ALPHABETIC TRIGRAMS AND TETRAGRAMS

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Many words contain a trigram comprising three consecutive letters of the alphabet. The most commonly occurring are DEF (DEFINE, DEFEAT, DEFIT, etc.) and STU (STUCK, STUB, PASTURE, etc.).

However, alphabetic tetragrams are far rarer. There is probably only one everyday word that has such an orderly foursome: understudy.

For the purposes of this exercise, only a single example is given for each alphabetic group. Proper names are acceptable, but not initialisms like KLM (airline) or QRS complex (Web 3). Foreign words like the Flemish LJJKLake, mentioned in the OED etymology of the noun 'leech', and the early Dutch GHIJL (OED, under 'gyle') are not allowed, either.

Also, the relevant letter set cannot be broken by a hyphen or space, which disqualifies terms such as star-std and film noir.

If you know of examples for any of the missing combinations, or can improve an existing one, please let us know. Beware of misprints, though! For instance, the US PhoneDisc records people supposedly surnamed PQRebski, PQRtell, PQRtorreal and SiNOPqili. These are almost certainly errors for Porebski, Portell, Portorreal and Sinopoli, but with apparently genuine names like Funofpbupk and Przypyszny, it makes you wonder.

TRIGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABC</th>
<th>crABCatcher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCD</td>
<td>aBCDarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDE</td>
<td>eCDEmic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEF</td>
<td>graDEFinder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFG</td>
<td>trEFGordd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGH</td>
<td>aFGHani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHI</td>
<td>dunGHIll</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

any of several herons that eat crabs, for example the boatbill (Web 2)

an early variant of 'abecedarian,' one engaged in teaching the alphabet (OED, 1691 quotation) pertaining to a disease observed far from the area in which it originated (RHD)

any instrument that measures grades or slopes (Web 2)

in old Cymric law, a single community constituting a taxable unit--typically nine houses, one plough, one oven, one churn, one cat, one cock, and one herdsman (Web 2)

a coin and monetary unit of Afghanistan, equal to 100 puls (RHD)

a heap of dung; a vile abode, or any mean
HIJ  HIJinks
IJK  rIJKsdaaldcr
JKL  teJKL
KLM  WinKLMann
LMN  aLMNer
MNO  staMNOs
NOP  moNOPode
OPQ  pOPQuiz
PQR
QRS  saQRS
RST  liverwurst
STU  teSTUdo
TUV  TUValuan
UVW  zUVWlla
VWX
WXY
XYZ  hydroXYZine

situation, condition or thing (Web 2)
boisterious celebration or merrymaking;
unrestrained fun (RHD)
a cupronickel or silver Dutch coin equal to
2 1/2 guilders (RHD)
a surname listed 30 times on PhoneDisc
a surname listed 16 times on PhoneDisc
variant of 'almoner,' an official distributor of
alms to the needy (OED)
a widemouthed Greek vase with handles on
the shoulders (Web 2)
one of a fabulous race having a single foot,
used as a sunshade (Web 2) [see illustration]
a quiz given without prior announcement or
opportunity to prepare (Web 3)
persons with the surname Saqr, such as the
12 listed in PhoneDisc
a sausage containing lots of liver (Web 2)
[note that this word has R,S,T,U,V,W within
the space of only ten letters]
a movable shed to protect soldiers engaged in
siege operations (Web 2)
an inhabitant of the Commonwealth State of
Tuvalu, formerly the Ellice Islands (OED)
surname of T. Zuvwlla of San Francisco, in the
1997 Phone Disc [Is this name genuine?]
an antihistaminic compound used to treat
allergies, nausea and anxiety (RHD)

ABCD  ABCDarian
BCDE
CDEF
DEFG  DEFGnée
EFGH  dEFGHi

see BCD

a surname listed six times in the 1991 Brussels,
Belgium telephone directory
surname of the alphabetical Ab.C. Defghi, a
former resident of Villa Park IL, according to
Ripley's Mammoth Believe It Or Not (1956) [this
name looks contrived]
surname of Abbas Bafghi of Carson City NV, in
PhoneDisc [Is this name genuine?]
a surname listed four times in the 1994 Amsterdam,
Netherlands telephone directory
the surname of three Michigan residents listed
on PhoneDisc
the surname of U.A. Rijkland in the 1994
Amsterdam telephone directory, and of H.F.
Rijkland in the 1995 Rotterdam directory
cheLMNO  town in north-central Poland (TAW)
oMNOn  a mixture of the hydrochlorides of the opium alkaloids (OED Supplement)

superRSTUd  a man of (reputedly) superior sexual potency or accomplishments (OED)
STUVer  early form of 'stiver,' a small Dutch coin (OED)

REFERENCES

Web 3 Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 1976