CYCLIC DIFFERENCE WORDS

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Welwyn, Herts, England

As discussed in "Word Arithmetic" in the November 1996 Word Ways, there are two ways to construct difference words. The first was examined in detail in "Absolute Difference Words" in February; the second is the subject of this article. Briefly, a cyclic difference word is formed from a source word such as VASE (22,1,19,5) by subtracting the ith number from the (i+1)st, if necessary adding 26 to the latter to make the difference positive (5 = 27-22, 18 = 19-1, 12 = 31-19, yielding the target word ERL).

The source and target words are all to be found in major dictionaries (OED, Webster's Second, OSPD, Stedman's Medical Dictionary, Pulliam and Carruth's The Complete Word Game Dictionary, American Heritage) or in past issues of Word Ways, or are proper names. A few which are of interest, but for which I have no respectable source, are indicated with a question mark. Acronyms are included at my discretion.

LONGEST WORDS

I found the following numbers of source words, but many are obscure or imperfect (this is an especial problem with three-letter words). The longer words are less frequent than is the case for absolute differences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
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<td>163</td>
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<td>2540</td>
<td>2511</td>
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Length 7

DEIDEST?, ADUANA  ACRIDIC, BOQUET  MONTIAN, BYFORM?  ORDERED, CLAMMY
INFORSE, ERICAL  INGRAFT, EKSKEN  WENSKOT, HIERDE  UNWITH, SILKIE
SLANDER, SOMPAM?  FALUTIN, UKIYOBE  PLUMETE, VIRROK

Length 6 (selection: there are no cases where more than one 6-letter source gives rise to the same target)

TUMEFY, ARRAS  MOPING, BASES  LOPING, CASES  RUCHED, CHEWY  LOAVER, CLEYM
FIXING, COKES  KNIVES, CUMIN  KNIFES, CUWYN  WASHES, DROWN(!)  DINGLE, EESSES
PUNGLE, ESSES  FLUING, FINES  FLUMED, FIRRY  HOPING, GASES  TAPERS, GOOMA
NUTHIN, GYNAE  WEFTED, HANKY  GODSIB, HOOPS  OWLING, HOWES  BLATCH, JOSIE
ALDERS, KRAMA  COPING, LASES  WINKED, LEWTY  COXALE, LICKS  COXING, LIKES
REFLUX, MAFIC  REJOIN, MEETE  BOXERS, MIGMA  BOXING, MIKES  NAPING, MOSES
ESTIVE, NAOMI  CRUDES, OCIAN  SHOVES, OGGIN  SHADEW, OSCAR  MENGLE, RISES
GYNGLE, ROSES  SLOWLY, SCHOM  UNWITS, SILKY  BUKLER, SPASM  YSHADE, TOSCA
GASHES, TROWN  AUTUMN, TYARA  PLUMED, VIRRY  HEFTED, WANKY  SPOILT, WYTCH
JINGLE, YESES  POXING, YIKES.

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Length 5 (21 pairs: no triplets etc)
ADMIN/FRINS, CIVE  INGLE/VATYR, ESES  GLENS/VATCH, ESIE  BIABO/ELDER, GRAM
ENACH/VERTY, IMBE  CLEN/RATCH, ISIE  CLERK/PYREX, ISMS  DOLMA/WHEFT, KWAN
ALKYD/EPOCH, KYNE  RENGA/VIRKE, MIST  ANANA/HUHUH, MMMM  LYNCH/RETN, MOOE
ETENS/?!ITCH, OKIE  HADES/IBEFT, SCAN  EKLAX/LESHE, SNOW  BURAN/FYVER, SWIM
DYLDE/SNAST, UMRA  MIREX/VRANG, VIMS  LINSY/ROTYE, WEEF  DAZYR/?SPONG, WYYS
BANIA/FERME, YMUR.

Length 5 (selection of more common words)
HILTS, ACHY  KLING, AWES  DEBTS, AWRY!  ACHIM, BEAD  CETIC, BOOT
MODAL, BOWK  BEFIT, CACK  ORSON, CAVY  RUCHE, CHEW  LOWRY, CHUG
ORDER, CLAM!  LOAFS, CLEM  TWINK, CLEW  WAFTS, DENY  SWOTS, DREY
CHIAO, EARN  AGLOW, FECH  TABOT, GAME  HOTLY, GERM  BIRDS, GILO
TAPES, GOON  ELDDED, GRAY  GOTTA, HENS  BLANC, JOMO (Afro-Frenchman!)
WHICH, KATE  WINOS, LEAD  WIRES, LIMN  FRANC, LIMO  CODER, LOAM
CODES, LOAN  BODES, LOAN  RETIP, MOOG  NAPES, MOON  THIRD, NAIL
MAZEY, NYET  SHICK, OATH  LAIRG, OHIO  LASED, ORLY (Michel Jarre at work!)
CROAT, OWLS  KAFKA, PEEP  BRADE, PICA  BRAND, PIMP  BRAUN, PITS
BRAVO, PIUS!  RIDEED, QUAY  METIC, ROOT  GYNIC, ROUT  HABIB, SAGS
PILAO, SCON!  PILAU, SCOT  PINKY, SEWN  LEMNA, SHAM (fake duckweed!)
HAIRE, SHIM  HAIRN, SHIV (a shiv does harm!)  UNWIT, SILK  SLUGS, SILL
SLUIT (= South African ditch), SINK  LENDS, SIPO  SLUNG, SISS  PITCH, SKIE
ATTEND, SKIP  UNDIM, SPEED  UNHIP, STAG  PICHE, STEW  EYGH, THAW
GAINS, THEE  KEMBO, THOM  GAPES, TOON  GASTS, TRAY  MINHA, VETS
GCLIF, VISA  HEFTY, WANE  URSON, WAVY (porcupine with curly quills!)  SPEKE, WEPT
LINGA (= lingam), WEST  LINHA, WETS  DAIRY, WHIG  CASTS, XRAY!  EDIFY, YEWS!

Length 4 (selection with both “words” familiar)
ZACH, ABE (buddies?)  RSVP, ACT  NOSH, ADO  DEKE, AFT  STAB, AGA
NOVA, AGE  STAN, AGM  HIPE, AGO  STAP, AGO  HIRE, AIM  STEF, AKA
(Stephanie’s alter ego)  HIVE, AMI  EFTS, ANY  KLEP (kleptomaniac), ASK
TUNA, ASM (fishy Assistant Stage Manager)  GHAT (mountains), ASS  TUNG, ASS (tree)
DEAD, AVC  RSBP, AWL  TURD, AWL  GINO, BEA  GINS, BEE  MOTH, BEN
SUZY, BEY (female governor?)  SUDS, BIO!  GIRL, BIT  MODE, BOA  ACRE, BOM
MODS, BOO  WYND, BOP  SUII, BOY  KOBN, CAM  FUJI, CAY
LODH (bark used as dye), COD  BETA, COG  BETH, CON  BETS, COY  WAFT, DEN
EIRE, DIM  CHIC, EAT  CHID, EAU  ZEKE, EFT (Greater Water-Newt)  JOAL, ELK
PUGS, ELL  JOAN, ELM  JOEY, EPT  PEKE, EPT  VAST, ERA  DIAL, ERK
INGA, EST  VAUX, ETC  DICK, ETH (Einstein’s Alma Mater)  FLUB, FIG  FLAY, FOX!
GMEM, FRI  TABU, GAS  HOPO, GAY (near miss!)  TAFT, GEN  HODS, GOO
TAPE, GOO  WEFT, HAN  GOHT, HEN  WEND, HIP  OWLS, HOG  GODS, HOO
WETS, HOY  GOGO, HRH  FOAL, ILK  FOAM, ILL  LUGS, ILL  RANT, IMF
RAND, IMP  RAOC (= Royal Army Ordnance Corps), INN  VETO, IOU  BILJ, JIG
BLAH, JOG  DOTH, KEN  DOTS, KEY  UFOS, KID  GRAN, KIM  ALUM, KIR
COPT, LAD  WINO, LEA  WINS, LEE  OAIF, LEM  UGLY, LEM  WING, LES
WINK, LEW  COTS, LEY  SEND, LIP  FRAU, LIT  Cods, LOO  CODA, LOW
ANON, MAY  BOTH, MEN  BOWL, MHO  BOBO, MMM  NANA, MMM  BODS, MOO
NAOE, MOO  DRAY, NIX  MAST, NRA  SHIT, OAK  PEKE, OFT  CRAM, OIL
SHUT, OMY  CROC, OWN  SHES, OWN  SINH, PET (man’s best friend calculates hyperbolic sines!)
SINK, PEW  PHIP (chirp of sparrow), RAG  MENU, RIG  MEND, RIP  WONS, RYE
PINS, SEE  HAFT, SEN  PINK, SEW  HAIN (= park), SHE  LEND, SIP
SLUM, SIR  SLAM, SOL  SLAT, SOS  SLAV, SOU  SLAY, SOX (Red Sox?)
LETS, SOY  UNIV, SUM (School of Mathematics?)  OINK, TEW  GAHN, THEE  SMUT, THY!
GAPS, TOC (in Table of Contents)  GAPE, TOO  SNOT, UAE (United Arab Emirates)

SNOG, UAR (United Arab Republic)  TOGS, URL (clothes on the Internet)  SOPS, VAC  MILD, VCR
MINH, VET (those Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs again!)  MIRE, VIM  SODA, VOW  PLAY, VOX
HEFT, WAN  DAFT, WEN  YVES, WIN  RODS, WOO  DAZE, WYE  SPOT, WYE
TRAY, XIX (not the eighteenth tray, but...)  BABY, YAW (flying infant!)
BAPT, YEN (behind)  JINK, YEW  FEND, YIP  ONCE, YOB.

Again, personal names seem to appear frequently.
TREES

There are potentially five trees of depth six, but unfortunately none continue past the four-letter words: RETAIN-MOGHE-BRAW, ELDERS-
GRAMA-KILN, MOGHAL-BRASK-PIRR, PUTAIN-EYGHE-THAW, SIXAIN-POCHE-
YNEW.

152 trees of depth five were found. Three examples with "double headers" are LADLE/STICH-AOTE?-NEK-QF, DYLDE/SNAST-UMRA-REI-MD,
BRAVI?/SABOT-HAME-SLR-SF.

Here is a selection of examples chosen for their familiar four-letter words, arranged in order of the three-letter words.

WAFTS - DENY - AIK - HB OVEST - GINA - BEM - CH FLUIT - FINK - CEW - BR
URSON - WAVY - DUC - QH OUGLY - FLEM - FSH? - MO IRGUN - IONS - FYE - SF
AFRET - ELMO (saint) - GAB - TA CROAT - OWLS - HOG - GR LOAFS - CLEM - ISH - JO
DAIRY - WHIG - KAX - PW SWLDE - DORA - KCI? - RF ORGUN - CONS - LYE - MF
HAIRE - SHIM - OAD - LC HAIRN - SHIV - OAM - LL RUMBE - CROC - OWN - HQ
SLUIT - SINK - PEW - OR EUCLE? - PHIS - RAJ - II LAIRG - OHIO - SAF - HE
HAMBY? - SLOW - SCH - JE BRAUN - PITS - SKY - RN SABOT - HAME - SLR - SF
WINOS - LEAD - SVGC - CG DEBTS - AWRY - VUG - YL GOTHGO - HENS - WIE - LV

1764 trees of depth four were found. Notably, one had six four-letter sources: ALAL/DODO/JUJU/Nyny/PAPA/TETE-KOK-DV. None had five-
letter sources, but here are some of the sixteen with four-letter ones:

DIRD/GLUG/INWI/TYHT-EIL-DC BELK/KUNT/ORYX/VYFE-CGY-DR
IREN/PYLU/VERA/YHUD-IMI-DV CHUN/PUHA/TYLE/VANG-EMS-HF
EXAN/PILY/SLOB/VORE-SCM?-JJ GOGO/MUMU/SASA/WEWE-HRR-JP
GENJ/KIRN/TRAW/WUDZ-XIV-KM CHAU/GLEY/INGA/TRYL-EST-NA
DAST/OLED/ROGH/ZWOP-WRA-UI ERAN/IVER/RENA/VIRE-MIM-VD

Here are trees of depth four using common words or expressions for both the three-letter and at least one four-letter words (extra branches
have been left):

AI, DEN, WAFT
CO, FIX, FLUS
CY, ILK, FOAL/YHTE
EB, VAC, SOPS
ER, JOG, BLAH/SCRY
FH, AGR, HIP/STAP
FR, YEW, JINK
GN, HOC, EMBE/SAPS
HD, AIM, HIRE/UVER
HQ, OWN, CROC/SHE/SIFT
JP, HRH, GOGO/MUMU/SASA/WEWE
LR, SEW, PINK
MI, ERA, VAST

CH, LOW, CODA
CV, BEA, GINO/MOTU/WYDE
DC, IMP, RAND
EF, TYE, GAZE
FF, AGM, STAN
FI, YEN, BAAF
FT, AGA, STAB
GR, HOG, OWLS/WETA
HI, WEN, DAFT/ROTH
II, FOX, FLAY
LC, COR, ORGY!
LY, CON, BETH
ML, BOA, CETU/GIXY/MODE

CI, BEN, MOTH
CX, FIG, FLUB
DM, WAN, HEFT
EN, APT, DEKE
FF, IOU, VETO
FR, CIA, BENO/FIRS/RUDE
GA, ELM, JOAN
GS, BIB, GIRT
HO, WET, ROTN (phonetic!)
JG, YIP, FEND
LR, COG, BETA/FIXE
MD, VIM, MIRE/VRAN
NL, MAM, NABO/REFS
PALINDROMES

Of the three of length five found, only ALALA-KOKO is interesting; the other two are ANANA/HUHUH-MMMM.

Of the many of length three, only the following have much appeal: the contradictory NON, AY; DOD and PAP both KO but TIT is OK with DAD and LIL on WC. There only remains SOS, VD! There are typically many source words per target word; for example, the WC has five other source words.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Many thanks to Susan Thorpe, who provided practically all the references to earlier work. Until then I thought the cyclic method was my idea!
DAVE MORICE
Iowa City, Iowa

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.

MORE RELATIVE CITIES

Iowa City, Iowa is a Junior City, as you can see. In the last Kickshaws, Dan Tilque provided a list of many Junior Cities and some Illegitimate Cities (like Nevada City, California). One particularly unusual trio are the Junior/Illegitimate triplets, Kansas City, Kansas/Missouri, Oregon. Dan has found some more relative cities which appear in the list below. Dan's also found another of the rare same-state combo name, the best-known of which is New York, New York; he adds Indiana, Indiana. He also notes that "logically, there's one more category: towns named the same as another state (e.g., Michigan, North Dakota)". However this has already been covered in Word Ways. In the November 1970 issue, Darryl Francis reported finding some 200 such places and constructed a chain of them.

ILLEGITIMATE CITIES:
Arkansas City KS (Cowley)
Colorado City TX (Mitchell)
Kansas City OR (Washington)
Michigan City IN (La Porte) MS (Benten)
Missouri City TX (Fort Bend)
Nevada City CA (Nevada)
Ohio City CO (Gunnison)
Texas City IL (Saline)
Virginia City MT (Madison) NV (Storey)

ILLEGITIMATE CITIES SINCE RENAMED:
Michigan City ND (now Michigan, in Nelson Co)
Iowa City CA (now Iowa Hill, in Placer Co)
Virginia City WA (now Brewster, in Okanogan Co)

JUNIOR TOWNS AND ILLEGITIMATE TOWNS:
Floridatown FL
Kentucky Town TX
Michigantown IN
HOMONYMS

Letter for letter, we're just the same—
AH, PLAN "ALPHA"

Unlike English, some foreign alphabets give their letters names. Greek is a good example: alpha, beta, gamma... So is Hebrew: aleph, beth, gimel... And several other alphabets. These names, which are words in English, too, suggest a palindromic challenge—to write a palindrome containing each letter in a foreign alphabet. The best of dromes fit into relatively normal phrases or sentences, and the worst of dromes use single letters, but sometimes that can't be avoided. Here is one drome for each Greek letter, the best I could do in each case. Can you improve on them? Can you do the same with Hebrew, Arabic, or other languages?

Ah, plan "alpha"
At ebb, beta
O, gamma...go!
Delta rat led
No lsp, epsilon
I ate zeta, I!
He ate eta, eh?
At...eh...theta
An iota to Ina
A map, Pa! Kappa, Ma
Ad BMA lambda
Mu? Mum!

Nu? Fun!
Draw six xi's, Ward
Omicron or "C"? I'm "O"
Pi: hip!
Oh, rho
Sigma? MG is
Tau a "T"?
No lsp, upsilon
A phi..."H", Pa?
No chi..."H"? Con
Psi lisp
A gem: omega

AT THE ALPHADROME

Here's a simple challenge to top off the previous one. Can you fit the word ALPHABET into a palindrome that sounds not-too-unusual? Here are my first few attempts at it:

TRAP AN ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLAN APART
NATE SOLICITS ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLASTIC! I LOSE TAN
RISE, MAN! AN ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLAN A NAME, SIR
AN ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH! PLAN "A"
TEN? ALPHABET ON A NOTE? BAH, PLANET!

OZYMANDIAS AT THE FLEA MARKET

I met a traveler at an antique show
Who said: Two small and trunkless legs on plastic
Stand on my table...Near them, not below,
Half cracked, a shattered Barbie lies, elastic,
Whose wrinkled lip, and frown as cold as snow,
Tell that its maker well those passions knew
Which yet survive, stamped on her collectible knees,
The hand that packed them, and the arm that threw:
And on her lower back these words appear:
"My name is Surfin' Barbie, Queen of Seas:
Look on my build, ye Buyer, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the display
Of that minuscule wreck, clothesless and bare,
The other dealers' stands stretch far away.

WORDS FOR JAN'S FANS

Jan Anderson writes "Since I started contributing to Word Ways, readers have been asking to know more about me. Olive Noaf in particular expressed admiration for the alliteration of my name and asks if it's a phony.

"No, Olive, when I married, I kept my name, but there's a story to that, and some of it's true. My husband shortened his last name when he entered show business, and in the interest of protecting my innocent self in case any of the following read this, I won't tell you what his name is now, but it sounds something like Duty. When I met him he was a longterm diehard bachelor. But he explained that part of the reason for that was that most girls he dated had first names that wouldn't go well with Duty. There were Jackie, Susie, Nancy—but worst was Dottie, who would have become Dottie Betty Duty. One love who almost overcame the name obstacle was Sandy, but in the end she married Randy, and they really did (I swear!) name their kids Andy and Candy. Randy was handy and worked for Tandy. Mr. D. liked to bandy it about that their maid was Mandie from the Rio Grande, and that their dog was a Dandie named Brandy. If I hadn't promised not to become Jan D., he, D., would still be a bachelor, because Beryl married Merrill, and Carol, Darryl.

"How'd he do, D., in show biz? Some say his acting was wooden, but I think his manager didn't pull the right strings."

A FROST UPDATE

Apparently there are a few Frost aficionados out there, because Jan also forwarded this fan mail from Jason Drenan: "You're both wrong! It's not woods, it's not hoods, it's hoots!"

Stopped By Hoots Of A Snowy Owl

Whose hoots these are I'm certain, though
Her home's far north; she's lost, I know.
Her wide eyes see me stopping here
To hear her hoot from throat of snow.

My little Setter cocks his ear;
We've stopped where there's no pheasant near,
No partridge, grouse, quail, hen or drake,
No rabbit running and no deer.
He gives his tail a short stiff shake,  
As if to ask, Is dinner steak?  
The only birdsound's sure no peep--  
But hoots to keep the dead awake.

I shoot, and fry the downy heap;  
Then from the precipice I creep,  
In smiles to gobble forage cheap,  
In smiles to gobble forage cheap.

Jason explained to Jan that "hunters perform an important ecological service in culling the wild of the sick and unfit" to which she replied "Right, Jas, so you eat the sick and make trophies of the unfit?"

A REAL WORD LADDER

FROM BLACK TO WHITE

In 1879 Lewis Carroll introduced the game of Doublets in the pages of Vanity Fair, challenging readers to go from one word to another of the same number of letters, changing one letter at a time to form linking words, in as few steps as possible. Among the challenges he gave readers was BLACK TO WHITE, which must take at least five steps; the best solution took two more:

BLACK-blank-blink-clink-chink-chine-whine-WHITE

He said it was de rigueur that all links should be English words "such as might be used in good society". (In a published edition of Doublets, he included a list of approximately 1400 words of three to six letters that he considered socially acceptable.) Logologists such as Rex Gooch
are not bound by such strictures, as shown by the following "snake and ladder" (BLACK to WHITE and back) using headwords from the OED:

BLACK-blank-wlank-whank-whane-whine-WHITE-whate-wlate-alate-alace-alack-BLACK

Alas, it is still not the minimum!

AN ANAGRAM OF HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY

Darryl Francis reports the following anagram of one of Hamlet's soliloquies on the Internet:

To be or not to be, that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in the
mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune...

In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero,
Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.

Don't even think of trying to use computer programs such as Anagram
Genius to construct anagrams like this!

CONFUSED BIRDS

Jeff Grant writes "A male donkey is called a JACK and the female a
JENNY. Such designations using human personal names are rare in the
animal kingdom, particularly among birds, most of which are simply COCK
and HEN. A strange exception is the Jamaican becard, a large-billed
tropical bird. According to The Dictionary of Jamaican English (Cassidy
& Le Page, 1985), the male becard is known locally as a JUDY and the
female as a Mountain DICK!"

MORE SQUARE ROOT WORDS

Sir Jeremy Morse notes that FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX (24
letters) is a square root word. There is also THIRTY-NINE THOUSAND
THREE HUNDRED FOUR (34 letters) and SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE (41 letters). An obvious sixth root word is
ONE MILLION (10 letters) and a ninth root word (in the United States) is
ONE BILLION (10 letters).

MORE TV SHOW TITLE ANAGRAMS

Jed Martinez adds two more anagrams of TV programs from the
current season:
PEARL = RE: PAL
EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND = VERVE BY ROMANO? ODDLY, YES!

Mike Morton cranked up his anagram generator and came up with a
dlarge number of these ("none of my entries won").

AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS = AMATEUR MOVIE FINISHES
SECOND
AMERICAN GLADIATORS = LACERATION DIAGRAMS
CHARLIE'S ANGELS = CHASE LEAN GIRLS
DR. QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN = I'D CONDEMN WARM QUININE
GENERAL HOSPITAL = LOATHING, RELAPSE
GRACE UNDER FIRE = FIERCE GRANDEUR
GROWING PAINS = GROIN-PAWINGS
HOMICIDE = OH, I'M ICED
I DREAM OF JEANNIE = OR A FEMININE JADE
LETTERMAN = LET ME RANT
MEET THE PRESS = SHEER TEMPEST
MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS = CONFLICTING, RUSTY SYMPHONY
MURDER SHE WROTE = TRUE, MORE SHREWED
ROSEANNE = NO, A SNEER
SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE = VULGARITY, SIN, DEATH
THE CRITIC = CHIC? TRITE!
THE LATE SHOW = HA, THE LOWEST!
THE PRICE IS RIGHT = HIPSTER: "I GET RICH"
THE TONIGHT SHOW = OH, TIGHT NEW HOST
UNSOLVED MYSTERIES = EVERY OLD MUSTINESS

ALPHABETICAL ARDOR

This group of words comes from Webster's 10th Collegiate. Can you
explain why they were chosen? Why does the list stop here?

A
BY
CIS
DAFT
EAGER
FABLED
GAINFUL
HABITUAL
IDENTICAL
JACKBOOTED
KINDHEARTED
LABYRINTHIAN
MAGNETOSTATIC
NASOPHARYNGEAL
OMNIDIRECTIONAL
PHENOMENOLOGICAL

WHAT IS THE MEANING?

Fred Crane has this short, tricky quiz. The question in each case is
"What is the meaning of ----?" One clue: the answers for the clues in
the left column form one kind of numerical progression, and the answers
for the right form another.

1. Rolodex
2. no no
3. Hamlet Hamlet Hamlet
4. mo
5. pe
6. h
7. w
Definite and Indefinite Articles

THE, which seems
the merest particle,

in point of fact's
a definite article—

the word we make
more use of every day

than any article
except for a.
VERTICAL LINEAGE

Howard Bergerson writes "I remember a little boy who always signed his name by first making ten vertical lines ********* and then adding twelve more straight lines. Can you duplicate the boy's feat? Can you come up with a longer name that works the same way?"

NOTED PHILOSOPHERS

This short list of philosophers, sent by David Armstrong, shows an unusual verbal relationship (or counterrelationship) shared by these thinkers:

GEORGE WILL, ROLLO MAY, HERMAN KAHN, ROBERT WOOD, IMMANUEL KANT

NOTABLE NICKNAMES

David has provided a long list of names, each of which turns into a word or words when the appropriate nickname is substituted:

AL CIBIADES                    DOMINICK INO
ALLEN FRESCO                   PATRICIA RIOTIC
WILLIAM OF SALE                YANKEE DOODLE DANIEL D
NICHOLAS OF THYME              ELIZABETH ARD
RAYMOND OF HOPE                MARGARET O MIHART
ROBERT O'LINK                  ELEANOR PHANT
HICKORY RICHARD DRYDOCK        KATHERINE Y DIDDE
SALLY AMANDA                   MARGERY ARINE
HAROLD ITOSIS                  THEODORE RISE
DANIEL DRUFF                   CALVIN I FOURNIER
BROWN, ELIZABETH               ALAN T TUDE
JAMES NASTICS                  STANLEY DORFAL
EDWARD D BEAR                  GLORIA WORM
DOROTHY YORIZE                 TIMOTHY ID
CHARLES RICHARD ENS            THOMAS ATO
VERNON A CULAR                 SUSAN T ABLE
NORMAN ALCY                    NATHANIEL URAL
GUSTAVE TATORY                 HERBERT I VOROUS
HIRAM DEHOE                    ARTHUR X HIBIT
MICHAEL ROBE                   LESTER ISMORE
SALLY MONELLA                  GENEVA TILITY

THE PROSE POSER

Peter Newby has come up with several one-liners that ask questions that revolve around wordplay in one way or another. Here are a couple of them. More will follow in future Kickshaws:
HEAD TEETH

According to Peter, "Nicknamed 'a suck made flesh', Sir Edward Heath was, like Herbert Hoover, a petulant bachelor obsessed with being in the Eurotrot 'issing pout' rather than outside 'issing pin'. He features in this nursery rhyme of mine:

Off we go, bag and baggage,
Singing the praise of Chancellor Cabbage.
Goodbye to England, it's the Fourth Reich for us!
And now, my kiddies, join in the chorus;
Visionaries of Peace know what's best, I'm sure,
Chamberlain, Halifax and Sir Edward Haw Haw."

FIRST PALINDROME

My son Danny (now 8) and I were going to Walmart to find a Valentine’s Day card for his mother. On the way I was going over possible Valentine dromes in my head, and I jotted down a couple on the back of my checkbook. Danny asked what I was doing, and I told him I was making up Valendromes. When we parked in the lot, he picked up the pen and checkbook and said "Is this a palindrome?" Then he carefully printed DOG IS I, GOD. I now await his first ten-square—at age 10.

TONGUE TWISTERS

Mark Saltveit has a couple of tongue-twisters that rival the famous Sixth Sheik's twister. Can you honestly say these six times without a single error?

Susie's choosy sushi chef sews Susy cheap Sioux shoes she'd choose
She'd seize sheep cheese; chief cheap sheep cheese seizer is she

FROM LONG WORD TO FULL SENTENCE

In general, longer words have more potential for full-sentence anagrams than shorter words do. ANTIDISESTABLISHMENTARIANISM anagrams into a line that could've been uttered by Pablo Picasso: I AM AN ARTIST, AND I BLESS THIS IN ME. It can also form plenty of other sentences, such as these two very different responses to the Picasso line:

HIS ART IS IN, MAN. A MIND-BLAST! SEE IT?
I'M A SENSIBLE MAN, AND I HIT ARTISTS
WORD PLAYLET

Words talk. They say what the dictionary says they say. This playlet quotes 26 words just chewing the fat on a warm summer's day while a gentle breeze turns the fluttering pages of a Webster's 7th Collegiate dictionary. Each word is a character, and what it says includes one or more of its definitions.

JAR Shh! A harsh grating sound! This must indicate a state or manifestation of conflict.
PUSHBALL Oh, no, it's just a game in which each of two sides endeavors to push an inflated leather-covered ball six feet in diameter across its opponent's goal.
EUPEPSIA They must have good digestion to do that.
TIGHTS I'll say! Look at those skintight garments covering the body from the neck down or from the waist up.
MORES They just reflect the fixed morally-binding customs of a particular group.
LOVELY In any case, they certainly are delightful for beauty, harmony, or grace. How beautiful!
BATHYMETRY Definitely, like the measurement of depths of water in oceans, seas and lakes.
DREAMY I can tell you're given to dreaming or fantasy. Then again, this game has begun to have the quality or characteristics of a dream. It's quiet or soothing. Even delightful, pleasing.
CARAPACE If I were playing, I'd prefer a hard protective outer covering.
YATAGHAN Uh-oh. Someone just pulled out a long knife or short saber common among Muslims that is made without a cross guard and usually with a double curve to the edge and a nearly straight back. Now he's swinging it!
KRIS Don't exaggerate! That's just a Malay or Indonesian dagger with a ridged serpentine blade.
OVERTRAIN Perhaps he trained more than is necessary or desirable.
UNDULATE That could be. He's starting to move or cause to move in wavy, sinuous or flowing manner.
WHACK What was that smart or resounding blow? Look! He just cut something off with a whack! He got the other guy right in the...
QUADRICEPS Omigod! The great extensor muscle of the front of the thigh divided above into four parts. That guy's hurt!
APPENDECTOMY You sure it wasn't just the surgical removal of the veriform appendix?
VENDING MACHINE Are you kidding? Now he looks like a slot machine for vending merchandise.
RING They're starting to place or form a circle around him.
XANTHATE Give him a salt or ester of xanthic acid!
FREE-FOR-ALL Look out! This is becoming a competition, dispute, or fight open to all comers and usually with no rules!
NAUTCH Did you think this was an entertainment in India consisting chiefly of dancing by professional dancing girls?
HARP  Let's not dwell on or recur to a subject tiresomely or monotonously.

ZUCHETTO  Hey, you! Remove that small round skullcap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics in colors that vary according to the rank of the wearer. I can't see!

I  You must be an excessively egotistic person.

GOOSEFLESH  I'm afraid. I feel a roughness of the skin produced by erection of its papillae usually from cold or fear.

SCAREHEAD  Tomorrow you'll read about it in a big, sensational or alarming newspaper headline!

MORE STEREOWORDS

Remember the Stereowords in the August 1992 Kickshaws? Here are a few more of these eyeball-busters. Focus your eyes as if you're looking in the distance until the two dots above the box merge to form a third dot in the center. The box itself will divide into three boxes, and the stereoword will appear in the center box.

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ONLY M E
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S O  N O W
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V I N E  W I N S
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A  B L E  G A M E
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L O W  C O N
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E L V I S  L I V E S
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HOLY SCHWARZKOPF!

Rod BLAGOJEVICH, Democratic candidate for Congress in Illinois, joins the thin ranks of those endowed with 11-letter names composed of all
different letters. How rare are 12-letter names? Ask Alan KIRSCHENBAUM, executive director of the TV series Coach.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE

Ghandi
Is dandy,
But liquor
Is quicker.

PIG PENMANSHIP

Midway between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids on Highway 380, there's a farm with a small pyramid-shaped house especially designed for the privacy of two porcine sweethearts. The sign on the house used to say PHARAOH-ING PIGS. Then one day a local TV news station did a short expose on it, and the love sty was famous state-wide. A few days later the sign was removed. Now there are no sexist pigs in Iowa.

WINDY DAY WRITING

As I'm finishing this, my window is open. The gentle breeze is turning into a major jet stream. In fact, it's so bad that I can barely keep the alphabet on the page...