

# ABCDE

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The letters ABCDE can be arranged in 120 different ways. Nine of these permutations occur as sequences uninterrupted by intervening letters, in BEAD Curtain, barBED CAT, poliCE BADge, flounCED ABOut, bounCED Back, cold ABCEss, outsiDE BACK, friED BACon and rED CAB- bage. But all these sequences straddle the two words of the phrase. The current exercise searches for single words which include one of the permutations as an uninterrupted sequence:

- ABCED abcedary (OED), abcediren (F&W)  
 ABDEC abdecken (German: uncover)  
 ACEDB ACeDB (a partly object-oriented database of genetic and sequence information devised for the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, in ODBMB)  
 BACED based (OED), embaced (var embased, in OED), Bacedasco (Italy, TIG)  
 BADCE badcess?  
 BDEAC subdeacon (OED) plus derived forms -ate, -ess, -ries, -ry, -ship  
 BDECA subdecanal (OED)  
 BEADC bead-child (OED), bead-cuffs (small ruffles, DAW)  
 BECAD abecadto (Polish: ABC, alphabet)  
 BEDCA bedcap (Web 2), bedcase (Web 2). bed-card (OED)  
 CABED Cabedelo (Brazil, TIG)  
 CADEB del Cadebo mountains (Spain, TIG), Cade-Bow (1754 quote in OED), Cadeby (Leicestershire and Yorkshire, England, TIG)  
 CEBAD Cebada (Argentina, TIG). cebadilla (OED)  
 CEDAB precedable (Web 2)  
 DBEAC sandbeach (Web 2)  
 DEBAC debace (obs debase, in OED), debacle, debacchate (OED), debacchation (OED), cuddeback?  
 DECAB decabelone (OED), Decabrist (var Dekabrist, in Web 2), decabid?  
 EDBAC biofeedback, feedback, hooped-back, red-backed, speckled-back, streaked-back, steed-back (all OED)  
 EDCAB Edcaballerotrema (a genus of flatworm, in NZ)

Can Word Ways readers fill any of the 101 gaps?

References: OED Oxford English Dictionary, Web 2 Webster's Second Edition, F&W Funk and Wagnalls, TIG Times Index Gazetteer of the World, DAW Dictionary of Archaic Words by James O Halliwell (Bracken Books 1989), ODBMB Oxford Dictionary of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (Oxford University Press 1997), NZ Nomenclator Zoologicus