

OF KANGAROOS AND JOEYS

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Being a marsupial, a mother kangaroo carries her young in her pouch. Kangaroo words do the same thing: within their letters they conceal a smaller word that means the same as the fully grown word. The smaller synonym I call a joey, the name of a kangaroo's offspring. The joey must be the same part of speech as the mother kangaroo, and its letters must appear in order. Buried inside a CATABOMB is the joey TOMB. A PLAGIARIST is a kind of LIAR. Now watch your mind BLOSSOM and, therefore, BLOOM.

Lederer's Law of Kangaroo Words mandates that the letters of the joey must not be entirely adjacent. That is, like a kangaroo novice, each joey word must take at least one hop. Although we find a STORY in HISTORY, ART in a CARTOON, and a RIM in PERIMETER, they are not true kangaroos because all the letters in each joey are adjacent. Lederer's Law, then, excludes the likes of exIST, inTOXICated, fACTUAL, CAVERN, BLOTch, beLATEd, enJOYment, abERRANT, and umpteENTH.

A closely related corollary to Lederer's Law is that mother and joey should not be etymologically related in an obvious way. Applying this ruling is a subjective procedure, but I believe that most logologists would find little pleasure in alternative versions of the same morpheme, as in PRIMordIAL and PRIMEvAL. Lederer's Corollary bars specimens such as AMICABLE, ARMamentS, CONTRAdICTORY, CIRCumambuLAtE, CLEANsED, DEFINITivE, DisEmBARK, EQUitAbLe, HYPERbolE, IMAGinING, INcAPABILITY, MARkeT, NESTLED, OBLIGatED, PANTaloonS, PARTIALLY, PLATtEr, PRATtLE, REVOLuTion, SATiatE, SPIATTER, SPIUTTER, TECHNologicAl, and TRUSTworthy.

Among the most satisfying of kangaroo words are those that conceal multiple joeys. Open up a CONTAINER and you get a CAN and a TIN. When you have FEASTED, you ATE and have FED. When you DETERIORATE, you ROT and DIE. A ROUTINE is both ROTE and a RUT. Brooding inside LONELINESS are LOSS and ONENESS.

A CHARIOT is a CAR and a CART. Within the boundaries of a MUNICIPALITY sit CITY and UNITY, while a COMMUNITY includes COUNTY and CITY, as well as the solids UNIT and UNITY.

PERAMBULATE yields RAMBLE, within which hides AMBLE--almost a joey within a joey but for the unbroken march of AMBLE. Within JOVIALITY grins JOLITY and within JOLITY, JOY--but JOLITY is such an

archaic spelling of JOLLITY that we simply can't have archaic and eat it too.

I have sighted two supreme multi-generational kangaroo words--FRANGIBLE, within which is tucked the kangaroo/joey FRAGILE, within which hides the joey FRAIL, and EXPURGATED, which transports the kangaroo/joey PURGED, which itself totes the joey PURE.

ENCOURAGE is an especially beguiling kangaroo because it gives birth to the joey URGE and its opposite, ENRAGE. From the verb FEAST issue EAT and its opposite, FAST. These examples invite exploration of kangaroos that conceal their own opposites, such as FRIEND, AVOID, INTIMIDATED, GULLIBLE, PATRIARCH, and DEIFY. I invite Word Ways readers to build this genre.

Having considered multiple joeys from one kangaroo, let us identify another rare species that reverses the process, one in which two or more kangaroos give birth to the same joey. Both POSTURED and POSITIONED yield POSED. Both IRRITATED and INFURIATED conceal IRATE. JOLLITY and JOCULARITY are kangaroo forms of JOY, PLAYFULNESS and FACETIOUSNESS forms of FUN, and EXHILARATION and EXULTATION forms of ELATION.

From both LIGHTED and ILLUMINATED glows LIT. In both OBSERVE and SPECTATE we see SEE. JOINED and CONFEDERATED become ONE. FORMALITIES and CHRISTENINGS are RITES. Things BROBDINGNAGIAN and LUMBERING are BIG. TRANSGRESSION, PERVERSIONS, and MISDOINGS are kinds of SINS.

Hiding in NOUGAT and NEUROTIC are two different NUTS. We EAT when we FEAST and BREAKFAST. That which has been PURGED and PASTEURIZED is PURE. UNISON, JUNCTION, CONJUNCTION, UNIFICATION, and COMMUNICATION all make a UNION. To EXPOSTULATE and STIPULATE is to STATE. To be STEALTHY, SLIPPERY, or SLINKY is to be SLY. To BROADCAST BOMBAST is to BOAST a BOAST.

LIES and DEAD seem to me to boast the greatest number of marsupial mothers. LIES lies in FALSITIES, FALSIFIES, FALLACIES, CALUMNIES, PLAGIARIZES, HYPERBOLIZES, and RECLINES. DEAD sleeps in DECEASED, DEPARTED, DEACTIVATED, DECAYED, DECIMATED, DECAPITATED, DETERIORATED, DISINTEGRATED, and DESICCATED.

ABSOLUTELY and POSITIVELY both resound with a YES, but the letters are reversed. TRIALS proved to be the most frustrating of joeys. TRIBULATIONS and TRAVAILS come so close but for a single letter reversal, while TRIBUNALS is not quite a synonym.

Thus far, 76 authentic marsupial words have bounded across this article. Uncover the joeys hiding in each of the additional 100 kangaroo words that now follow. The babies are tucked away in the Answers and Solutions pouch.

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| 1 accurate | 35 exorcise | 68 precipitation |
| 2 appropriate | 36 fabrication | 69 prematurely |
| 3 arena | 37 facade | 70 prosecute |
| 4 astound | 38 fairy | 71 quiescent |
| 5 barren | 39 fatigue | 72 rampage |
| 6 barricaded | 40 flounder | 73 rascalion |
| 7 because | 41 flourishing | 74 recapitulate |
| 8 bedraggled | 42 forbiddance | 75 regulates |
| 9 blackhearted | 43 foundation | 76 rendition |
| 10 burst | 44 fountain | 77 respite |
| 11 chicken | 45 fulminate | 78 rotund |
| 12 chocolate | 46 healthier | 79 salvage |
| 13 clue | 47 himself | 80 scion |
| 14 combination | 48 honorable | 81 secure |
| 15 compadres | 49 hostelry | 82 separated |
| 16 complemented | 50 impair | 83 slithered |
| 17 contaminate | 51 incommunicative | 84 splatter |
| 18 conveyance | 52 indolent | 85 split |
| 19 curtail | 53 inheritor | 86 splotch |
| 20 deliberated | 54 instructor | 87 splutter |
| 21 destruction | 55 investigate | 88 steamy |
| 22 determine | 56 knapsack | 89 stockings |
| 23 devilishly | 57 latest | 90 stricken |
| 24 disappointed | 58 lonely | 91 strives |
| 25 discourteous | 59 masculine | 92 struggled |
| 26 displeasure | 60 matches | 93 superfluous |
| 27 disputation | 61 misinterpret | 94 supervisor |
| 28 earlier | 62 myself | 95 tolerate |
| 29 elevate | 63 nourished | 96 twitch |
| 30 entwined | 64 petrochemical | 97 variegated |
| 31 evacuate | 65 pinioned | 98 welded |
| 32 evidenced | 66 playfellow | 99 wriggle |
| 33 exhausted | 67 powder | 100 yearning |
| 34 exhortation | | |