



COSiNEs. No doubt there exists some elemental word that can be written in many more ways than thirteen!

A difficult but solvable challenge is to find elemental words incorporating all 103 different elements. The most recalcitrant ones:

AU AuCTiON  
 BK NaBk  
 CD SYNeCdOCHe, CF FLiCfLaC, CM LaCmUS, CS TiCs  
 EU LiEu  
 FM HoOFmArK  
 GD AmYGdAlITiS  
 HF PAtHfINdEr, HG FLaSHgUN  
 KR CoCKrOAcH  
 LR HOsTeLrY  
 MD CIrCuMdUCTiON, MG CIrCuMgYRaTiON, MN CaLuMnY  
 NB BONbON, NP NoNpSYCHIC  
 PB HiPbONe, PD SLaPdAsH, PM CHIPmUNK, PT HeLiCoPtEr  
 RB CaRbON, RH CaRhOP, RN FeRn  
 SB GaSbAg, SR PReSSrUN  
 TB SeTbAcK, TC CaTch, TL CuTlAsS, TM LiTmUS  
 XE XeNoN  
 YB PLaYbOY  
 ZN BiZnAgAs, ZR ArZrUNiTe

Finally, one can use elemental words to rewrite "Mary Had a Little Lamb" (AGNUS is "lamb" in Latin):

ONe TiNY AgNUS SHe NoW OWNS  
 (SNOW-WHITE IS HER CoAt).  
 WHeN HER LaDy IS NeArBY,  
 AgNUS STaYS, I NoTe.

In CLAsS ONe MoRn SHE TaKEs HER PLaCe;  
 TeAcHER CrIEs "SHoO! RUN!"  
 HeAr THoSe LaSSiEs ScReAm "HoW CuTe!"  
 ThIS AgNUS--PuRe FUN!"

Or, change lines 6-8 to provide a counterpart for line 4:

STeRn LaW: No AgNUS HeRe.  
 BOYS PLuS LaSSiEs ScReAm "HoW CuTe!"  
 SUCH NoISY FUN, I FeAr.

Elemental prose is decidedly harder to write than E-less prose: 30 words of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" have no E's, but only 12 are elemental. Sixteen out of 34 (47 per cent) two-letter words in Webster's 1974 Pocket Dictionary are elemental, as are 166 out of 539 (31 per cent) three-letter ones. As words get longer, elemental words become increasingly rare.