

AEIOU IN ORDER

SUSAN THORPE

Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England

There exist thousands of words which embody each of the five vowels A, E, I, O and U once only, in any order (AEIOU words). In "AEIOU Words in Biology" in the November 1993 and February 1994 issues of Word Ways, I presented various categories of these AEIOU words. Since that time I have been collecting examples which fall into the category entitled AEIOU In Order, words in which the five vowels occur in alphabetical order. Familiar non-biological examples include ABSTEMIOUS and FACETIOUS. I had expected that the names of animal genera would account for the lion's share of these words. In the event, however, they account for less than half the 145 words I found, although they are dominant amongst the longer examples. The words are listed alphabetically according to their length. References are given at the end. My thanks go to Chris McManus for sourcing (in Stedman's Spellchecker) the words marked with an asterisk.

7 Letters

ABERIOU a captive Syrian people, possibly the Jews (WW May 1996)
 AERIOUS obs. aerial: of the nature of air (OED)

8 Letters

ALEIKOUM a word that occurs only in the Moslem salutation Salaam
 Aleikoum, 'May peace be upon you' (LV)
 ANEMIOUS of plants growing in windy and exposed situations (OED)
 AVENIOUS lacking the smaller leaf veins (DBS)
 CAESIOUS bluish-grey (OED)
 HARIEOUS var. obs. harageous: cruel (OED)

9 Letters

ACHEILOUS biological: without a lip (OED)
 ACHEIROUS characterised by or relating to an absence of hands (STED)
 AILNODUS a medieval personal name (WNH)
 AERISONUS Latin: that sounds like brass (NPDL)
 AETHIOPUM species name of *Borassus aethiopum*, the Borassus palm (AIG)
 AETHIOPUS a reptile (NZ)
 AFXENTIOU surname of Chrystala Afxentiou of NY (WW August 1995)
 AGENIOSUS a fish (NZ)
 ALECCION var. election (DAW)
 ARSENIOS of the nature of or containing arsenic (OED)
 ARTERIOUS arch. arterial: of, belonging to, or of the nature of an artery
 (OED)
 ATELIOTUM a lepidopteran (NZ)

CAMELIOUS a jocular word invented by Kipling to describe the hump given to the camel in the Just So Stories (OED)
 FACETIOUS characterised by or addicted to pleasantries; jocular, waggish (OED)
 GARESIOUN var. garrison (OED)
 HABERIOUN var. habergeon: a sleeveless coat of mail or scale armour (OED)
 LAEVIOVUM a reptile (NZ)
 MATERIOUS obs. material (OED)
 NAESIOTUS a mollusc (NZ)
 PAFELIOUN var. pavilion (OED)
 PARECIOUS having the male and female organs of plants developed side by side or in the same inflorescence, as in many Bryophytes (FW)
 TAENIODUS a mammal and a fish (NZ)

10 Letters

ABSTEINOUS see abstemious (OED)
 ABSTEMIOUS dispensing with rich food and wine; sparing (OED)
 ABSTENIOUS see abstemious (OED)
 ACLEISTOUS hemimorphic: of crystals, unsymmetrical in form (WEB2)
 ADECTICOUS applied to an insect pupa: without functional mandibles (DBT)
 ADENISODUS a beetle (NZ)
 ADVENTIOUS obs. adventitious (OED)
 ÆILWORDUS a medieval personal name (WNH)
 AENIGMOPUS a millipede (NZ)
 AFFECCIOUN, AFPECIOUN, AFFECCIOUN vars affection, the act of affecting or influencing (OED)
 AFFECTIOUS obs. affectionate, cordial, loving (OED)
 ANNELIDOUS of the nature of a worm (OED)
 ANTERIORUM (STED)*
 APERIOPTUS a fish (OED)
 ARGENIOSUS a fish (NZ)
 ARTERIORUM (STED)*
 ARTERIOSUM *ligamentum arteriosum*; arterial ligament; Botallo's ligament; the remains of the ductus arteriosus (STED)
 ARTERIOSUS *bulbus arteriosus*: a muscular part of the conus arteriosus in some fishes (DBS)
 ASETILOBUS a mite (NZ)
 ASPECCIOUN obs. sight (DAW)
 ATENISODUS a beetle (NZ)
 BACTERIOUS bacterial: pertaining to or consisting of bacteria (WEB2)
 CAMELINOUS a dirty yellow-brown, the colour of a camel (DBS)
 HAERIOUSLY obs. cruelly (OED)
 HABERGIOUN, HAWBERIOUN see haberiou (OED)
 LAEPIDOPUS a fish (NZ)
 LAETIPORUS a fungus (ODNH)
 MAJESTIOUS majestic (OED)
 MARVEILOUS var. marvellous (OED)
 PAECILODUS a fish (NZ)

- PAREIOPHUS a fish (NX)
 PRAEDIOLUM Latin: a small estate, little farm (CLD)
 TAENIONCUS a beetle (NZ)
 TAPEINOTUS a beetle (NZ)
 TRAGEDIOUS obs. calamitous, tragic (OED)

11 Letters

- ABSTENTIOUS characterised by abstinence; self-retraining (OED)
 ACHEILOUSLY in an acheilous manner (STED)*
 ACHEIROUSLY in an acheirous manner (STED)*
 ADEKTITOPUS a hymenopteran (NZ)
 ALPESTRIOUS obs. alpine (OED)
 AMERICOCOCUS a bug (NZ)
 ANTERIDOCUS a brachiopod (NZ)
 ARCHEPIOLUS a moth (NZ)
 ARGYREIOSUS a fish (NZ)
 ARSENICOSUM as in Acidum Arsenicosum Anhydricum (MART)
 ARSENIOSUSLY in an arsenious manner (STED)*
 ARTEMIDORUS a bug (NZ)
 ASTREIDOMUS a mollusc (NZ)
 ASTYLEIOPUS a beetle (NZ)
 CAESPITOSUM species name of *Scleropodium caespitosum*, a moss (TBBS)
 CAESPITOSUS c(a)espitose: arranged or combined in a thick mat or clumps, e.g. a plant having low stems forming a dense tuft or sod (WEB2)
 CHLAENIONUS a beetle (NZ)
 CHLAENIOPUS a beetle (NZ)
 FACETIOUSLY in a facetious manner (OED)
 FRACEDINOUS productive of heat through putrefaction (OED)
 GRAVEDINOUS obs. drowsy, heavy-headed (OED)
 HALF-SERIOUS only partly serious (WEB2)
 LAEVIGNONUS a mollusc (NZ)
 LAMPETIOPUS a fly (NZ)
 LATERIPORUS a tapeworm (NZ)
 MARVEILLOUS var marvellous (OED)
 PARECIOUSLY in a parecious manner (FW)
 PAREPITOXUS a beetle (NZ)
 PHAENIXOPUS a plant of the family Compositae (DFPF)
 PLACENTIOUS obs. pleasing or disposed to please; complaisant, amiable, suave (OED)
 TAENIOGYRUS a sea cucumber (NZ)
 TAENIORPHUS a bug (NZ)
 ZALEPTIOLUS a mite (NZ)

12 Letters

- ABSTEMIOUSLY in an abstemious manner (OED)
 AFFECTIONOUSLY obs. cordially, kindly (OED)
 ARTEMICOCOCUS a bug (NZ)
 CALVEZICONUS a protozoan (NZ)
 CAVERNILOQUY low-pitched pectoriloquy heard over a lung cavity (STED)
 GRAVEDINOSUM, GRAVEDINOSUS Latin: subject to colds (CLD)

LAESTRIGONUS a crustacean (NZ)
 LAMELLICONUS a protozoan (NZ)
 MAGELLICONUS a mollusc (NZ)
 MARVEILOUSLY in a marvellous manner (inferred from marvellous and marvellously)
 PAREDRIOPHUS an echinoderm (NZ)
 PAREPIPSOCUS a psocopteran (NZ)
 PAREPISCOPUS an orthopteran (NZ)
 PATELLICONUS a mollusc (NZ)
 RACEMIFLORUM, RACEMIFLORUS with flowers in racemes, as in lily-of-the-valley (GDPN)
 TRACHELIOTUS species name of *Torgos tracheliotus*, a lappet-faced vulture (CCBW)
 TRAGEDIOSLY obs. in tragic style (OED)
 TRAPEZICOMUS a beetle (NZ)

13 Letters

ABELIOPHYLLUM a plant of the family Oleaceae (DFPF)
 ALTERNICORNUS a louse (NZ)
 ALTERNIFLORUM species name of *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, a submerged water plant of the family Haloragidaceae (BECFZ)
 AMEIROPSYLLUS a crustacean (NZ)
 ANCHENIONCHUS a fish (NZ)
 ANTHEPISCOPUS a fly (NZ)
 CACHECTICORUM as in the disease *Acne cachecticorum* (STED)*
 FLABELLIPORUS a protozoan (NZ)
 HALF-SERIOUSLY in a half-serious manner (WEB2)
 LAMELLIPHORUS a mollusc (NZ)
 MARVEILLOUSLY see marveulously (OED)
 MESAMPHISOPUS a crustacean (NZ)
 TAENIOPHYLLUM a plant of the family Orchidaceae (DFPF)

14 Letters

AENICTOTYPHLUS a beetle (NZ)
 APHELIOTYPHLUS a beetle (NZ)
 ARMENIOPHYLLUM a myriapod (NZ)
 ASTERIOPHYLLUM a coelenterate (NZ)
 BATHYCHEILODUS a fish (NZ)
 CARCHESIOPYGUS a beetle (NZ)
 LAMELLIGOMPHUS a dragonfly (NZ)
 LAMELLITROCHUS a mollusc (NZ)
 TAENIORHYNCHUS a fly (NZ)

15 Letters

CHAENIORHYNCHUS a brachiopod (NZ)

17 Letters

ARGENTINORHYNCHUS a beetle (NZ)

18 Letters

PHRAGELLIORHYNCHUS a protozoan (NZ)

Perhaps additional examples can be inferred. For example, ACCRETIOUS (resembling any growth by gradual external addition), BASENJIOUS (resembling the Basenji, a small breed of African dog that rarely barks) and SANSEIOUS (resembling an American citizen born of Nisei parents in the United States). Basenji and Sansei are both in the Addenda of Webster's Second Edition.

REFERENCES

- AIG Agricultural Insects of Ghana by John Forsyth, Ghana Univ Press 1966
- BECFZ Botanical & Exchange Club of the British Isles Report for 1924 by G. Claridge Druce: Additions to the Flora Zetlandica
- CCBW A Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World by Richard Howard and Alick Moore, Macmillan 1984
- CLD Cassell's Latin Dictionary by D.P. Simpson, Cassell 1991
- DAW Dictionary of Archaic Words by James Orchard Halliwell, Bracken Books 1989
- DBS The Dictionary of the Biological Sciences by Peter Gray, Van Nostrand 1967
- DBT A Dictionary of Biological Terms by L.F. and W.D. Henderson, Oliver & Boyd 1963
- DFPF A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns by J.C. Willis, 7th edition CUP 1966
- FW Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary
- GDPN A Gardener's Dictionary of Plant Names by W.T. Stearn, Cassell 1971
- LV Language on Vacation by Dmitri Borgmann, Scribner's 1965
- MART Martindale: The Extra Pharmacopoeia, editor James E.F. Reynolds, 30th edition 1993
- NPDL New Pocket Dictionary of the Latin and English Languages compiled by J. Macfarlane, Eyre & Spottiswoode
- NZ Nomenclator Zoologicus
- ODNH The Oxford Dictionary of Natural History, editor M. Allaby OUP 1985
- OED Oxford English Dictionary
- STED Stedman's Medical Dictionary
- TBBS Transactions of the British Bryological Society vol. 1, part 4, 1950: An Annotated List of the British Mosses by P.W. Richards and E.C. Wallace
- WEB2 Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language, 2nd edition
- WNH Words, Names and History, Selected Writings of Cecily Clark, editor Peter Jackson, D.S. Brewer, Cambridge 1995
- WW Word Ways