

NEW CATEGORIES OF TYPEWRITER WORDS

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In the November 1999 Word Ways, Michael Keith introduced Misplaced-Hand words, in which one hand is in the wrong place on the keyboard. When both hands are offset, I call these Typewriter Shifts, defined by the direction (right or left) and the number of keys offset. For example, in a Left Shift PIMP - 5 = TEXT, and in a Right Shift REDS + 6 = POLK (OED).

MULTIPLE SHIFTS

These involve two or more consecutive shifts to the left or right:

Triple Left Shift: HOY - 1 = GIT, GIT - 1 = FUR, FUR - 1 = DYE

Double Right Shift: DUE + 1 = FIR, FIR + 1 = GOT

SHIFTGRAMS

In an Alphabetical Shiftgram, the letters of a word are shifted n places along the alphabet and the resulting letters rearranged to form another word (see "Shiftgrams: My Deft Ruse" Feb 1996 Word Ways). In a Typewriter Shiftgram, the letters are shifted and rearranged:

Left Shiftgram: FORTY - 1 = DIERT(TIRED), TOMB - 2 = EUBC(CUBE),
PUNY - 3 = URCE(CURE), JUNG - 4 = DEXA(AXED), HOP - 5 = ART(RAT)

Right Shiftgram: BURNT + 1 = NITMY(MINTY),

WEARY + 2 = RTDYI(DIRTY), CARTS + 3 = NFUIG(FUNGI),

ASSET + 4 = GHUO(HOUGH), FATE + 5 = LHPI(PHIL)

CIRCULAR SHIFTS

Suppose each row of keys forms a loop so that Q follows P, A follows L, and Z follows M. For a shift to qualify as a Circular Shift, at least one letter must shift across a connecting 'join'. Here, $n=1$:

Left Circular Shift: DRAG-SELF, APED-LOWS, DASH-SLAG, VAIN-CLUB,
HARM-GLEN, PEA-OWL, LOAFS-KILDA, BOAR-VILE, GRAY-FELT

Right Circular Shift: AXLE-SCAR, FLOWS-GAPED, FLEW-GARE, BLOW-NAPE
DELTA-FRAYS, GILES-HOARD, PYLA-QUAS (both OED), FLAG-GASH

It is also possible to convert one phrase into another: GLUE SET to HAIR DRY. With $n=5$, we have HIGH-SEAS.

STEP SHIFTS

In step shifts, the letters of a word are shifted by progressively increasing amounts. For Single-Step Shifts, the first letter is shifted one place, the second two places, and so on:

$P(-1)R(-2)Y(-3) = OWE$ $R(+1)U(+2)E(+3) = TOY$

For Odd Number Shifts, the first letter is shifted one place, the second three places, the third five:

$S(-1)O(-3)H(-5) = AYA$ $A(+1)R(+3)T(+5) = SUP$

For Even Number Shifts, the first letter is shifted two places, the second four places, the third six:

$T(-2)I(-4)P(-6) = ERR$ $E(+2)R(+4)E(+6) = TIO$ [Pepe]

CIRCULAR SHIFTGRAMS

These are circular shifts in which the resulting letters are rearranged to form another word:

Left Circular Shiftgrams: SAID - 1 = ALUS(SAUL), TOYS - 2 = EURL(RULE), SWING - 3 = KOTCS(STOCK), COPE - 4 = NTYO(TONY), SWOP - 5 = HURT(RUTH), POINT - 6 = REWMO(MOWER)

Right Circular Shiftgrams: PLYS + 1 = QAUD(QUAD), WELT + 2 = RTSU(RUST), WRIT + 3 = TUQI(QUIT), SHOP + 4 = HAER(HEAR), HUGO + 5 = SWAR(WARS), SWIG + 6 = KIRS(RISK)

STEP SHIFTGRAMS

These are step shifts in which the resulting letters are rearranged to form another word:

$Y(-1)O(-2)N(-3) = TUC(CUT)$ $B(+1)A(+2)Y(+3) = NDO(DON)$

CIRCULAR STEP SHIFTS

These are step shifts in which at least one letter shifts across a 'join':

$H(-2)E(-4)S(-6) = FOG$ $F(+2)E(+4)N(+6) = HUB$

CIRCULAR STEP SHIFTGRAMS

These are step shiftgrams in which at least one letter shifts across a 'join':

Circular Single-Step Shiftgram:

$P(-1)I(-2)X(-3)I(-4)E(-5) = OYNRI(IRONY)$

$L(+1)I(+2)P(+3)S(+4) = APEH(HEAP)$

Odd-Number and Even-Number Circular Step Shiftgram:

$A(-1)W(-3)E(-5)S(-7) = LOIF(FOIL)$

$P(+2)L(+4)O(+6)T(+8) = WFTE(WEFT)$

ET'S FED UP is the result of single-shifting a well-known two-word phrase and rearranging its letters. No 'joins' and no steps are involved. Is the shift Right or Left? And what is the phrase? The answer is in Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue.

To conclude, may I introduce you to a most interesting debauched European. In order to meet him, we need to return to Right Single-Step Shifts, whence $E(+1)U(+2)R(+3)O(+4) = ROUE$. EURO and ROUE are transposals!