

# ALPHABETIC CLUSTERS

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The challenge is to find 26 words, each using a separate letter of the alphabet as many times as possible.

Any English-language dictionary can be consulted, including slang, dialect and technical ones, but not gimmicky works like Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure and Preposterous Words, which records a slightly-misspelt 1913-letter enzyme containing (among other things) 321 Ys and 471 Ls! Just in case other agglutinated monstrosities exist in more standard scientific dictionaries, an upper limit of 55 letters has been set for entries in this collection.

Capitalised words (in particular, place-names) are barred, as are letter-repetitions like the 42-Z representation of snoring found in an OED citation.

Hyphenated terms are allowed, excluding chemical compounds containing numbers or Greek letters, such as the following synonym for the anthracycline antibiotic daunomycin, found in Chapman and Hall's Dictionary of National Products (1994). Note the six Xs!

8-acetyl-10-3-amino-2,3,6-trideoxy- $\alpha$ -L-xylohexopyranosyloxy-7,8,9,10-tetrahydro-6,8,11-trihydroxy-1-methoxy-5,12-naphthacenedione

In the case of very long chemical or medical examples, if shorter words containing fewer of the key letter exist, these have also been shown.

It could well be possible to improve some entries on this list. Let the editor know if you find any better ones.

- A (9) AQUAETHYLENEDIAMINETETRAACETATOMANGANATE  
an inorganic compound used in detection of manganese (DIC)  
(6) TARAMASALATA a Greek fish paté (OED)
- B (7) BUBUBUBUBUBUBU used to suggest the sound of wings flapping  
(DJE)
- C (6) CHOLANGIOCHOLECYSTOCHOLEDOCHECTOMY excision of the hepatic  
duct, common bile duct, and gall-bladder (IDMB)  
(5) COCCOCHROMATIC of a diatom, having the chromatophores  
arranged in a speckled pattern (Web 2)

- D (7) DIDDLE-DADDLED dawdled, trifled (Web 2)
- E (9) DIHYDROXYBENZENEHEXAMETHYLENETETRAMINE a synonym for the colourless compound hetralin (GHCD)  
 (6) DEGENERESCENCE the process of degeneration (OED)  
 HEEBIE-JEEBIES a feeling of discomfort or apprehension (OED)
- F (6) FIFFLE-FAFFLEMENT trifling and unnecessary work (EDD)
- G (6) GIGGA-JOGGIEING shaking or rattling (DAP)
- H (8) DIPHENYLDIPHENYLPHOSPHINOTHIOYLMETHYLPHOSPHINE a monosulfied (DDC)  
 (5) CHOLEDOCHODOCHORRHAPHY the operation of suturing the ends of a divided common bile duct (DOR)
- I (9) FLOCCINAUCINIHLIPILIFICATION the estimation of something as valueless (RHD)
- J (4) JEJUNOJEJUNOSTOMY an operation to form a passage between two parts of the jejunum (IDMB)
- K (4) KNICKKNACK a small or trivial article; a toy, bauble or gewgaw (Web 2); other words containing four Ks include KAKKAK, a small bittern of Guam (Web 3), KNOCK-KNOCK, an acoustic mine (OED), TUKKU-TUKKU, a gourd or calabash (DJE), and the unusual KICKCUCKKOO, a Scots corruption of 'cockatoo' (SND)
- L (7) BALLILLILLY-LOO Scots expression for a lullaby (EDD)
- M (9) DIMETHYLAMINOMETHYLENEAMINOMETHYLENEDIMETHYLAMMONIUM an organic compound more commonly called Gold's reagent (DOC)  
 (5) MAMMYRAMMER an offensive term for a detestable man (DAS)
- N (6) NONANNOUNCEMENT lack of an announcement (Web 2)
- O (9) DICHLOROISOTHIOCYANATOXOPHOSPHORUS a highly reactive liquid (DIC); the factitious word for a type of lung disease, also known to wordsmiths as P-45, has 9 Os also  
 (8) COONOOMOONOO a stupid person (DJE)  
 BOONNOONNOONOS a term of endearment (DJE)  
 WOOLLROOMOOLOO a fight, Australian slang (AND)
- P (6) PIPPLE-PAPPLE to do anything with a sudden noise or motion (EDD)
- Q (3) QARAQALPAQ a Turkic language ('usually capitalized' according to Web 3, but presumably not always)
- R (6) STRAWBERRY-RASPBERRY a prickly Japanese plant of the rose family, with fragrant white flowers and large edible fruit (RHD)

- S (9) POSSESSIONLESSNESSES different kinds of destitution (Web 3)
- T (7) TAT-TAT-TATTING knocking or tapping repeatedly (Web 2)
- U (9) HUMUHUMUNUKUNUKUAPUAA a small Hawaiian triggerfish (Web 3)
- V (4) NIVVI-NIVVI-NAK-KAK a guessing game played with an article in one of the closed fists (EDD)
- W (4) WOW-WOW the silver gibbon of Java (Web 2); other words with four Ws include WAW-WAW, a West Indian climbing shrub (OED), and WOW-WOWEY, ailing, complaining (EDD)
- X (4) HEXAHYDROXYOXYHEXALEAD an inorganic chemical compound obtained from the hydrothermal reaction of lead oxide with rhenium trioxide (DIC)
- Y (7) GLYCYLGLYCYLGLYCYLGLYCINE an organic compound (DOC)  
 (5) POLYSYNBRACHYDACTYLY a condition in which there are two or more instances in the same individual of fused shortened digits (IDMB)
- Z (6) ZENZIZENZIZENZIC the square of a squared square, an obsolete mathematical term (OED)

## REFERENCES

- AND Australian National Dictionary, ed. W.S. Ransom, 1988
- DAP Dictionary of Archaisms and Provincialisms, J.O. Halliwell, 1872
- DAS Dictionary of American Slang, R.L. Chapman, 1987
- DIC Dictionary of Inorganic Compounds, 1st Ed., Chapman & Hall, 1992
- DJE Dictionary of Jamaican English, Cassidy & Le Page, 1985
- DOC Dictionary of Organic Compounds, 6th Ed., Chapman & Hall, 1996
- DOR Dorland's Medical Dictionary, 23rd Ed., 1957
- EDD English Dialect Dictionary, ed. J. Wright, 1970
- GHCD Grant and Hackh's Chemical Dictionary, 5th Ed., 1987
- IDMB International Dictionary of Medicine & Biology, ed. S. Landau, 1986
- OED Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Ed., 1989
- RHD Random House Dictionary, 2nd Ed., 1987
- SND Scottish National Dictionary, 1931-76
- Web 2 Webster's New International Dictionary, 2nd Ed., 1934
- Web 3 Webster's 3rd New International Dictionary, 1976