

SPLIT SENTENCE TRANSPOSALS

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Most of us are familiar with words like HORSESHOER in which the letters making the first half of the word are transposed to make the second half of the word. The following examples can all be found in previous issues of Word Ways, and most recently appeared amongst Rex Gooch's list of pair isograms in the February 1998 issue:

Aenean, amimia cnicin dreder gunung hecche kreker lysyls natant
 tenent tertre
 adinidan bilabial coinicon gensengs indenied mesosome notition
 pynepeny reappear shammash shippish signings teammate teisties
 vetitive
 dikwakwadi intestines horseshoer padlepalde
 trisectrices
 taeniodontidae
 antiperspirantes

Here are some further examples which I believe to be new to Word Ways:

Aroroa (island, Louisiade Archipelago), Barbra (Streisand), daeaed
 (OED var), gnagan (Chambers), iellie (OED var), iettie (OED var),
 isaias (Longman's Dict), Khahak (Afghanistan), Kvivik (Faeroes),
 oynyon (OED var), saeaes (OED var), salals (OER var), snesen
 (OED var), Suttsu (Japan)
 blow-bowl (OED var), leaf-flea (OED var), megagame (A Dict of New
 English 1963-72), praepare (OED var), Roththor (Swiss mountain),
 scittisc (OED var), scyttysc (OED var), singings (OED var),
 tinantia (Dict of the Flowering Plants and Ferns, J.C.Willis, 1966)
 ezerszeres (Hungarian for 'a thousandfold')

TWO-WORD PHRASES

Taking this exercise a step further, we can construct 2-word phrases like MARRIED ADMIRER in which the letters of the left-hand word are transposed to make the letters of the right-hand word.

actors costar	begin binge	coolest ocelots
direct credit	Ernest enters	float aloft
Gerald glared	hated death	inspect pectins
Jane's jeans	keep Peke	lovely volley
mother's thermos	notices section	outer route
palest pastel	quite quiet	recasts actress

secure rescue
valiant Latvian

toaster rotates
warned Andrew

Ulster result
yonder, Rodney

LONGER PHRASES AND SENTENCES

But why stop at 2-word phrases when, with perseverance, it is possible to construct longer sentences?

a German manager

Mum uses museums

we pinch new chip

Word Ways was wordy

alligator's gait's a 'roll'

Main Street terminates

the sick had thick heads

she's nattering in Grant's sheet

thermostatics trim heat costs

Christmas Carol star calms choir

we love cricket so Leo covers wicket hey, stars molest the Solar System

Ben's rum numbers

Toyotas say 'toot'

conifer's fir cones

heat burns sunbather

an interest entertains

sonar scene resonances

has Wimbledon had Women's Lib?

straight from a rag, this format

Woodrow Wilson woos lorn widow

heavenly bodies do shine, by leave

hey, stars molest the Solar System

horse racing's bets bring those scares

St. Martin's Theatre transmits at three

the millennium bug--himmel, unbungle it!

the undergraduates argue and hurt steed

Neil Armstrong edits 'Interesting Old Mars'

New Year resolutions, a sly notion we're sure

gosh, see that triangle, it has got three angles

pleasant apples grew, so peel's appeal was strong

the car is in Esso garage, so I resist a gear change

dark, pippy an' celebrable blackberry and apple pie

A SPECIAL CASE

We should not forget that special type of split transposal, the palindrome. All multiword palindromes with an even number of letters are potential candidates for split phrases (or sentence) transposals.

O, rue Euro

dam son nos--mad!

set Alp plates

to have Eva--hot!

egad, nab bandage!

night row worth gin?

referees see, refer

auk, swan got to gnaw skua

Marge lets Norah see Sharon's telegram

lay or royal?

"line no, one nil"

tackle elk, cat

do offer ref food

maestros sort seam

pack Nina an inkcap

sun at Eton, no tetanus

Ron, I'm Ann, a minor

On the palindromic theme, I leave the last word to Edward Scher of NYU who encapsulated Jimmy Carter's 1980 election mind-changing in the following classic: TO LAST, CARTER RETRACTS A LOT.