

ALPHABET PLUS ALPHA

NYR INDICTOR

Chappaqua, New York

In Japanese, the English phrase "plus alpha" (pronounced *purasu aruha*) has come to mean "and then some". It is in this sense that the title is intended. Pursuing the concept that two alphabets are better than one, I created an alphabet of words to which the letter A may be added to form a new word (e.g., BEST + A = BEAST). The new letter had to be added to the middle or end but not the beginning (preserving the integrity of the alphabet). This was easily enough accomplished, though I had to cheat on the X-word. I called it "Alphabet + A" (see below). Then I decided to see if I could produce the remaining 25 alphabets. I was more or less successful, using only words from the OED, but with a few exceptions, as noted below. An "Alphabet + Q" is simply not possible in English, so I opted for an "Alphabet + Qu". The elusive "Alphabet + J" was produced with place names and is not quite complete; elsewhere I have only used proper nouns where I could find no others. In many cases, the x-words are replaced by ex-words, and some of these are hyphenated. In general, I have tried to avoid single-letter suffixes (e.g., BAKE + D = BAKED, PHOTOGRAPH + Y = PHOTOGRAPHY), except where no other option presented itself. For the "Alphabet + E" and "Alphabet + S" I placed further restrictions as noted below. Some of the 26 alphabets were easier to produce than others, but each required at least one or two really rare forms. For obscure words I have provided short glosses: these are often not the only, or even the most important, meaning for the word in question. In the glosses, an equals sign means "variant of" or "dialectal form for".

ALPHABET + A

are > area, bred > bread, cart > carat, dry > dray, ender > endear, fir > fair, grin > grain, her > hear, ide > idea, jin (var. of jin, gin) > jain, kin > kain (Malay cloth), lid > laid, miler > mailer, nil > nail, or > oar, pint > paint, quint > quaint, rely > relay, sorer > soarer, tint > taint, under > undear, viler > vailer, win > wain, exact > exacta, yen > yean, zel (Turkish cymbal) > zeal

ALPHABET + B

ale > able, bile > bible, cue > cube, da > dab, eon > ebon, flu > flub, gale > gable, ho > hob (male ferret), interlend > interblend, jam > jamb, ker (wet marsh, fen) > kerb, lo > lob, marled (fertilized with marl) > marbled, nu > nub, or > orb, plum > plumb, qua > quab (sea-slug), rue > rube, sale > sable, tale > table, uneaten > unbeaten, vie > vibe, we > web, extensile > extensible, yo > yob (hooligan), zamia (plant genus) Zambia

ALPHABET + C

are > acre, ban > banc (bench), Chile > chicle, die > dice, ether > etcher, frat > fract (cracked), gray > gracy (evangelical), hath > hatch, ion > icon, joker > jocker (tramp), keth (var. of kithe, to make known) > ketch, lie > lice, mine > mince, none > nonce, one > once, plaid > placid, quine (arranged in fives) > quince, remined > reminced, spies > spices, tries > trices, undermined > underminced, vies > vices, with > witch, exited > excited, yoker (laughter) > yocker; zapote (kind of fruit) > Zapotec (native Mexican tribe)

ALPHABET + D (no past tense forms allowed, like mine-mined)

an > and, ban > band, car > card, due > dude, en > end, fen > fend, guild > guilded, her > herd, ile > idle, juger (anc. Roman measure of land) > judger, kin > kind, loge > lodge, men > mend, noes > nodes, oe (small island) > ode, pen > pend, qua > quad, rue > rude, she > shed, ten > tend, uge (huge) > udge (judge), vie > vide (divide), win > wind, xul (dial. form of shall) > xuld (dial. form of should), yar (to snarl like a dog) > yard, zen > zend (sacred Zoroastrian writings)

ALPHABET + E (final silent E only)

ad > ade, ban > bane, car > care, dim > dime, em > eme (uncle), fin > fine, gat > gate, her > here, id > ide, jut > jute, kin > kine, log > loge, man > mane, not > note, od (euphemistic exclamation) > ode, pan > pane, quit > quite, rat > rate, sat > sate, tap > tape, us > use, vol (two wings displayed and joined at the base) > vole, win > wine, xanthin > xanthine, yar > yare, zel (var. of sell) > zele (var. of zeal)

ALPHABET + F

at > aft, bee > beef, crated > crafted, drat > draft, el > elf, fie > fief, grit > grift, hat > haft, I > if, jee (turn) > jefe (Spanish boss, not in OED), ker > kerf, lot > loft, mortier (cap worn by high officials in France) > mortifer (bringer of death), neast (var. of next) > nefast (nefarious), of > off, pro > prof, quare (to square) > quarfe (var. of wharf), rat > raft, sot > soft, tur (kind of goat) > turf, unit > unfit, vout (var. of fowl) > voful (var. of woeful); wet > weft; exile > ex-file, yo > yof (to bark) zut (Fr. exclamation) > zuft (var. of suff)

ALPHABET + G

alist > aglist (glistening), be > beg, clan > clang, din > ding, ede (luxury) > edge, fan > fang, gan (mouth) > gang, hun > hung, inert > ingert (=engirt, surrounded), jo > jog, kin > king, lode > lodge, matin > mating, nude > nudge, ogle > oggle (to shudder), pan > pang, qua > quag, ran > rang, son > song, tan > tang, ure (damp mist) > urge, van > vang (a rope used in steadying a gaff), win > wing, exient (preceded by a numeral) > exigent, yoi (hunter's cry) > yogi, zine (magazine, not in OED) > zinge (var. of sing)

ALPHABET + H

as > ash, bat > bath, clot > cloth, dot > doth, ed > edh, fort > forth, got > goth, hat > hath, iris > irish, jos > josh, kit > kith, leas > leash, mat > math, neat > neath, oat > oath, pat > path, quas > quash, rut >

ruth, sit > sith, trot > troth, underneat > underneath, vet > veth (dial. faith), wit > with, extras > ex-trash, yout (=yowt, to yelp) > youth, zip > ziph (an invented language like pig-Latin)

ALPHABET + I (avoiding -er/ier cognates, e.g. sunner-sunnier)
 am > aim, bat > bait, chan (obs. =khan) > chain, dan (kind of buoy) > dain (disdain), ether > either, fan > fain, gran > grain, her > heir, idolatry > idiolatry (self-worship), jetter > jettier, ker > kier (bleaching vat), led > lied, man > main, nef (nave) > neif (serf), oiler > oilier, pan > pain, quant (barge pole) > quaint, ran > rain, stinger > stingier, tiner > tinier, unformed > uniformed, van > vain, wan > wain, xiphoid (sword-shaped) > xiphoid (relating to genus Xiphias), yeld (barren, of an animal) > yield, zipper > zipper

ALPHABET + J (a true Alphabet + J would be impossible; the following are all placenames found in the Times Atlas of the World, except where noted)

Amer (Spain) > Ajmer (India), Borna (Germany) > Björna (Sweden), Chona (Russia) > Chojna (Poland), Dema (Russia) > Djéma (Central African Rep.), Eura (Finland) > Ejura (Ghana), Felsted (Denmark) > Fjelsted (Denmark), Gerlev (Denmark) > Gjerlev (Denmark), Ho (Ghana) > Hjo (Sweden), Isel (Austria) > Ijsel (Netherlands), Jining (China) > Jinjing (China), Kula (Turkey) > Kulja (Australia), Laa (Austria) > Laja (Chile, river), Madan (Bulgaria) > Majdan (Poland), Nain (Canada) > Najin (North Korea), ören (Turkey) > Orjen (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Plau (Germany) > Plaju (Sumatra), Qiniang (China) > Qinjiang (China, river), Roa (Norway) > Roja (Latvia), Suna (Tanzania) > Sunja (Croatia), Teuco (Argentina, river) > Tejuco (Brazil, river), U not found, Vero (US, beach) > Vejro (Denmark), W not found, X not found, Yei (Sudan) > Yeji (China), Z not found

ALPHABET + K

as > ask, bun > bunk, croc > crock, dun > dunk, el > elk, for > fork, gun > gunk, hun > hunk, in > ink, jan (purse) > jank (to shuffle), kin > kink, lea > leak, mar > mark, nar (near) > nark, or > ork (orchestra), pun > punk, quar (to curdle) > quark, ran > rank, sac > sack, thin > think, user > usker (jewel, ornament), vied > viked (wicked), win > wink, xebec > xebeck (=xebec), yan (one, dial.) > yank, zine (magazine, not in OED) > zinke (cornet-like instrument)

ALPHABET + L

axe > axle, bed > bled, cad > clad, dot > dolt, em > elm, fur > furl, guided > guilded, hod > hold, il (porcupine) > ill, jar > jarl (to quarrel), kit > kilt, lit > lilt, mar > marl (kind of soil), noes > noels, ova > oval, pet > pelt, quit > quilt, refection (spiritual recreation) > reflection, sit > silt, tie > tile, unit > unlit, vie > vile, wit > wilt, xiphisterna (pl. of xiphisternum, part of sternum) > xiphisternal (pertaining to xiphisterna); yoked > yolked, zee > zeel (=zeal)

ALPHABET + M

able > amble, bob > bomb, cap > camp, duper > dumper, el > elm, far > farm, gain > gamin, hep > hemp, is > ism, jup (woman's jacket) > jump,

kai (Maori term for food) > kami (Shinto divinity), lap > lamp, moron > Mormon, nub > numb, ore > orme (husk), pal > palm, qual (=whale) > qualm, real > realm, salon > salmon, tie > time, up > ump, voo (=woe) > voom, war > warm, extras > ex-trams, ya > yam, zoo > zoom

ALPHABET + N

at > ant, bag > bang, cat > cant, dig > ding, ere > erne, fie > fine, gag > gang, hug > hung, in > inn, jin > jinn, keel > kneel, lie > line, me > men, neo > neon, ore > orne, pi > pin, quit > quint, rag > rang, sag > sang, tag > tang, ureal > unreal, vie > vine, wig > wing, xenia (pl. of xenium, a present to strangers) > xenian (influence of foreign pollen upon a seed), ye > yen, zoo > zoon (a complete organism)

ALPHABET + O

ale > aloe, bred > bored, cot > coot, drop > droop, en > eon, fur > four, god > good, hot > hoot, in > ion, jin > join, knop > knoop (=knop), lad > load, morn > moron, nose > noose, of > oof (money), pop > poop, quit > quoit, rot > root, sap > soap, tot > toot, unmated > unmoated, vila (Slavonic nymph) > voila, wold (hilly tract) > woold (to wind rope or chain around something to strengthen it), ex-skeleton > exoskeleton, ye > yeo (stream), Zonite (snail genus) > zoonite (each segment of an articulated organism)

ALPHABET + P

am > amp, bee > beep, cam > camp, doe > dope, emir > empir (=empire), flier > flipper (from flipe, to strip off), griping > gripping, hoe > hope, im (=him) > imp, jum (Indian cultivation system) > jump, ker > kerp (to carp, dial.), lea > leap, ma > map, nae > nape, otic > optic, pie > pipe, qui (=why) > quip, roe > rope, sum > sump, tying > typing, um > ump, vier > viper, wee > weep, exert > expert, ye > yep, za > zap

ALPHABET + QU (asterisked words uncited, but reasonable formations)

aa > aqua, base > basque, case > casque, dise (=adze) > disque, eal (=awl) > equal, Färoese > *Färoesque, Genovese > *Genovesque, *humor-ese > humoresque, init (computer program that is activated upon start-up, not in OED) > inquit (to redeem from being pledged), Japanese > *Japanesque; Kannarese > *Kannaresque, Léonese > *Léonesque, Maltese > *Maltesque, Navarrese > *Navarresque, oblie (=obley, oblation, OF spelling) > oblique, pie > pique, quinina (=quinine) > quinquina (quinine-yielding bark), Romanese (Romany, gypsy) > Romanesque, sire > squire, to > toque, unit > unquit (unrequited), Veronese > *Veronesque, *Washingtonese > *Washingtonesque *xanthese > *xanthesque, *Yukonese > *Yukonesque, Zoe (=Zoea, posited crustacean genus) > Zoque (South American language group)

ALPHABET + R (no comparatives or agentives, as fine-finer or bake-baker, except at X)

at > art, bee > beer, cam > cram, due > dire, en > ern, fie > fire, gain > grain, hie > hire, ion > iron, jem (=gem) > jerm (small Egyptian sailing vessel), kill > krill, lye > lyre, moo > moor, no > nor, oe > ore, pie > pier, quey (heifer) > query, refaction (recompense, satisfaction) >

refraction, sud > surd, tip > trip, uge > urge, valet > varlet, wee > were, xylophone > xylophoner, yean (young lamb) > yearn, zeve (=seven) > zevre (=zebre)

ALPHABET + S (no plurals, no final S)

ah > ash, bah > bash, cot > cost, die > dise, eat > east, feat > feast, gut > gust, huh > hush, ile > isle, japer > jasper, kit > kist (chest, basket), lit > list, mat > mast, net > nest, oat > oast, pat > past, quit > quist (silent, =whist), rut > rust, sit > sist (a stay or injunction), thee > these, untoppable > unstopppable, vie > vise, whit > whist, exit > exist, yet > yest (=yesterday), zet (=set) > zest

ALPHABET + T

an > ant, bier > biter, car > cart, do > dot, enangle > entangle, for > fort, go > got, ho > hot, isle > istle, jo > jot, ker (marsh) > kert (=chart), lo > lot, mar > mart, nigh > night, of > oft, par > part, qui > quit, ran > rant, star > start, too > toot, unie (unicorn) > unite, vas > vast, war > wart, exable (can be crossed out) > extable (acceptable), ye > yet, za > zat

ALPHABET + U

age > ague, bled > blued, curios > curious, dose > douse, esse > essue (=issue), form > forum, gild > guild, he > hue, inred (very red) > inured, jogs > joughs (Scottish instruments of punishment), knot > knout, lad > laud, moth > mouth, nouvelle (=novel) > nouvelle, or > our, pot > pout, quey > queyu (apron-like garment of Guyana), rote > route, sit > suit, trot > trout, unde (=undy, wavy) > undue, vale > value, wold > would, ex-pond > expound, yap > yaup, zes (graphic var. of yes) > Zeus

ALPHABET + V

aid > avid, brae (steep bank) > brave, care > carve, die > dive, een > even, fie > five, graid (past ppl. of graith, to prepare) > gravid, hie > hive, iye (=eye) > ivye (=ivy), joe > Jove, kia (South African hut) > kiva (pueblo worship area), lie > live, moe (=more) > move, nae > nave, oocyte > ovocyte (=oocyte), pare > parve, quier (=choir) > quiver, reel > revel, sere > serve, toe > tove (fictitious animal), uncared > uncarved, via . viva, way > wavy, exan (a plant in the wort family) > ex-van, yeer (=year) > yever (greedy), zee > zeve

ALPHABET + W

an > awn, bran > brawn, coed > cowed, don > down, eer > ewer, fan > fawn, go > gow (opium), ho > how, inedged > inwedged, jay > jawy, ket (carrion) > kewt (to mew), lo > low, ma > maw, no > now, oe > owe, pan > pawn, qua > quaw (quagmire), ran > rawn (turbot), sayer > sawyer, tin > twin, unrested > unwrested, vie > view, wof (=wove) > wowf (crazed), exit > ex-wit, ye > yew, zon (=son) > zown (=swoon)

ALPHABET + X

ale > axle, boy > boxy, coal > coxal (pertaining to the coxa, or hip-joint), deter > dexter, eist (=este, dainty) > exist, foes > foxes, gre (=gree, a step) > grex (an aggregation of slime mold), he > hex, ile >

ilex, jin > jinx, key > kexy (brittle), lo > lox, mi > mix, net > next, ory (containing ore) > oryx (kind of antelope), pa > pax, qua > quax (to quaff), re > rex, si > six, tai (a Pacific sea bream) > taxi, unheed (pay no heed to) > unhexed, veer > vexer, way > waxy, xerocopy, xerox-copy, ye > yex, za > zax

ALPHABET + Y (no adjectival -y)

an > any, be > bye, can > cyan, ding > dying, ever > every, fair > fairy, grate > gyrate, ha > hay, iron > irony, jo > joy, ken > kyen (=kine), ling > lying, ma > may, net > nyet, oka (Turkish measure of weight) > okay, pa > pay, qua > quay, re > rye, sill > silly, to > toy, unit > unity, ver (springtime) > very, we > wye (warrior), xylograph > xylography, yoo (=ewe) > yoyo, zoogen (nitrogenous substance found in sulphur springs) > zoogeny (production of animals)

ALPHABET + Z

ade > adze, boo > bozo, cray > crazy, doe > doze, ean (=yeen, to bear lambs) > ezan (muezzin's chant), fe (=fee) > fez, gae (=go) > gaze, hae (=have) > haze, izard (kind of antelope) > izzard (the letter Z), jay > jazy (=jasey, a wig), kudu > kudzu, lay > lazy, mae (to bleat) > maze, nae > naze (=ness), oone (=one) > ozone, paner > panzer, qui > quiz, rae (=roe) > raze, sie (=sye, tow or oakum used for caulking) > size, tael > tazel (=teasel), unoning (discord) > unzoning, vie > vize (=vice), wair (measure for timber) > wazir (=vizir), exit > ex-zit, ye > yez, zee > zeze (zither-like African instrument)

ALPHABET + & (adding 'and')

ampers > ampersand, by > bandy, confirm > confirmand, dying > dan-dying, el > eland, fango (kind of therapeutic mud) > fandango, goura (South African musical instrument) > gandoura (North African robe), hing (asafoedita) > handing, isler > islander, jers (two of the letters in the Cyrillic alphabet) > janders (=jaundice), kickst > kickstand, ling > landing, mate > mandate, norm > normand, orgy > organdy (type of muslin), pa > panda, query > quandery, ring > randing (type of basket-work), sing > sanding, tour > tandour (=tandoor, type of Indian oven), unders > undersand, valise > vandalise, woo > wandoo (Australian white gum-tree), ex-ping > expanding, ye > yande (=yond, yonder), ze (=the) > zande (Central African language)