

EVEN MORE LONG WORDS FROM THE OED

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Do you recall asking about long words in the Oxford English Dictionary that used letters, digits, hyphens, Greek letters and a variety of other characters?

Yep. Don't tell me--you've gone and searched them out!

A few of them, yes. I only looked for ones with over 50 characters, and there's not that many.

How many?

According to my research, there's just 11. And you've already seen the two longest ones--of lengths 94 and 100--in an earlier Word Ways.

All chemical terms, I suppose?

They seem to be. Anyway, the lengths run from 56 characters up to a round 100. My list below also shows the main entries in the OED where the chemical names can be found.

Long words, 50+ characters

Main entry
where found

56 propyl-4-diethyl-carbamoylmethoxy-3-methoxyphenylacetate	propanidid
59 anhydro-3-hydroxymethylene~tetrahydro- γ -pyrone-2-carboxylic	patulin
64 N-(1-ethylpyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)-2-methoxy-5-sulphamoylbenzamide	sulpiride
64 (\pm)-1-(2-Acetyl-4-butyramidophenoxy)-3-isopropylaminopropan-2-ol	acebutolol
67 7-chloro-1,3-dihydro-3-hydroxy-5-phenyl-2H-1,4-benzodiazepine-2-one	oxazepam
67 7-Chloro-3-hydroxy-1-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2(3H)-one	temazepam
67 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-8-hydroxy-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2-dimethylisoquinoline	pellotine
72 4-(2-isopropylamino-1-hydroxyethyl)-methanesulphonamide hydrochloride	sotalol
77 sodium-ortho-benzidine-mono-sulphoacid-diazo-b-2-naphthylamine-3.6-sulphoacid	trypan
94 1,2,3,4,5,6-hexahydro-8-hydroxy-6,11-dimethyl-3-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-2,6-methano-3-benzazocine	pentazocine
100 6,8-dideoxy-6-(1-methyl-4-propyl-2-pyrrolidincarboxamido)-1-thio-d-erythro-d-galacto-octapyranoside	lincomycin

sands, even millions, of long chemical names.

Quite right! All that distinguishes the ones in my list from the myriad other long names in existence is that these ones actually appear in the Oxford English Dictionary. Beyond that, I'm not claiming anything special for them.