

# TOP ROW TYPING

REX GOOCH

Welwyn, Herts, England

A deservedly favourite question is: what is the longest English word that can be typed using only the top row of the typewriter? The very apt answer is TYPEWRITER, at 10 letters. Staying with the QWERTY (not, for example, the AZERTY) layout, I pointed out some years ago in a newspaper column that QUIETWRITER at 11 letters was longer, and also appropriate, as the IBM Quietwriter (a high quality quiet electronic typewriter or printer) also had the QWERTY layout.

The review of *Oxford Word Challenge* in the February *Word Ways* also mentioned the ten-letter REPERTOIRE. I decided to investigate this a subject again. There are lots of nice 10-letter words, a few nice 11s, and a nice 12 or two. Unless otherwise noted, all are OED headwords.

12 PEET-PEET-PEET (W80-251), PITUITOTROPE (W68-25), POOT-POOT-POOT (Chambers Scots Dict), PRETTY-PRETTY, PUTTO TORTURE (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), TEETER-TOTTER

11 IT WERE TO WIT, OUTPUT POWER, PEPPER-UPPER, POTTERY TREE, POWER TURRET, PROPRIETORY, PROTEROTYPE (Web 2), QUIETWRITER (tradename), RUPTUREWORT

10 EUROEQUITY, O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O (Language on Vacation), PEPPER-ETTE (OED variant), PEPPER-ROOT, PEPPER-TREE, PEPPERWORT, PERIPTEROI (Pulliam & Carruth, *Word Game Dictionary*), PERPETUITY, PERQUIRERE (Chambers, under perquisite), PERRIERITE, PERRUQUIER, PETRO-POWER, PEWTERWORT, PIROUETTER, PORTER-RIOT, POURRITURE, PRE-POTTERY, PREREQUIRE, PRETORTURE (Web 2), PROPRIETIE (OED variant), PROPRIETOR, PROPRYETIE, PROTOPTERI (OED, protopteran), PROTOTROPY, PROTURETER, PURTRETURE, PUT TORTURE, PYRITETYPE (?), QUITE-QUITE, REPERTOIRE, REPETITEUR, REPETITORY (Web 2), RETORQUERE (Chambers, under retort), ROEPPERITE, ROTO-ROOTER (tradename of a device to clean underground pipes of roots)

The two Chambers words are perhaps doubtful, as they appear only as Latin words in the etymology. Can readers find the source for PYRITETYPE?