

# HEAVYWEIGHT TERMS

DARRYL FRANCIS

Sutton, Surrey, England

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 parliamentary private secretary  
359 The Playboy of the Western World  
360 Websters New Collegiate Dictionary  
361 quarter-wave transmission line  
362 frequency-response characteristic  
363 Lawrence Institute of Technology  
364 infection-exhaustion psychosis  
365 The Incarnation of Krishna Mulvaney  
366 meter-kilogram-second-ampere system  
367 hexamethyleneamine-salicyl-sulfonic  
368 constant-luminance transmission  
369 transverse-beam traveling-wave tube  
370 How the Rhinoceros got his Spots  
371 hysterosalpingo-oophorectomy  
372 Department of Health Education and Welfare  
373 beyond-the-horizon transmission  
374 New York Susquehanna and Western  
375 The Oxford Dictionary of New Words  
376 Herbert Hoover Presidential Library  
377 Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine  
378 beta-parahydroxy-phenylpropionic  
379 Pennsylvania State University  
380 point-to-point radio communication  
381 Illinois Institute of Technology  
382 Denver Museum of Natural History  
383 San Francisco Conservatory of Music  
384 transverse-field traveling-wave tube  
385 methoxy-cyclopenteno-phenanthrene  
386 methyl-phenylquinolin-carboxylic  
387 solid-electrolyte tantalum capacitor  
388 semiconductor integrated circuitry  
389 single-phase synchronous generator  
390 short-circuit-current-amplification  
391 business interruption insurance  
392 Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
393 Dorlands Illustrated Medical Dictionary  
394 Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
395 Member of the House of Representatives  
396 Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons  
397 Young Women's Christian Association  
398 Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary  
399 The Tunnying of Elynour Rummyng  
400 Youngstown State University  
401 Funk and Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary  
402 National Transportation Safety Board  
403 Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh  
404 International Society for Cell Biology  
405 The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations  
406 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons  
407 Meadville Theological School of Lombard College  
408 Fellow of the Royal Historical Society

- 409 Chambers Dictionary of Science and Technology
- 410 short-circuit driving-point admittance
- 411 weld-on surface-temperature resistor
- 412 The Pennsylvania State University
- 413 International Publishing Corporation
- 414 Metal Building Manufacturers Association
- 415 Air Force Director of Research and Development
- 416 National Environmental Satellite Center
- 417 When the Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square
- 418 International Commission of Jurists
- 419 International Distillers and Vintners
- 420 Royal Institute of British Architects
- 421 search for extraterrestrial intelligence
- 422 Lutheran Deaconess Mother House and School
- 423 Websters New International Dictionary
- 424 National Bureau of Standards Graduate School
- 425 Fulton Montgomery Community College
- 426 United States Naval Postgraduate School
- 427 United States Veterans Administration
- 428 Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 429 United States Figure Skating Association
- 430 Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
- 431 South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
- 432 Council for the Protection of Rural England
- 433 United States Bureau of Labor Statistics
- 434 laparohysterosalpingo-oophorectomy
- 435 American Newspaper Publishers Association
- 436 New York City Nursing Home Association
- 437 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
- 438 Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture
- 439 International Association of Volcanology
- 440 Exhibit Producers and Designers Association
- 441 National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- 442 conductivity-modulation transistor
- 443 Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
- 444 Viscount Henry John Temple Palmerston
- 445 Northwest Mississippi Junior College
- 446 International Air Transport Association
- 447 Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- 448 Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
- 449 Student Non-violent Coordinating Council
- 450 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 451 Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order
- 452 Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers
- 453 Websters Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary
- 454 American Institute of Steel Construction
- 455 Fellow of the American Institute of Architects
- 456 The Northeast Mississippi Junior College
- 457 United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation
- 458 Philippine Tourist and Travel Association
- 459 International Association of Tool Craftsmen

- 460 National Association of Rudimental Drummers
- 461 Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve
- 462 International Federation of Free Journalists
- 463 Bethany Lutheran College and Theological Seminary
- 464 Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English
- 465 antiballistic missile early-warning system
- 466 Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers
- 467 Otis Art Institute of Los Angeles County
- 468 Kansas City Art Institute and School of Design
- 469 International Automobile Sports Federation
- 470 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- 471 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
- 472 Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society
- 473 Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors
- 474 Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire
- 475 Mutual Fire Insurance Association of New England
- 476 Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
- 477 The Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies
- 478 Mari Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
- 479 Antifriction Bearing Manufacturers Association
- 480 The Random House Dictionary of the English Language
- 481 Moscow Institute for Complex Automation
- 482 Websters Third New International Dictionary
- 483 International Association of Microbiologists
- 484 Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery
- 485 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- 486 Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
- 487 International Union of Pure and Applied Physics
- 488 Pan-American Institute of Geography and History
- 489 Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary
- 490 National Industrial Recovery Administration
- 491 Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland
- 492 Advertising Typographers Association of America
- 493 Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive
- 494 International Association for Hydraulic Research
- 495 Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- 496 Graduate School of Education, Harvard University
- 497 Iowa State University of Science and Technology
- 498 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- 499 Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- 500 Fire Equipment Manufacturers Institute of Canada

Abbreviations Dictionary, International Edition (Constable, London, 1969)  
 Everyman's Dictionary of Fictional Characters (Dent, London, 1973)  
 Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged Edition  
 (Random House, New York, 1965)  
 Normal and Reverse English Word List (Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1963)  
 (includes Chambers Technical Dictionary, Dorlands Illustrated Medical  
 Dictionary, Graf's Modern Dictionary of Electronics, Henderson's A  
 Dictionary of Scientific Terms, Webster's New International Dictionary,  
 Second Edition)