

## MORE WORDS NEWFOUND, WORDS REOBSERVED

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In the February 1994 issue of *Word Ways*, I offered a collection of 26 words, one for each letter of the alphabet, which had caught my attention over the preceding months. Some of the words were new, most had been in existence for many years. But all of them had some special property worthy of note to logologists.

I have now pulled together another collection of 26 words--again, one for each letter of the alphabet. A few of them are relatively new, but many have been lurking in dictionaries for years, awaiting discovery by logologists. In the collection here, I offer new transposals of the US state names INDIANA and TEXAS, there is a new transposal of the chemical element name NITROGEN, there are additional words displaying the six vowels AEIOUY in order. And so on...

### AFFECTIOUSLY

The existence of ABSTEMIOUSLY and FACETIOUSLY has been known for years. These two words display the six vowels AEIOUY in order, with none of the vowels repeated. A further couple of specimens have now been found. One of them is AFFECTIOUSLY, an obsolete word in Webster's Second Edition meaning "affectionately". Why has this word been ignored for so long? Note that FACETIOUSLY is a transdeletion of AFFECTIOUSLY! The other recently-found specimen appears later in this article, for the letter T.

### BLOW-BOWL

A word from the Oxford English Dictionary, defined as "a habitual drinker, tippler, sot". Especially interesting as it repeats the four letters B, L, O and W. The word doesn't appear to be in either the Second or the Third editions of Webster's New International.

### CHURCH-QUAKE

The May 1979 issue of *Word Ways* contained a list of 23 words ending in -QUAKE (for example, MOONQUAKE, WATERQUAKE and PLUTOQUAKE), with a plea to readers to increase the number to a round two dozen. A 24th quake has now been found: CHURCH-QUAKE, listed in the Oxford English Dictionary, where it is defined as "a convulsion of the church". Any more quakes?

## DILNOTT

This is a surname listed in Reaney's *A Dictionary of British Surnames*. This is notable for having its seven letters arranged in correct alphabetical order, akin to examples like EGILOPS.

## EXA-

A combining form denoting a factor of  $10^{18}$ . This appears to be a new addition to the language. It isn't listed in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd Edition (1992), but it does appear in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, 9th Edition (1995). EXA- is a part of a series of combining forms increasing by powers of three: KILO-, MEGA-, GIGA-, TERA-, PETA-, EXA- ZETTA- and YOTTA-.

## FABRIQ

A 17th-century variant spelling of FABRIC, shown in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. This is probably the only English word beginning with F and ending with Q (unless you know otherwise!).

## GREINTON

This is a placename listed in Bartholomew's *Gazetteer of the British Isles*. However, this is not where I discovered it. I had to go to a business meeting in Glastonbury, Somerset, and on the road into Glastonbury I saw a sign pointing to Greinton. I immediately recognised this as an undiscovered transposal of NITROGEN. On checking Bartholomew's *gazetteer*, I found it listed there, a parish and village about six miles from Glastonbury.

## HARROWBARROW

A village in Cornwall, England, listed in Bartholomew's *Gazetteer of the British Isles*. This is notable for its being a second-order reduplication, like HONG KONG.

## INEBRIISM

There are only ten words in Webster's Second Edition ending in -IISM: PEAIISM, BABIISM, WAHABIISM, ZOMBIISM, SUFIISM, GANDHIISM, SHIISM, OPIISM, PARSIISM, NAZIISM. (All but three are capitalised.) INEBRIISM, the scientific study of inebrity, is a welcome addition to this small group. It appears in the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

## JUSSIEUEAN

"Pertaining to the natural system of botanical classification devised by Bernard de Jussieu and his nephew Antoine Laurent de Jussieu" the definition reads. Notable for its five successive vowels, I don't believe that this particular spelling of the adjective has been highlighted before

in the pages of Word Ways. The word appears in Webster's Third New International.

### KEEK-KEEK

A word of note for several reasons: (1) it is palindromic, (2) it is a tautonym or first-order reduplication (i.e., the first and second halves are the same), (3) there is a horizontal line of symmetry running from the first letter to the last, (4) there don't appear to be any other words in Webster's Second or Third Editions with the same letter pattern (abba-abba). So, what is KEEK-KEEK? According to the Oxford English Dictionary, it is a call used by children in the game of hide and seek.

### LEE-ER

Not many words have three consecutive E's, even if interrupted by a hyphen. This is a Scots dialect word meaning "liar" and appears in the English Dialect Dictionary .

### MEITNERIUM

A suggested name for the chemical element 109. The 9th Edition of the Concise Oxford Dictionary does not list this word in its main body, but does list it in a special section devoted to the chemical elements at the rear of the dictionary. The COD lists various provisional and suggested names. For example, element 107 has a provisional name of UNNIL-SEPTIUM and a suggested name of BOHRIUM, yet element 109 has merely a suggested name, MEITNERIUM, and no provisional name given. MEITNERIUM would appear to be named after the Austrian physicist Lise Meitner (1878-1968).

### NAIDINA

A term from the world of helminthology, denoting a group of worms. This is related to the Webster's Third entry NAIDIDAE, NAIDINA is a newly discovered transposal of INDIANA. The word can be found in Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary. The only other well-formed transposal of INDIANA is ANIDIAN, previously published in Word Ways.

### 00Z0A

How many five-letter words are there with only one consonant, and that being a Z? Well, there's ZOEAE and ZOOEA, beloved of Scrabble players (ZOEAE is listed in both Official Scrabble Words and The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, while ZOOEA is only in the former). And there's also 00Z0A, a term for unicellular animals, as resembling the ova of higher animals. This is no good for Scrabble, though, unless you are playing with the Oxford English Dictionary. Any other four-vowel words with Z?

## PRUNOIDEAN

An interesting word, found in the Oxford English Dictionary, is PRUNOIDEAN, spelled with a lowercase initial P. This is notable for containing the five vowels in reverse order, with no vowels repeated. I don't recall this word appearing in earlier Word Ways articles about words containing the five vowels. This isn't surprising as the word doesn't appear in either the Second or Third Editions of Webster's New International. What does it mean? According to the OED, it's a zoological term defined as "belonging to the suborder Prunoidea of radiolarians, characterized by an ellipsoidal lattice-shell". Note that the definition contains the even-shorter proper name PRUNOIDEA.

## QI

A two-letter word which has transformed Scrabble play in Great Britain. QI appears in the Chambers Dictionary (1993) and Official Scrabble Words, 3rd Edition (1994). What is QI? The physical life-force postulated by certain Chinese philosophers. QI is pronounced "chee" or "chi". The plural form QIS is also allowed in UK Scrabble.

## REPICQ

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, this is a 17th-century variant spelling of REPIQUE, the winning of various points at the game of piquet. This is one of a small group of words beginning with R and ending with Q. The OED even has an illustrative quotation with this spelling in it, referring to "his picq and repicq".

## SATEX

This is a new transposal of TEXAS! There is a company with the name SATEX Limited, listed in the October 1992 edition of British Telecom's The Phone Book, Business and Services, London Postal Area. The address and telephone number are given as Unit 19, Dollis Hill Estate, Brook Road, London NW2, and 081-450 3200.

## TRAGEDIOUSLY

Like AFFECTIOUSLY earlier, this is a newly-found item which uses the six vowels AEIOUY in order. This is listed in Webster's Second Edition, and means "in a manner full of tragedy". Why has this lain for years unobserved by logologists?

## UMFUNDISI

A teacher, minister or missionary. The word can be beheaded to create MFUNDISI, a variant spelling of the original word, and notable for its strange initial digram MF. There are no words in Webster's Second or Third Editions beginning MF. UMFUNDISI can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary.

## VANDENDRIESSCHEITE

An 18-letter specimen which hasn't previously had much currency in lists of long words. This is the name of an oxide of lead and uranium, found as orange crystals. The word is courtesy of the Oxford English Dictionary.

## WAGANGA

This is a plural form of MGANGA, the name given to a native doctor or witch-doctor. These words are of Swahili origin, and are further examples of strange plurals created by modification of letters at the beginning of words. WAGANGA and MGANGA appear in the Oxford English Dictionary.

## XAXA

A name formerly applied to aspirin, it has now become obsolete. This strange-looking tautonym can be found in Gardner & Cooke's Chemical Synonyms and Trade Names, 7th Edition revised and enlarged.

## YWRONGE

A seven-letter specimen with its letters in reverse alphabetical order. This is a Middle English past participle of the verb WRING. I had hoped that there might be a form YWRONGED, but couldn't find it anywhere! When listed alphabetically, YWRONGE is a close neighbour of the familiar YWROKEN, which transposes to NEW YORK. YWRONGE is in the Oxford English Dictionary.

## ZEELLEIB

A word notable for its three L's! This is a German word meaning "cell-body" which appears in Foster's An Illustrated Encyclopaedic Medical Dictionary (1890). Although the word is German, it appears amongst numerous obviously-English words.