HEAVYWEIGHT TERMS

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In the May 1995 Word Ways, I offered a list of words having weights 1 to 250. The weight of a word is calculated by setting A=1, B=2, and so on, and summing the various letter values. For example, the weight of the word DOG is 26, the sum of 4, 15 and 7.

Several readers contributed to the August 1995 issue and extended my list of words. Weights ran from 251 (ANTHROPOMORPHOLOGICAL) up to 354 (RADIOIMMUNOELECTROPHORETICALLY). How could I extend the list further still, beyond 354? The clue to ever-heavier offerings lay in a letter from Christopher McManus. He had worked with a variety of computerised word-lists, and sent me extensive lists of heavy words. Included in his lists were a number of multiword terms (for example, dictionary entries such as TELEGRAPH TRANSMITTER, placenames such as SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, geographical features such as KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, and personal names such as CHRISTIAN MORGENSTERN).

Multiword terms was the key to extending the list of heavyweights. I could use all manner of lengthy terms, most of which would generate very high weights. Book titles, film titles, proverbs, quotations, names of organisations and educational institutes were all fair game, as long as they appeared in a reasonably accessible reference work. I also decided to use the names of several reference works well-known to Word Ways readers. Sources I used are detailed in the brief bibliography.

Armed with the principle of how to extend the previously-published lists, I decided to create a list of terms with weights running from 350 to 500. In calculating weights, note that no distinction is made between capital letters and lower-case ones, and spaces, hyphens, apostrophes and the like are ignored (treated as having zero weight). I have many examples stretching up through the 500s and 600s, but the list is too full of gaps to make it worth publishing. I have no doubt that the gaps can be filled, but I leave the compilation of a complete list from 501 to 700 (say) to some other reader!

350 carbon tetrachloride extinguisher
351 University of Massachusetts
352 General and Municipal Workers Union
353 straight-line-frequency condenser
354 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
355 oscillator-mixer-first detector
356 Fort Sumter National Monument
357 voice-frequency carrier telegraphy

358 parliam
359 The Pla
360 Webster
361 quarter
362 frequency
363 Lawrence
364 infection
365 The Inc
366 meter-k
367 hexamet
368 constant
369 transverse
370 How the
371 hystere
372 Departme
373 beyond
374 New Yor
375 The Ox
376 Herbert
377 Fellow o
378 beta-pa
379 Pennsyl
380 point-tou
381 Illinois
382 Denver
383 San Fran
384 transverse
385 methoxy
386 methyl-
387 solid-ele
388 semicircle
389 single-pa
390 short-circ
391 business
392 Great St
393 Dorlands
394 Kennedy
395 Member o
396 Fellow o
397 Young W
398 Holy Tri
399 The T
400 Youngst
401 Funk an
402 National
403 Fellow o
404 Internati
405 The Oxfo
406 Royal Co
407 Meadville
408 Fellow o
having weights \( w_1 = 1, w_2 = 2 \), and so the weight of

and extended (LOGICAL) up to extend the list

lay in a variety of heavy words. Enums (for example, KINGS CANYON)

would generate outputs, names of heavyweights. I also decided to Word Ways

many times, as long as I also decided to Word Ways

gaps from 501 to
National Association of Rudimental Drummers
Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve
International Federation of Free Journalists
Bethany Lutheran College and Theological Seminary
Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English
antiballistic missile early-warning system
Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Otis Art Institute of Los Angeles County
Kansas City Art Institute and School of Design
International Automobile Sports Federation
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire
Mutual Fire Insurance Association of New England
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
The Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies
Mari Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
Antifriction Bearing Manufacturers Association
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language
Moscow Institute for Complex Automation
Webster’s Third New International Dictionary
International Association of Microbiologists
Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
International Union of Pure and Applied Physics
Pan-American Institute of Geography and History
Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary
National Industrial Recovery Administration
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland
Advertising Typographers Association of America
Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive
International Association for Hydraulic Research
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Graduate School of Education, Harvard University
Iowa State University of Science and Technology
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Fire Equipment Manufacturers Institute of Canada

Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged Edition
(Random House, New York, 1965)

Normal and Reverse English Word List (Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1963)