

KICKSHAWS

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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. His e-mail address is David-Morice@uiowa.edu.

WOOD WORK

In response to the Robert Frost poem "Stopped By Hoods on a Snowy Evening" in the last Kickshaws, Jan Anderson writes "Your poem...is so clever it's a real pity you misread 'woods' as 'hoods' and missed the whole point of Frost's wintry golfer's lament, 'Topping With Woods on a Snowy Evening'" Here's the corrected version:

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His caddy's in the clubhouse, though.
He will not see me stopping here
To swing his woods in falling snow.

My charged-up golf cart thinks it queer
To stop without a green blade near,
Between the trap and frozen lake,
The coldest, wettest time of year.

I'll give this two-wood just one shake
To knock off every frosted flake.
The only other sound's a shout
of "Fore!" Another nut's mistake.

These woods are lovely, there's not doubt.
But I've no other clubs about,
And miles to go til I hole out,
And miles to go til I hole out.

THE STATE OF THE CITIES

Junior Cities are cities named after their states (Iowa City IA), and Illegitimate Cities are those named after states other than their own (Michigan City IN). Dan Tilque searched for more examples of the juniors. He writes "I found 23 places (some are way too small to be called cities) in the US not counting New York (see next page). All can be found in the current Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide. The reason New York was excluded is that its name technically

does not contain the word 'City'. Instead it belongs to a more exclusive set of places where the city name is exactly the same as the state name. I know of only two other members of this group and neither appears in current references. One is Oklahoma OK, the original name of Oklahoma City; the other is Wyoming WY, a place that can be found in the Century Atlas of the World, 1897. As far as illegitimate cities, I haven't done a search, but off the top of my head there is Kansas City MO, Nevada City CA, Virginia City NV, and Arkansas City KS. There's also a small community here in Oregon (not very far from where I live) called Kansas City. An international illegitimate city is Panama City FL."

Alabama City AL (Etowah)
 [annexed to Gadsden 1932]
 Arizona City AZ (Pinal)
 Arkansas City AR (Desha)
 California City CA (Kern)
 Colorado City CO (Pueblo)
 Delaware City DE (New Castle)
 Florida City FL (Dade)
 Idaho City ID (Boise)
 Illinois City IL (Rock Island)
 Iowa City IA (Johnson)
 Kansas City KS (Wyandotte)
 Maryland City MD (Anne Arundel)

Minnesota City MN (Winona)
 Mississippi City MS (Harrison)
 [annexed to Gulfport]
 Missouri City MO (Clay)
 Montana City MN (Jefferson)
 Nebraska City NB (Otoe)
 Ohio City OH (Van Wert)
 Oklahoma City OK (Oklahoma)
 Oregon City OR (Clackamas)
 Tennessee City TN
 Texas City TX (Galveston)
 Virginia City VA (Wise)

One Junior City on the list is located in a Junior County (Oklahoma). Iowa has both Iowa City and Iowa County, but the city isn't in the county.

A few years ago a friend of mine wanted to organize a group of people to go on a world tour of the Midwest--that is, he had a list of countries that were the names of cities. The only one I remember is Cuba MO; there must be many others.

SEEING THE SIGHTS

While on the topic of city names, I once drove past a town in Missouri named Peculiar. I screeched on my brakes and turned around to see what it looked like. It was small, with houses, trees, and other things. The only place open was the supermarket. In the parking lot, three carloads of Peculiar kids were meeting for some Friday night fun. Illinois, on the other hand, has a city named Normal. There should be a sightseeing bus that takes visitors from Normal to Peculiar.

SPORTING KANGAROOS

Jed Martinez has a follow-up to Richard Lederer's Kangaroo Sports Challenge in the last Kickshaws: "Lederer didn't list all the professional sports teams that are kangaroo words with a second team as a joey. Even though the Washington REDSkins is an unacceptable answer, another team conceals the name of the REDS properly, namely the Detroit

RED wings. But, more surprisingly, of the answers listed (the majority contained NBA teams) I'm amazed that Richard left out the Seattle SuperSonics which holds the name of the Phoenix Suns." In fiddling around with all these team names, I've come across one team kangaroo that contains a team joey when read backwards. Can you name them?

GAMES TV SHOW ANAGRAM CONTEST

In April 1996 Games Magazine sponsored a contest called "Scrambled Signals" in which contestants submitted anagrams of TV show titles. The winning entry was FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR = FINE RAP BRO FEELS RICH. Jed Martinez was one of ten runners-up with THE TONIGHT SHOW BY JAY LENO = LATE HIT; HE'S GOT WIT...JOHNNY WHO? Jed sent in more than 50 different TV show anagrams. Here's a sampling:

SEA HUNT = TUNAS, EH?

I DREAM OF JEANNIE = O, A FREE JINNI DAME

THE ODD COUPLE = COOP HELD DUET

THE HONEYMOONERS = HEY, E. NORTON'S HOME

ASTRO BOY = SAY "ROBOT"

THE DATING GAME = ANA MIGHT GET ED

M*A*S*H = SHAM

BOSOM BUDDIES = USED DIM BOOBS!

POLICE SQUAD = I'D EQUAL "COPS"

SECRET AGENT = TARGET SCENE

AS THE WORLD TURNS = HE'D SWORN LUST (RAT!)

EARTH TWO = HOT WATER

DALLAS = ALL SAD

MANNIX = NIX, MAN

TAXI = AX IT!

THE DEAN MARTIN SHOW = MOST RANT: "HE HAD WINE!"

HONEY WEST = WHY NOT SEE?

GARGOYLES = ROYAL EGGS

CAPTAIN VIDEO = I, PAID ACE ON TV

WAGON TRAIN = NOW, RATING "A"

THE PATTY DUKE SHOW = O, WHAT KEPT DUET SHY?

TALE SPIN = 'TIS PLANE

ROSEANNE = RE: SANE? NO!

BARNEY MILLER = RELIABLE "MR. NY"

TINY TOON ADVENTURES = O, NUTTIER TV? YES--AND NO!

STEVEN SPIELBERG'S ANIMANIACS = I SEE ANIMALS SPAN BIG TV
SCREEN

AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS = I'D AIR SCENE OF ME (IN VHS)
TO AMUSE

ONE LIFE TO LIVE = FEELIN' TOO EVIL

ROMAN NAMERALS

Jed writes "I was watching my local TV news, and as they were interviewing a resident from Coral Springs, they flashed his name

briefly on the screen: VIC VIDDI! 'What a rarity,' I thought. 'How often do you see a name that's comprised entirely of Roman numerals?'"

SQUARE ROOT WORDS

EIGHTY-ONE and ONE HUNDRED are square root words--that is, the number of letters in the word is the square root of the number expressed by the word. Are there any other square root words? Cube root words? Fourth root, etc., words?

TRIANGULAR WORD LINES

Write the number words in triangular form, one line at a time, with one letter in the first line, two in the second, and so on. When a line begins and ends with unbroken number words (even one word), then it is a triangular word line. In the first eight lines, there are exactly two triangular ones: o, ne, TWO, thre, efour, fivesi, xsevene, ightnine, TENELEVEN. If the triangulation were carried out endlessly, would there be an infinity of such lines? Like prime numbers, triangular number lines become ever-more-rare; what are the next few examples?

NAME'S THAT RHYME

General Schwarzkopf, Commander of Coalition Forces in the Persian Gulf War, is known as STORMIN' NORMAN. He is one of an exclusive list of rhyming names and nicknames compiled by John Meyer of Walton NY:

GEORGIE PORGIE kissed the girls and made them cry
 HUMPTY DUMPTY had a great fall but a lousy winter
 PETER PETER PUMPKIN EATER put his wife in a pumpkin shell
 HARRY CARY baseball announcer
 HARRY GARRY vice president of NYS Farm Bureau (1976)
 HARRY PERRY energy consultant for the US government (1975)
 LARRY SHERRY pitcher for the Dodgers
 DWIGHT WHITE football player for the Baltimore Colts
 MARK CLARK general in World War II
 TRICKY DICKY husband of Pat
 MICK FLICK Mercedes-Benz heir (1976)
 PHIL HILL race car driver
 EVEL KNEVEL motorcycle daredevil (now an artist)
 DON JOHN Austrian who beat the Turkish fleet at Leponto (1571)
 DON JUAN Spanish nobleman
 FAY WRAY actress who had King Kong in the palm of her hand (1933)
 SMOTHERS BROTHERS Tom and Dick, rival TV comedians
 DOC OCK Marvel Comics villain
 JANE PLANE comic strip character from Winnie Winkle

The last suggests generic characters like PLAIN JANE, JOE BLOW and JOE SCHMOE.

TOISE VOISE OR WOISE

More verse from Jay Ames, the Toronto troubadour:

Efts an' newts an' salamanders
 might be shaped like gerrymanders,
 but who knows what from axolotls
 except they don't keep good in bottols.

COP OUT

When people commit crimes, they usually have alibis. Sometimes the alibis are believable, and other times they're like the following sent in by Peter Newby:

- I am a paranoid schizophrenic and currently under the impression I am a bus. I am being treated for this disorder and would appreciate you looking sympathetically at my case. Please reply to the above address with a copy to the Inspector at Finchley Bus Depot [letter from a man to the London Metropolitan Police explaining why his car was illegally parked on a restricted bus stop]
- I'm a vampire and must be in my coffin before the sun comes up [excuse given to Los Angeles traffic cop Gordon Martinez]
- A Derby policeman noticed a gypsy type lurking near a new expensive large van and demanded to know what the man was doing. "I'm feeding the elephant" was his reply. "A likely story! Let's open up the back and take a look." Moments later, the constable phoned his superior "Sarge, I need help--I've got a soddin' great elephant on the loose and I can't get it back in the van!"

FRENCH EXTRACTION

A tale riddled with wordplay irony, courtesy of Peter Newby: "From LULLABY detach AB, a dialect verb meaning 'to pain or disadvantage', and one has LULLY, the Master of Music to Louis XIV, who famously used a large conducting stick with such verve that eventually he mortally wounded himself in the foot."

"A COLD MIST APPROACHING RAIN"

Of all the meanings of DROW, the above is cryptically nearest to expressing its proposed adoption by wordsmiths as the technical term for a valid word arising from the reversal of another, equally genuine word. As such, the definition demands some form of wordplay. Utilizing a second Scottish word, MAIT (for MATE), here is a doublet: MIST-MAST-MAIT-MAIN-RAIN. Pedants who desire that COLD to MIST be given similar minimal treatment have COLD-MOLD-MILD-MILT-MIST to admire.

THE RETURN OF THE DOOG

Peter writes "In your short story play in the cheater's palindrome series, you introduced us to the DOOG. Believe it or not, the canine doog actually exists, at least in legend. On the Isle of Man there is a supernatural creature known by various names, of which one is the MAUTHE DOOG. Walter Scott is among those who have written of it.

Its most famous appearance was at the west coast military garrison of Peel Castle. In the 17th century, a great shaggy black dog used to come silently into the guardroom and settle down. No one knew to whom it belonged nor how it arrived. Eventually one drunken soldier dared the doog to follow him out. It did so, and presently a terrible scream was heard. The doog failed to return, and, after 'three days of terrible silence,' the soldier died. The best known manifestation occurred in 1931, but a 1927 witness described it as 'black with long shaggy hair and eyes like coals of fire.' The 1931 witness added that it was 'nearly the size of a calf with bright staring eyes.'

"The Penguin Dictionary of Fairies has this data under a main entry of MODDEY DOO. The English Dialect Dictionary prefers MAUTHE DOOG as its main entry, giving the etymology as from the Irish MADADH (dog) an DUBH (black). Its other versions (MODDA DOO, for example) refer back to MAUTHE DOOG. Curiously, the EDD also has the Yorkshire dialect term MODDY CALF, meaning a young calf. (Both the 1931 witness and my grandma said it was 'the size of a calf with eyes like saucers.')"

TELEVISION WORDPLAY

Overheard on the Snick Program My Brother and Me: "This is an A and B conversation, so C your way out of it."

CNN carried a story about an entrepreneur who has established several long-distance companies. Their success can be attributed directly to the names he chose for them: I DON'T CARE, IT DOESN'T MATTER, NO, and ANY WILL DO. They were picked to match common customer answers to the operator's question "Which long-distance company do you prefer to use?'

Recently CNN reported that a member of the band Smashing Pumpkins died of a heroin overdose. The specific name of the heroin was, ironically enough, RED RUM, which suggests (in reverse) that perhaps it was MURDER.

A CNN short: in Crestwood Illinois the mayor is known for putting up his own messages on billboards. His most recent message weaves an interesting spell: ENGLISH IS OUR ONLY LANGUAGE--NO EXCETIONS.

COME-ON, COME-UPPANCE and COME-HITHER have one obvious thing in common: they begin with COME. Recently Baywatch, the Sea Hunt of Gen-

eration X, had a COME-ALONG on it. A COME-ALONG is a pole with a metal hoop at the end used for catching alligators.

SEVENTH-INNING STRETCH

Rich Lederer notes that Andy Pettitte, pitcher for the NY Yankees, has perhaps the longest anchored palindrome in baseball, the seven final letters in his surname. Also noticing this, the editor suggests the vulgar palindrome SEE! PETTITTE PEES.

ONE-TWO-THREE

In a cyclic transposal, one word is sliced apart and the resulting parts switched around to make another word: for instance, EAT to ATE. In some cases the word gains a syllable in its new incarnation: VILE to EVIL. Rich Lederer has discovered a single-syllable word that gains two syllables: AIDE to IDEA. Are there any others? Any that gain three?

BEN'T OUT OF SHAPE

Steve Toth found that some words can be apostrophized to form contractions with much different meanings. He's come up with three types with examples for each. The first type emulates CAN'T from CAN NOT.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| pain't = pain not | presiden't = preside not | paymen't = pay me not |
| burn't | residen't | departmen't |
| plan't | urgen't | abandonmen't |
| mean't | agen't | appointmen't |
| join't | pruden't | improvemen't |
| pun't | ben't | replacemen't |
| even't | pan't | judgemen't |

CHARADING THE DICTIONARY

Steve and Shelia Toth sent another set of charade words to accompany the list published in the October 1996 Kickshaws:

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| pun I shed | deva state | clam o red | gun's hot |
| come dies | art if ice | hand some | a we so me |
| pant her | in it I ate | her it age | arm o red |
| bar gain | a not her | broke rage | less on |
| pun is her | wee knights | do nation | in cub us |
| pen tag on | host ages | me no pa use | not ice |
| surf ace | do or way | a nag ram | prose cute |

ERA BARE

"A number of girls from Era Bare, New Bybwen's nudist colony," writes Ben Pewtery, "decided to create Hawaiian garlands to cover themselves in a midsummer public parade held to promote their establish-

ment. Unfortunately, one of the semi-naked charmers made such a pig's ear of her floral attire that she earned the rebuke LEI RUM, MURIEL.

"The Princess of Wales attended a keep-fit class at Era Bare. At this class the gym mistress rates her charges according to the calorific loss they engender. Of the princess, the gym mistress recorded and signed ALL IN OR TEPID, DI. PETRONILLA."

SERMON

During a discussion of wordplay in children's picture books, a student in my children's literature told about a special sermon one Sunday morning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The priest was doing a fine job reading the text--that is, until he reached a Biblical quote with the word HITTITES in it. The good father pronounced it as "high titties." I asked the student if she made that up, and she said it was the gospel truth.

TRAPDOOR WORDS

Sometimes a word can be anagrammed into a phrase or sentence in which the letters in each new word appear in the same order as in the original word--that is, the letters drop down from the original word to form the new ones. In each of these examples, the meaning of the original word doesn't necessarily go with the resulting trapdoor words. Some words can form more than one set of trapdoor words--for instance, PARADISE can form ARISE PAD as well as the two words shown below.

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| DIAMOND | RAINBOW | CHERRY | ITINERANT | MALLEABLE |
| I M | A | HER | INER T | M E |
| ON | R I B | C RY | I | ALL |
| D A D | N OW | | T AN | ABLE |

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|
| PARADISE | MACHINERY | DETERMINED | HOSPITAL | ANTIDOTE |
| P RA ISE | I | DE ED | I | A T |
| A D | C RY | IN | HOS T | N O |
| | H E | TERM | P AL | TID E |
| | MA N | | | |

| | | |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| MEMORY | DISCOVERY | TOOTHPASTE |
| ME | COVE | TH E |
| OR | IS | PAST |
| M Y | D RY | TOO |

THE MOST UNPRONOUNCEABLE WORD

In spite of extreme spelling, even the oddest word is pronounceable--except for a few unutterably strange clusters of letters. Webster's Second almost always provides a clear answer, but what about a beauty like WLITE, which means "beauty"? The dictionary gives no pronunciation. The best I can do is a clipped version of the brand name WOOLITE.

However, Webster broke the mold with the next word, so whiteful that it's the most unpronounceable of all: XOSA. How would you pronounce it?

INTERVIEW WITH A CAR COLLECTOR

In this dialog, the interviewer talks with a man who collects cars and speaks palindromes with car names in them.

Hello. You've owned every make of car, haven't you?

I had no HONDA. Hi!

What car is the jewel of your collection?

A gem? OMEGA.

But which do you like above all others?

Er...a love? VOLARE.

Do all of your cars honk?

SAAB baas.

Do you ever try to crash into other cars?

O, ram a CAMARO.

Which of your three girl-friends' cars do you like the best?

Norabel's LE BARON.

You told one of the others not to race, didn't you?

No! "Hell, Eva, race CARAVELLE, hon."

What did you tell your third girl-friend?

"Race LE CAR!"

How did you explain the affair in the Beretta to your wife?

"Deb, BERETTA matter ebbed."

Did you ever own a Seville?

Had I a SEVILLE? Hell, I've said "ah!".

Is your old Storm still in good condition?

STORM rots.

Which car expresses contemporary values best?

Age, vanity, tin--a VEGA.

Which car least reflects our era?

O, guy, a YUGO.

Do you ever call a cab?

Call? I'd a CADILLAC.

Which car is best for getting a lot of sun while you drive?

A tan? O, SONATA.

Is there any car you wouldn't exchange for a new one?

Trade not one DART.

Is there any type of driver you really dislike?

Ah, an ass in a NISSAN--aha!

What advice would you give a person about buying a Subaru?

SUBARU? O, tour a bus.

What do you think of my car?

DASHER, eh? Sad.

What is the most reliable car on the road today?

A TOYOTA.

JABBERTYPING

Lewis Carroll's most famous poem, "Jabberwocky," appears in his second Alice book, *Through the Looking-Glass*. He constructed the story around a game of chess. The poem, typed in all capital letters without punctuation and spacing, forms the typographic chessboard below. (I chose not to include the last stanza, a repetition of the first.)

Did Carroll intend for the poem to fit so easily into this format? Only one word had to be changed to make the chessboard work. Without even knowing the original poem, you can figure out the altered word: an ampersand to replace AND. There are a total of 13 ANDs in the poem, and the seventh, or central one, is the one I changed. The number of letters in AND, 3, times the positional number of the chosen AND, 7, equals 21, the number of the square in which the substitution was made. It comes after the only mention of numbers in the poem--ONE TWO ONE TWO. One plus two equals three, the number of letter in AND. 3 cubed equals 27, and the & is sometimes regarded as the 27th letter of the alphabet.

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| T W A S | B R I L | L I G A | N D T H |
| E S L I | T H Y T | O V E S | D I D G |
| Y R E A | N D G I | M B L E | I N T H |
| E W A B | E A L L | M I M S | Y W E R |
| | E T H E | B O R O | G O V E |
| | T H E M | O M E R | A T H S |
| | R A B E | H E T O | O K H I |
| | P A L S | W O R D | I N H A |
| | | | S A N D |
| | | | O U T G |
| | | | S V O R |
| | | | N D L O |
| N G T I | M E T H | E M A N | X O M E |
| F O E H | E S O U | G H T S | O R E S |
| T E D H | E B Y T | H E T U | M T U M |
| T R E E | A N D S | T O O D | A W H I |
| | L E I N | T H O U | G H T A |
| | I N U P | F I S H | T H O U |
| | E S T O | O D T H | E J A B |
| | O C K W | I T H E | Y E S O |
| | | | N D A S |
| | | | G H T H |
| | | | B E R W |
| | | | F F L A |
| M E C A | M E W H | I F P L | I N G T |
| H R O U | U G H T | H E T U | L G E Y |
| W O O D | A N D B | U R B L | E D A S |
| I T C A | M E O N | E T W O | O N E T |
| | W O & T | H R O U | G H A N |
| | O U G H | T H E V | O R P A |
| | D E W E | N T S N | I C K E |
| | C K H E | L E F T | I T D E |
| | | | D T H R |
| | | | L B A D |
| | | | R S N A |
| | | | A D A N |
| D W I T | H I T S | H E A D | H E W E |
| N T G A | L U M P | H I N G | B A C K |
| A N D H | A S T T | H O U S | L A I N |
| T H E J | A B B E | R W O C | K C O M |
| | E T O M | Y A R M | S M Y B |
| | S H B O | Y O F R | A B J O |
| | Y C A L | L O O H | C A L L |
| | C H O R | T L E D | I N H I |
| | | | E A M I |
| | | | U S D A |
| | | | A Y H E |
| | | | S J O Y |