TELEPHONE TIC-TAC-TOE

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In the February 1999 issue of Word Ways (page 68), Dave Morice sets one particular challenge to which this short article is a response and slight extension.

In a different arrangement from what used to obtain in the United Kingdom, United States telephone keypads have nine of the numeric keys in a square, and eight of the keys also have three letters (Q and Z being omitted):

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  1  2  3
ABC DEF

  4  5  6
GHI JKL MNO

  7  8  9
PRS TUV WXY
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Interchange of the top and bottom rows makes no difference to the game, which is to choose a row, column, or main diagonal, then make the longest word possible using the letters thereby selected. Each letter may be used many times, but at least one letter must be used from every key in the chosen line.

Fortunately, the vowels are reasonably scattered, so that only the NE-SW diagonal poses a little difficulty, having just the Y for a vowel and some of the less exciting consonants. All unlabeled words are OED head-words.

Tic-Tac-Toe is known as Noughts and Crosses in the United Kingdom.

ROW 1
10 FACE-BEDDED
9 ABBADABA (Random House Dict), BABE-FACED (Web 2), BEEF FACED, DABABABAD (Gazetteer of Iran)
8 ABABCDCD (Chambers pattern), BEBEDDED (Language on Vacation), BEDEADED, BEDEAFED (Language on Vacation), FABACEAE (Web 2)
7 ABADABA (New Zealand racehorse), ABEBAEA (Nomenclator Zoologicus), A-BEE-CEE, ACCEDED, BAD DEED (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), BEEF-FED, DEFACED, DEFACE (OED var), EFFACED (Chambers), FEED-BED

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ROW 2
14 MILLION MILLION (Bloomsbury Thesaurus)
13 MONIMOLIMNION
12 KINNIKINNIK (Palindromicon)
11 GINNING MILL, HIGH-JINKING, HIGH MILLING, KING-KILLING, KINNIKINNIK
10 GINGILI OIL, HIGH-LINING, HOG-KILLING, ILL-LOOKING, IMMINGLING, KLING-KLING, MIM-LOOKING

ROW 3
8 STYRRUPS (OED var)
7 SPRUYTS (OED var), SPRYTTTS (OED var), STRUSTY, STYRRUP (in Notts), STYRTTS (OED var), SUSTYRS, SUYPPUS (OED var), SYRUPPY (OED var), SYRUPUS (Stedman), SYSTYRS (OED var)
6 PURPYR, PUTTYS (Stedman), RUSWUT (Web 2), SPURRY, SPURTY, STURRY (in Kent), STURTY, SYRUPS, SYRUPY, SYXTYS (OED var)
5 PUPPY, PURRY (Web 2), PURTY, PUSSY, PUTTY, RUSTY, etc.

COLUMN 1
10 PIP-PIP-PIPS
9 PIRIPIRIS, SIPISIPIS (Palindromicon)
8 GRIGGISH, GRISGRIS, HIGHSHIP, HR-R-R-R-R-RH (Palindromicon), PRIGGISH, SHIPPISE, SIRSHIPS
7 GIGGISH, GRIPPIS (OED var), HIGHISH, HIPPISE, PIGGISH, RIGGISH, SHIRRIS (OED var)

COLUMN 2
11 AKATAKATAKA (Palindromicon)
9 BACALAVA, BALAKLAVA (Chambers), BLACKBUCK (Chambers), BLACKBUTT, CAVALCATA (OED var), CLAVATULA (Tertiary Faunas)
8 ABBUTTAL, ALCAPAULA, ALLABUTA (Web 2), ATTABALL (OED var), BACKTACK (Web 2), BACK-TALK, BALL-CLUB, BLACK-ACT, BLACK-CAT (Chambers), BUCKBUCK, BULLBACK (Web 2), CALCUTTA, (India), CLUB-BALL, CUCK-BALL, CUCUAULT (Chambers, Old French cuckold), KAVAKAVA (Web 2), LAVA-LAVA, TABULATA (Chambers), TALBUTAL (Stedman), TALKBACK (Chambers), TALL TALK (Chambers), TALL TALK

COLUMN 3
10 MYDDEWYFFE (OED var)
9 FOXENDOWN (place), MONEY DOWN (Chambers), NEED MONEY (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), ODDYODOODY (Dictionary of Archaic Words, Halliwell)
8 DEMONYMOX, DEY-WOMEN (Chambers), DONE DOWN, DOWNFEED (Web 2), DOWNWEED, DUFFFEND (OED var), ENDODYNE (Chambers), FEED DOWN, FEMYNYNE (OED var), FEOFYDYE, FOXY EYED, MEXENONE (Stedman), MONDEYNE, MONNEWDEN (place), MONEYMEN (Official Scrabble Players Dict), MOONDOWN (Web 2), MOON-EYED, NEWENDEN (in Kent), NEW MONEY, NONENEMY (Official Scrabble Players Dict), NONWOODY (Web 2), OWE MONEY (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), OXENWOOD (in Wilts)
NW—SE DIAGONAL
5 KYYYY (var KYYY), LYKKY
4 KYLL, KYYY (Official Standard Names Gazetteer, USSR), LYLY (16th-century author)

NE—SW DIAGONAL
13 SELF—REPRESSED
12 SELF—REFERRED
11 DEER KEEPERS, FREE SEEKERS, PEPPER—ELDER, REDRESSLESS, SEED SELLERS, SELF—FEEDERS, SELF—SEEDERS (Chambers), SELF—SEEKERS
10 KEEPERLESS, PEDDLERESS (Web 2), SELF—SEEDED (Chambers), SLEPELESSE (OED var)