

STATENAMES REVISITED

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Over the years, the names of the 50 states of the USA have been pored over in the pages of Word Ways. Transposals of the statenames have been logged for most of them. Some examples: INDIANA anidian, MINNESOTA nominates, NEW YORK ywroken, TEXAS taxes, WASHINGTON nowanights.

There are related areas which haven't received the same amount of attention, though. These can be summarised in the following two questions. For each of the statenames,

- (1) what is the longest word that can be made up from a subset of the letters of the statename?
- (2) what is the shortest word using all the letters of the statename, and at least one additional letter?

Take CALIFORNIA, for example. In answer to (1), there are several words of seven letters, including AIRFOIL and OCARINA, but the longest are the eight-letter specimens CONARIAL and IRONICAL. In answer to (2), CRANIOFACIAL seems to be the shortest word using all the letters of CALIFORNIA, with A and C as the additional letters.

My best suggestions for the 50 statenames are given in the table below. Single-letter transdeletions and transadditions have been marked with an asterisk. In several cases there are no words using all the letters of a particular statename, plus other letters. These have been indicated by hyphens.

Can readers improve on my words? Can the subject of statename wordplay be broadened further? How?

ALABAMA	lamb	jambalaya
ALASKA	alas	*kabalas
ARIZONA	*zoaria	lazzaroni
ARKANSAS	snarks	*namaskars
CALIFORNIA	ironical	craniofacial
COLORADO	carol	condolatory
CONNECTICUT	conticent	-----
DELAWARE	*awardee	rewardable
FLORIDA	*laroid	*forbidal
GEORGIA	*gorgia	*arpeggio
HAWAII	aha	waribashi

IDAHO	*ohia	*hairdo
ILLINOIS	lions	pillorising
INDIANA	naiad	cnidarian
IOWA	wo	*miaow
KANSAS	*kanas	*askants
KENTUCKY	cutey	-----
LOUISIANA	liaison	situational
MAINE	*name	*median
MARYLAND	*drayman	laundryman
MASSACHUSETTS	mustaches	-----
MICHIGAN	*chiming	*machining
MINNESOTA	*mentions	*emanations
MISSISSIPPI	missis	-----
MISSOURI	*simious	moisturise
MONTANA	manna	damnation
NEBRASKA	*bankers	canibrakes
NEVADA	*vaned	*advance
NEW HAMPSHIRE	seraphine	-----
NEW JERSEY	sweeney	-----
NEW MEXICO	newcome	-----
NEW YORK	*knower	donkeywork
NORTH CAROLINA	chlorinator	-----
NORTH DAKOTA	tankard	-----
OHIO	*ooh	dhooti
OKLAHOMA	moolah	-----
OREGON	*goner	*forgone
PENNSYLVANIA	insanely	-----
RHODE ISLAND	*rhodanised	-----
SOUTH CAROLINA	inoculators	-----
SOUTH DAKOTA	tostada	-----
TENNESSEE	sennets	resentences
TEXAS	*east	*exacts
UTAH	*hat	*aught
VERMONT	*mentor	normative
VIRGINIA	airing	rivalising
WASHINGTON	*gnathions	notwithstanding
WEST VIRGINIA	waiterings	-----
WISCONSIN	scions	wainscotings
WYOMING	*mowing	marrowskying

Editor's Note: The most recalcitrant statename appears to be Mississippi, with no possible transaddition and a five-step transdeletion required. North Dakota, South Dakota, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts are nearly as bad, all requiring four-step transdeletions. However, note that Alabama and Colorado, both requiring three-step transdeletions, achieve transadditions using only two and three extra letters, respectively! At the other extreme, Rhode Island has a minimal one-step transdeletion but no possible transaddition; Washington and Wyoming, also with one-step transdeletions, need five extra letters to construct their transadditions, and New York needs three.