

TELEPHONE TIC-TAC-TOE

REX GOOCH

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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):

1	2	3
	ABC	DEF
4	5	6
GHI	JKL	MNO
7	8	9
PRS	TUV	WXY

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 ABBADABBA (Random House Dict), BABE-FACED (Web 2), BEEF FACED, DABABABAD (Gazetteer of Iran)
 8 ABABCD CD (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, ACCEEDED, BAD DEED (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), BEEF-FED, DEFACED, DEFFACE (OED var), EFFACED (Chambers), FEED-BED

ROW 2

- 14 MILLION MILLION (Bloomsbury Thesaurus)
 13 MONIMOLIMNION
 12 KINNIKKINNIK (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), SPRYTTS (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-RH (Palindromicon),
 PRIGGISH, SHIPPISH, SIRSHIPS
 7 GIGGISH, GRIGRIS, GRIPPIS (OED var), HIGHISH, HIPPIH, PIGGISH,
 RIGGISH, SHIRRIS (OED var)

COLUMN 2

- 11 AKATAKATAKA (Palindromicon)
 9 BALACLAVA, BALAKLAVA (Chambers), BLACKBUCK (Chambers),
 BLACKBUTT, CAVALCATA (OED var), CLAVATULA (Tertiary Faunas)
 8 ABBUTTAL, ALCAVALA, 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), TALK TALL
 (Chambers), TALL TALK

COLUMN 3

- 10 MYDDEWYFFE (OED var)
 9 FOXENDOWN (place), MONEY DOWN (Chambers), NEED MONEY
 (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), ODDYDODDY (Dictionary of Archaic Words,
 Halliwell)
 8 DEMONOMY, DEY-WOMEN (Chambers), DONE DOWN, DOWNFEED (Web
 2), DOWNWEED, DYFFENDE (OED var), ENDODYNE (Chambers),
 FEED DOWN, FEMYNYNE (OED var), FEOFYDYE, FOXY EYED,
 MEXENONE (Stedman), MONDEYNE, MONEWDEN (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)