Sergeant Pepper taught the band to play," and to quote a title, the Beatles finally did "Come Together". The televised Beatles Anthology chronicled the "Fab Four's" rise to rock immortality, showed the impact they had on contemporary music, and thrilled their fans.

This poem is written to celebrate their reunion. It's composed of 68 titles of Beatles songs. Can you identify all the songs? Before reading it, pick a Beatles album, tape, or CD, pop it in your music-maker, and let the good rock roll!

Rock and Roll Music! What goes on?
 Strawberry Fields Forever!
 Fool on the hill, here comes the sun--
 Day tripper, come together.

Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds,
 We can work it out.
 Why don't we do it in the road?
 Honey, don't twist and shout.

Dear Prudence, do you want to know
 A secret? I feel fine.
 You really got a hold on me.
 Let it be good day sunshine.

Sexy Sadie, don't pass me by.
 Slow down. You've got to hide
 Your love away. I will drive my car.
 I'll get you a ticket to ride.

Martha, my dear, I am the Walrus.
 I want you. Hold me tight.
 She came in through the bathroom window.
 Help! A hard day's night.

Eleanor Rigby, all my loving,
 I want to hold your hand.

Wait! She loves you, Sgt. Pepper's
Lonely Hearts Club Band.

Lovely Rita, I want to tell you
Every little thing.
I'm happy just to dance with you,
Girl, and your bird can sing.

Michelle, I wanna be your man.
Love you to ask me why.
It won't be long. I call your name.
I need you. (No reply.)

Lady Madonna, I'm a loser,
Tell me what you see.
"Nowhere Man, I've just seen a face.
Get back. Don't bother me."

Tomorrow never knows the end
Yesterday, Mr. Moonlight.
Eight days a week I call your name.
I'll follow the sun: Goodnight.

Computerized Palindromic Slide Rule

Two issues ago, the Palindromic Slide Rule appeared on the back cover of **Word Ways**. It was made of strips of paper with reversal words on them. The strips could be cut out and moved to make ten thousand palindromes. Oren Dalton wrote a computer program to manipulate versions of the strips on the screen. His program does two things that the paper version doesn't. As he describes it:

First, the strips of words had begun life sliding as pairs of nested parentheses. It struck me that the program could be used for other things if they could be moved independently, so I included two modes: paired and independent motion. Second, it was now necessary to include a write capability, to change or add words.

Oren has offered to share it: "This is freeware, if anyone wants it. I wouldn't mind copying half a dozen discs, 3 1/2 or 5 1/4, if they are formatted and accompanied by a SASE." Send formatted discs and return envelope to Oren Dalton, PO Box 4435, El Paso TX 79914.

Real-Life Wordplay

Rex Gooch sent a few observations on the humorous use of language in England and elsewhere. Among them:

- * My friends recently visited Peniscola in Spain: that is what the brochure and the map called it. It took a postcard to spoil the fun, since it revealed the tilde over the 'n': Peñiscola.
- * There is a new initiative here [in England] called the National Strategy for Police Information Systems. If the authorities follow

their previous rules for abbreviations, this will be called NatSPIS!

* A long-established organisation of IT service providers called the CSSA has just replaced its head. Doug Eyeions has given way to Rob Wirszycz (pronounced "Veersits"). Said one director: "He's got the one thing we really need in a new director general--consonants. We've had a surfeit of vowels with Eyeions. With Wirszycz we only get one."

* Brian Johnston was a well-known cricket commentator. Among the many tributes some people recalled highlights of his career:

When the West Indies were playing England: "The batsman's Holding, the bowler's Willey"

Neil Harvey [Australia] standing "with his legs wide apart waiting for a tickle"

Glen Turner was hit in the groin but carried on: "One ball left" said Johnston, wishing to inform his listeners that five or seven balls had already been bowled

Dos and Don'ts

The following poem by Stephen Sniderman shows the quirks of spelling versus rhyming:

BUT and
BUTT sound alike
But
BUTT and
BUTTE don't

But
BUTTE and
BEAUT do

But
BEAUT and
BEAU don't

But
BEAU and
BOW and
BO do

But so do
BOW and
BOUGH

Do not!
Do so!

But
DO and
SO

Don't

But
SO and
SOW and
SEW do

But
SEW and
NEW don't

But
NEW and
KNEW and
GNU

FLU and
FLEW and
FLUE

SUE and
SIOUX (and
SOU?)

YOU and
EWE and
YEW (and HUGH?)

DEW and
DUE (and
DOUX and
DIEU?)

Do.

Numero Logy

Stephen also wrote a poem about the curious relationships between number words and numbers.

Odd that
Odd has an
Odd number
Of letters.

It's bad enough that
Twelve
Has 6 and
Six has 3.

Even odder that
Even has an
Even number.

Worse that eighteen
Has 8 and
Four has 4.

Aren't you glad that
Ten and two and one
Have 3 and
Nine and five
Have 4 and
Eight
Has 5 and
Eleven
Has 6?

If seven had
7
We'd probably
All go
Mad.

Too much
HARMony could
Tip the
Balance.

Mirror-Letter Palindrome

In the last Kickshaws, one item illustrated Ross Eckler's IVY MOUTH WAX, a phrase composed of the eleven letters symmetrical on a central vertical axis. David Armstrong describes a palindrome he wrote: "This reminded me of a contest in Games Magazine [August 1983] offering a prize for the longest sensible palindrome using only those eleven letters. I won the prize with the following palindrome, preceded by a little story to provide a setting within which it makes more sense than it would strictly on its own."

Jimmy and Mia, in a Toyota showroom, dislike the shoddy tatami mats which are being used to protect the floor mats. Jimmy urges his friend to vent her displeasure by throwing one at the nearest car:
AIM A TOYOTA TATAMI MAT AT A TOYOTA, MIA.

Self-Referential Sentences

"Self-referential sentences," David writes, "are logical nonsense, reminiscent of the famous barber who shaves every man who doesn't shave himself, or Bertrand Russell's more abstract class of all classes that are not members of themselves. However (or perhaps hence), they can be amusing. The first of those given below is an ancient and anonymous invention; the others are my modest contribution to this genre."

This sentence no verb
In this sntnc, th " "s hav all bn dltd
If you copy this sentence, be sure to omit " "

If you copy sentence, all words that are underlined

Computer Transposal Test

In the "Transposal Test" in the last Kickshaws, I selected 26 words from the dictionary and anagrammed them into whatever I could within a minute of shuffling Scrabble tiles. Mike Morton used a program to anagram some of the same words, and he came up with several alternatives. Some of them make very funny phrases, and one funny one, that for IMPRUDENCE, makes perfect sense, too.

BARBARISM Mars rabbi
 CAPITOL optical, topical, coal pit, oil pact
 DEVASTATION invade toast
 EDUCATION action due, audit once, a coed unit
 IMPRUDENCE prime dunce
 LAMBKIN I'm blank
 MALCONTENT no calm tent
 PERMAFROST pot farmers
 UNDERFOOT to founder
 XYLOPHONE help yon ox

Schnames

While looking up a name one evening, I came across SCHWICKRSTH, an eleven-letter surname with only one vowel. Ross looked it up in the national telephone directory, and it wasn't listed--no doubt a typo.

I mentioned the name to Jay Ames, and he looked through the SCHs in his trusty Toronto phonebook to see if he could find any univowel words. He found 90 of them, ranging from five to eight letters. Below is a selection of the six- and seven-letter ones. Jay included "whatever English meanings I can dredge up from my WWII days as a POW camp dolmetscher (dollymixer as it was Hobson Jobsoned)." Does any other trigram begin so many univowel names or words?

SCHANDL shame? SCHILDT shield SCHIMPF curse SCHLICHT smooth
 SCHMIDT smith SCHMITT smith SCHMITTS smith SCHMITZ smith
 SCHNARR rattle SCHARFF sharp SCHLAFF sleep SCHLEGL mallet
 SCHLICK mud SCHNALL buckle SCHNAPP snap SCHOLTZ ? SCHRANZ ?
 SCHRECK fright

A Passel of Oddities

Jay sent what he calls "a passel of oddities." He writes "RUTI ROTI is from Finnish 'ruit' (dry) and Hindi 'roti' (bread), together reading as 'dry bread' of course. A HUGE LUGE is a giant sled. A TROLL STROLL suggests a leprechaunic hike, which makes a TROLL'S TROLL a fishing trip (for the same wee folk) and a TROLST ROLL a bagel sans lox for a member of the same mob.

"Things I ask myself in the wee small hours: Can Rambo rumba? Did Rimbaud ever? Do you call Big Sur 'your highness' or 'your honor'? Is

Stew Mulligan a renegade Irish cook in the Army? Were Bo Sun and Lee Ding Seemun kicked out of the Swiss Navy for interfering with aquabelles and buoys? Is Perry Scope an ace U-Boat commander? Does he have a brother Telly, an astronomer? Or one named Proctor, an ace 'fundamental researcher'? And how about Sybil Cervantes--a 'gummint clerk'? Marshall Laws, a gung-ho peace ossifer from the Sayouth? Tommy Gunn, a mobster hitman? Tommy Hawk, an ace axeman off the reservation? Or Dennis Raquette, a 'court pro'?"

Toise Voise or Woise

Jay wrote the following pair of poems that play with spelling:

Few Welsh in trwth can play the crwth
And fewer strum the zither,
So how come Welsh girls eyes an' lips
Are so full o' come hither?

Spare a thought for Swearin' Sam
Borned and rizz in Alabam'.
His words wuz wurze than this yere vurse--
He died, while blastin' on a dam.

Protozology

The Brits spell AMEBA as AMOEBA, the form in which Peter Newby submitted the following:

Said the AMO EBA, "I've got a splitting headache!"
As the amoeba said, "My foot hurts--that's mitosis!"
O AMEBA! The Yanks always take the greater share!
A. Moe, B.A., the first of the higher protozoa?

Tic Tac Tic

Peter writes that there's a British beef extract marketed in a cube under the name OXO, and that their delivery trucks are emblazoned with OXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXO.

Pronunciation Poem

In this poem, Peter used the curious British pronunciation of some proper nouns for the rhymes.

Jack and Jill announced their espousal
Following a holiday in Mousehole.
This came as a blow to Barbie
Who submitted to Jack in Derby;
She saw what few men saw,
That romance is possible in Edensor.

He explains the place names: "Mousehole (pronounced 'mousal') is a famous village in the southwest of England. We Brits pronounce Derby as

it was originally spelt (Darby) in such classics as *The Boke of St. Albans*. Edensor, a small village in the middle of Chatsworth Park, Derbyshire, which has had such distinguished visitors as the great President Jack Kennedy who made a pilgrimage to his sister's grave in Edensor churchyard, is pronounced 'ensor.'

The SATOR Square on TV

In a recent show of "Tales from the Crypt" a fortune teller tried to call up the spirit of a man who'd perished by falling down an elevator shaft. The magic words she used, spoken slowly in the proper gypsy accent, were the Latin "Sator opera tenet arepo rotas" which form the oldest-known word square.

A Becoming Line

In reference to the "Advertising Wordplay" Kickshaw in the last issue, Charles Suhor writes "This one reminds me of a greeting card to my wife, circa 1961, before our first daughter Yvonne was born: 'It's becoming apparent that you're becoming a parent. And it's becoming!'"

New Recruits to the ABC Club

Susan Thorpe discusses ABC words: "Membership of the ABC Club is restricted to those words which begin with the letters ABC. So exclusive is it that, to date, the following are the only members to have revealed themselves through the pages of *Word Ways*: ABCE, ABCEE, ABCAREE, ABCIE, ABCDARIAN, ABCEDIREN and ABCOULOMB, the biological words ABCAULINE, ABCHALAZAL and ABCISS, and the place names ABCHASIA, ABCO and ABCOUDE ("The ABCs of Logology" by Dmitri Borgmann, *Word Ways* February 1988). In May and August of 1988, Sir Jeremy Morse and Darryl Francis respectively added ABCHURCH (the name of a lane in London) and ABCOTT (a place in Shropshire on the River Clun). Also in May 1988, Harry Partridge pointed out that the paucity of ABC words is due to the prefix ab invariably taking the form abs when it occurs before the letter c. Even so, it seemed to me that there must be other ABCs hiding away somewhere. And indeed there are! In addition to reminding ourselves that ABC is a noun in its own right, may I introduce the ABC Club's three new recruits ABCHASOHELA (a mollusc), ABCICHTHYS (a fish) and ABCRANA (a beetle). They reside in *Nomenclatur Zoologicus*.

Symbolic Shift

Susan has discovered an unusual lettershift: "Shifting the letters of the word ELEMENTS fifteen steps along the alphabet arranged in a circle (A following Z) produces TATBTCIH, at first sight nothing more than an unpronounceable string of letters. But wait! Capitalized as TaTbTcIH, it becomes a series of elements and a truly self-descriptive letter-shift! The elements, in order, are Ta tantalum, Tb terbium, Tc technetium, I iodine and H hydrogen."

State Shifts

The names of the states don't result in any full lettershifts, but some states produce curious partial shifts. In the five that follow, the first three have pairs of words related in meaning, and the fourth has a string of all five vowels.

CONNECTICUT	HAWAII	TEXAS	WISCONSIN
....CAR....	PIE...	ALE..	IUEOA....
.....GAS.	...GOO	..RUM	

Demi

"A female orator, for example, is either an ORATRESS or an ORATRIX" writes Ben Pewtery, "yet the female of the REP (a disreputable man) is a DEMIREP. Other than DEMI MOORE (a female Moore), I know of no others for which DEMI- is a feminine prefix. Are women of dubious morals (or, those allegedly so) unique, or do your readers know of any similar cases?"

O.J. Seuss

This parody combines a statement made by O.J. Simpson in the trial of the century with a well-known poem by the best-known children's writer of the century, Dr. Seuss. M. Christopher Cotting transmitted it over the Internet, the speediest communication medium of the century. The prose introduction and the poem follow.

After months of silence, O.J. finally spoke at the trial. His words to Judge Ito: "I did not, could not and would not have committed this crime." Seems with a little help from Dr. Seuss and a bit more time, he and Judge Ito could have extended this statement. Ito's words are in caps, O.J.'s in lower case.

DID YOU DO THIS AWFUL CRIME?
DID YOU DO IT ANYTIME?

I did not do this awful crime,
I could not, would not, anytime.

DID YOU TAKE THIS PERSON'S LIFE?
DID YOU DO IT WITH A KNIFE?

I did not do it with a knife.
I did not, could not, kill my wife.
I did not do this awful crime.
I could not, would not, anytime.

DID YOU LEAVE A POOL OF BLOOD?
DID YOU DROP THIS BLOODY GLOVE?

I did not leave a pool of blood.
I cannot even wear that glove.
I did not do it with a knife.
I did not, could not, kill my wife.
I did not do this awful crime.

I could not, would not, anytime.

I do not like green eggs and ham.

I do not like them, Sam I am.

149th Street

In a much earlier **Word Ways**, Dmitri Borgmann listed forty alternative spellings for Chicago that he'd found in various references. Talwrn Court in Iowa City more than triples Chicago's record. Fred Crane lived on that street, pronounced TAL-run, for 25 years. Soon after moving there, he noticed that people had a hard time spelling it, so he kept track of the different misspellings he'd received in the mail. By the time he moved, he had 148 on his list. This selection of 25 shows the variety of variants.

Calvin	Tallwon	Tallworm	Talwrnee	Twitt
Falwrn	Taiwan	Tallwrench	Taturn	Txlwrn
Iolwin	Talcum	Taln	Tellrone	Walwrn
Palwin	Tall Run	Talwrn	Tlaolvwern	Yalwrn
Ralarn	Tallurn	Talwing	Trailwend	7alwrn

Jokes in One Syllable Words

"It seems that wit needs long words," Fred Crane wrote in his article on one-syllable words in the last issue. To test his theory, I rewrote four well-known jokes in monosyllables. Now aren't they every bit as funny as the originals?

- * You who serve food, what does this fly do in my soup? It does the breast stroke
- * What's black and white and red on all of it? The news on tree pulp
- * What time is it when the clock strikes twelve plus one? Time to get it fixed
- * Why did the chick cross the road? To get to the far side

Reversal Abbreviations

Max Maven sent a list of abbreviations that reverse to other abbreviations. He notes that "of course, there are plenty that are palindromic to begin with: AAA, BAB, a/k/a, Ala., ARA, ATA, CBC, HRH, KKK, OEO, PCP, SDS, SOS, WCW. Nevertheless, here are a few that come to mind (ignoring two-letter examples as they're simply too easy)."

NBC National Broadcasting Corporation CBN Christian Broadcasting Network
 MDA Muscular Dystrophy Association Adm. Admiral
 MIA Missing In Action AIM American Indian Movement
 PAC Political Action Committee cap. capitalized
 IRS Internal Revenue Service SRI Stanford Research Institute
 LED Light Emitting Diode Del. Delaware
 MVD Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs DVM Dr. of Veterinary Medicine
 ATM Automatic Teller Machine MTA Massachusetts Transit Authority
 MOR Middle Of the Road ROM Read-Only Memory

RAM Random Access Memory Mar. March
 PST Pacific Standard Time tsp. teaspoon
 DUI Driving Under the Influence IUD IntraUterine Device

E Marks the Spot

In the last Kickshaws, I discussed the letter X as a contronym and gave several examples. Max suggests some other contronymic letters. All but "procreation" and "empty" are supported by entries in the Random House Collegiate Dictionary, Revised Edition (1988):

E is a mathematical representation for a particular decimal number that is endlessly long, hence it is full; E on an automobile dashboard means empty

E is the notation in football for end; E is the marking of building plans stands for entrance

E can be used to denote English, the dominant language of the western world; E on a compass stands for east

E is often used by teachers as a notation for excellent work; E is often used by teachers as a notation for failing work, and in baseball for errors

F is often used by teachers as a notation for failure; F is a slang verb for procreation ("scoring")

I is the Roman numeral for one; I is the mathematical notation for an imaginary number

N is a notation for birth, a beginning; N is a contraction of "and", a continuation

N is used in dictionaries to identify a type of word (a noun); N is used in various technical contexts to identify a number

P is often used by teachers as a notation for a passing grade; P is often used by teachers as a notation for poor work

P in physics is a notation for force (power); P in music is a notation for softness (pianissimo)

New X-Words

There are more X-words around. In addition to the F-word and the N-word, discussed in the last Kickshaws, four new ones have surfaced. In addition to X-word itself, here are the new ones (there can be only 19 more!):

* I suggested a Christmas project to my son's first-grade teacher. She said she liked the idea, but "we can't use the C-word in public-school classrooms."

- * Jeff Grant sent a Far Side cartoon depicting a group of people at a party. One of them says in a word balloon "Of course, there's a mathematical model that one can utilize when these same socioeconomic trends are...duh...applied." The caption at the bottom reads "Suddenly the Mensa partygoers froze when Clarence shockingly uttered the 'D' word."
- * Janet Neuhaus said that sometimes activists in women's rights have used "M-word" to refer to marriage.
- * Mike Royko, in a recent column, discussed Ann Landers's use of the word Polack in reference to the Pope. Royko said "True, she spoke admiringly of him and clearly thought the P-word was merely a harmless piece of slang, not a world-class ethnic slur."

The license plate on Jeff's car is XWORDS. He writes "People are quite pleased when they think they've worked it out [to be] CROSSWORDS, but actually it has several other meanings to me: words containing the high-scoring letter X, useful in Scrabble; words starting with X, as in the 3200+ examples in my X-lexicon; ten (Roman X) words, the number needed for a ten-square. The main meaning for me, though, is a verbal play on words: XWORDS = WORD'S IN XS (words in excess)."

No C in Sea

Steve Chism composed this poem about the ironies of sound and spelling in English:

No "C" in "Sea", no "I" in "Eye", there is no "Q" in "Cue".
 Many's the letter left out of its spell
 For saying too smugly "No 'A' in 'Hell'!"

Two Charade Poems

Steve made the following pair of poems by stringing charades together:

A frozen Afro-Zen Pen	Irene wed. I renewed!
Is Ideas exchange;	Deb to Wed:
Penis idea: Sex change!	Debt owed.
Deter Gents now here...	To get her together, man goes.
Detergents Nowhere.	Mangoes Now Here. Nowhere Ma.
Not raining? No training?	Ladies Maladies: one ache
Though tho' rough	On each "E"...
[If you don't like it,	'Tis Sue's Tissues--
Well that's just tough!]	Poe? Try Poetry!

Box in a Box in a Box

Sometimes an essay or a story has a quote in it. The quoted text is a box within a box. It can get carried to extremes. For example, take the following:

"Sally was standing in the long dim hallway. She held an envelope in her trembling hands. Taking a deep breath, she opened it, removed the letter and read:

"Your library book is overdue. One of our patrons wants to read it. In case you don't remember, it's called A Leaf Without a Tree and it begins:

"It was windy in the woods. Tom stood beneath the only tree that still had a leaf on it. He took out his notebook and wrote:

"Summer is almost over. If the last leaf could speak, it would probably say:

"Sometimes an essay or a story... [go back to the first paragraph above]

Hyphens to Betsy!

Clifford Goldstein is a hyphen revivalist. In *The Parched Soul of America*, his volume of "Christian poetry," he attacks President Clinton with a unique I-love-to-tap-on-the-hyphen-key-on-my-typewriter style. Imagine finding this in your political fortune cookie:

A draft-dodging, drug-exhaling, sodomy-protecting, shady-dealing, tax-raising, child-exploiting, baby-killing, feminists-pandering, religion-robbing, military-reducing womanizer becomes Commander-in-Chief.

While eleven hyphenated words appear in Goldstein's fourteen-word sentence, only the final word has more than one hyphen. Goldstein is merely an amateur. The Daily Iowan newspaper showed what world-class hyphenation really looks like with a thirteen-words-in-one construction in this subheading of an article on holiday shopping: The We've-only-been-dating-for-a-little-while-and-I-don't-know-if-I-want-to-invest-the-time-and-money-to-get-a-personal-gift Gifts.

Sign Diego

Most zoos have signs asking visitors not to feed the animals or throw things at them. The San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park have the ultimate in zoo signs. In one fell swoop, the sign tells all: Please Do Not Annoy, Torment, Pester, Plague, Molest, Worry, Badger, Harry, Harass, Heckle, Persecute, Irk, Bullyrag, Vex, Disquiet, Grate, Beset, Bother, Tease, Nettle, Tantalize, Or Ruffle The Animals.

The Trigger Variations

At Donutland, I ordered a doughnut that the waitress didn't think looked very good. "That's okay," I said, "it'll taste good." She replied "Whatever toasts your turtle." For a moment I was puzzled. Then I realized that the phrase sounded like another I'd heard: "Whatever trips your trigger." I asked her if she'd made it up, but she said she'd heard it somewhere. Then she proceeded to name other phrases like it, and I wrote them down. She said she didn't make any of them up. Are there any other examples of slang phrases that have so many spin-offs?

Whatever...

trips your trigger	toasts your turtle	smokes your shorts
slips your groove	turns your knob	shoots your wad
pounds your nail	floats your boat	sheds your skin
flicks your Bic		

Gone Ghotiing

In *Lion Hunting & Other Mathematical Pursuits* (The Mathematical Association of America, 1995), Ralph Boas talks about contriving words based on unusual sound and letter correspondences such as George Bernard Shaw's famous GHOTI. Boas writes "The spelling GHOTI for 'fish' is well known (GH as in 'laugh', O as in 'women' and TI as in 'nation'). I produced (not original with me) GHOUGHPTHTEIGHTTEEAU for 'potato' (GH as in 'hiccough', OUGH as in 'though', PPTH as in 'phthisis', EIGH as in 'neigh', TTE as in 'gazette', EAU as in 'beau'). Ralph retorted with GHGHGH for 'puff' (GH as in 'hiccough', as in 'Edinburgh' and as in 'laugh')."

It sounds like GIGF ("jive") talk to me (G as in "region", IG as in "sign" and F as in "of") Do you have any Shaw spellings to contribute? Send them to CCOQPSHOUGHZZ (CC as in "hiccough", O as in "women", Q as in "Iraq", PSH as in "pshaw", OUGH as in "fought", and ZZ as in "razz").

The Heart of Logology

In response to my request for a statement on wordplay, Lee Sallows wrote the following:

At the heart of logology is a search for arresting coincidences. A string of letters may form a sentence. A string of letters may be centro-symmetric. When a string answers to both these descriptions we have a palindrome, a structure simultaneously satisfying the two separate constraints. The same principle goes for anagrams, acrostics, lipograms, and so on through a hundred forms of wordplay. Obsessional seeking for ever more "magical" or polydeterminant structures of this kind is what makes logologists tick. Why is this so? My guess is that under evolutionary pressure the human brain has become super-sensitive to coincidence, since concurrent events so frequently signal a common cause. Being aware of causal relations in the environment aids survival. Thus, logologists are just victims of natural selection, as are we all.