GENERALIZED ALTERNADES: PART 1

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This article reports on work done on alternades and their generalisations. It presents new longer alternades, trinades, etc., and reports for the first time (as far as I can see) words which have these properties up to three ways--*polyalternades* or *multiple alternades*. I have also found words whose extracted words are themselves alternades (*multilevel alternades*).

My starting point should probably be Dmitri Borgmann's *Language on Vacation*, in which he defined an *alternade* as a word in which the odd-numbered letters, in order, made a word, and the even-numbered letters made another word. His longest example, one of the best in terms of familiarity of words, was the 11-letter TRIENNIALLY which yields TINILY and RENAL. He defined *trinades* similarly, taking every third letter to make three words. The most familiar word among his longest 12-letter examples was PACIFICATORY, splitting into PICO, AFAR and CITY. He also mentioned quadades or *quaternades* such as PANTALOONERY, composed of PAN, ALE, NOR and TOY, and *quinades* such as PARASITOLOGICAL, which becomes PIG, ATI, ROC, ALA and SOL. Finally he mentioned a *reverse trinade* such as ASTRONOMICAL which contains LINT, AMOS and CORA. In passing, note that in Word Ways the term *lends* applies to a word extracted from another in just such a fashion as above, but leaving a rump that is not a word. The term seems to have come from ALTERNADES itself, which treated as an alternade produces ATRAE (the female plural of "black" in Latin) and LENDS. The November 1993 Word Ways gives other examples of lends such as POETESS in PROTECTRESSES. In 1976 Tom Pulliam discovered LARGEHEARTEDNESS (not to imply he was excessively mean before then!) which yields LERN, AHTE, REES, and GADS.

I define the scope of this investigation as follows. I start with the first letter of a long word, and choose a *stride length*. I count out this number of letters successively along the long word until I am past the end, and this gives the first short word. I do the same starting with the second letter of the long word to get the second word, and so on, never using any letter twice. In addition, the long word is usually no longer than 20 letters, and the short words extracted from a single long word are all the same length to within one letter, every short word having at least four letters. (Actually, the reader will observe that I break my four-letter rule in order to find words with triple properties, which then led to the need to treat 3s more generally.) Thus, a stride length of one merely reproduces the original word, a stride length of two produces alternades, etc. These conditions mean that the successive words extracted never increase in length, and their lengths never differ by more than one: for example, a 16-letter word will be

broken into words of length 6,5,5, never 6,5,6 or 5,6,6, and certainly not 1 and 15! Thus there are plenty of other extractions which I do not investigate. (The National Puzzlers' League calls arbitrary extractions such as 2,4,3,4 or 5,2,6 *interlocks.*)

The process may be described in reverse: take a number of words differing in length by no more than one, and use them in decreasing order of length, choosing in turn the leftmost unused letter from each. With n words, this is an n-way merge. In fact, this is a useful constructive method of finding the long words, since under certain conditions we need only consider words that reverse into other words (including palindromes). These conditions are noted in the Doubles (Same Length) and Triples sections of the article.

Quantitative Results

The following tables summarise the findings. They are to be read as follows: the first column describes the split of the long word into its components, and the second column gives the number of words in which the components are read in the same direction, the number of words in which the components are read in the reverse direction, and the (much smaller) number of words for which components in both directions can be found. Thus, for 14-letter words splitting 5+4+4, I found 110 with forward-reading components and 42 with reverse-reading ones, but only one that could be read both ways (PALACE-COVERED to PACED, ACOR, LEVE and to DECAP, EVEL, ROCA).

4+4	3576,2442,413		4+3+3	10364,7315,1947
5+4	1141,786,86		4+4+3	2303,1503,227
5+5	167,140,4		4+4+4	560,349,29
6+5	14,10,1		5+4+4	110,42,1
6+6	1,1,0		5+5+4	16,4,0
			5+5+5	2,1,1

4+4+4+4	28,25,1
5+4+4+4	10,1,0

4+4+4+4+4   1,0,0

3+3+3+3	13138,12812,3956
3+3+3+3+3	3013,3072,640
3+3+3+3+3+3	575,545,74
3+3+3+3+3+3+3	94,98,11
3+3+3+3+3+3+3+3	17,19,1

Some words of 12 letters can be split in more than one way; these are tabulated below.

4+4+4, 3+3+3+3	51
4+4+4, 3+3+3+3(rev)	57
4+4+4(rev), 3+3+3+3	38
4+4+4(rev), 3+3+3+3(rev)	28
4+4+4, 4+4+4(rev), 3+3+3+3	4
4+4+4, 4+4+4(rev), 3+3+3+3(rev)	2
4+4+4, 3+3+3+3, 3+3+3+3(rev)	15
4+4+4(rev), 3+3+3+3, 3+3+3+3(rev)	7

Amazingly, there is one 15-letter word that can be split in two ways: PARASITOGEN-ESES to PATES, ASONE, RIGES (vf) as well as to PIN, ATE, ROS, AGE, SES (vf).

Expectations

It's always interesting to ask how many examples one might expect to find. In the case of one 5-letter word and one 4-letter word, I found 1141 examples, but would expect only 29 if the 9 letters had been chosen at random. Similarly, when extracting four 3-letter words from a 12-letter word, I found 13138 when only 586 might have been expected, and found 14 (0.1 expected) when extracting 6-letter and 5-letter words from 11-letter words. There is therefore some property of these words which strongly biasses alternate letters to form words. A glance at the 9 to 5+4, or 11 to 6+5 lists will show that the examples found are replete with vowels. The sequence of letters is not a large factor, since the success rate of finding words in reverse is not much worse than the rate for forward extraction. Note also, that having found a set of words from which forward extraction is possible, and another set of the same-length words from which reverse extraction of the same type is possible, there is much more commonality between the two sets than would be expected by chance. For example, we get 86 9-letter words from which 5-letter and 4-letter words can be extracted in both directions, as opposed to the 5 expected by chance. As the list shows, such common words often contain doubled letters, ASSESSEES being a notable example Another example of great commonality is when extracting three 4-letter words from a 12-letter word, when we get 29 words from which extraction can be done both forwards and backwards, when only two might have been expected. In this case, the liberal sprinkling of vowels is suggestive--the examples have exactly 50 per cent of their letters as vowels, compared to 40 per cent for dictionary words taken at random.

Example Results

The table given above is important because only it shows the quantitative results of the research--i.e., the conditions under which examples are easy to find, and (by omission) the conditions for which it was impossible to find examples. The following lists are pruned to degrees ranging from none to well over 99 per cent. The basis of the pruning is subjective. I have preferred expressions known to me, and this may involve preferring a well-known abbreviation like TNT to an obscure word. Where obscure words appear, there is no better alternative. Obscure words, abbreviations, proper names and acronyms are bound to appear when pushing the limits. as when trying to extract 11 words according to the rules from a single word. In many cases where a word may appear to be a proper name, such as sid or don, I have pointed to an alternative meaning.

To discuss the results in detail would take a great deal of space, even allowing one short sentence per category, so I have italicised my own favourites, and leave the reader to browse, Apart from the straightforward extraction of 2,3,..., 8 words from a single word of varying size, I have also extracted in reverse. Furthermore, I have found words which yield the same pattern of words in both directions at once, e.g., 12-letter words which break into three 4-letter words in both directions. Next, I found words that break into two different patterns, e.g., 15-letter words which break into three 5-letter

words and also five 3-letter words, variously backwards and forwards. Finally, I managed to find some words from which three different patterns can be extracted: alternades three times over.

I should not fail to mention the very apt ALTERNATION and ALTERNATIONS. OOLOOPOOLOOO is of course a palindrome; it also breaks into OLOOLO and OOPOO, both palindromes, and you get the same result with reversed extraction. They in turn break down into OOL (vf) and LOO, and OPO (OED) and OO (Web3), again similarly in reverse. So without descending a further level, we have a three-level multiple alternade, with both forward and reverse properties at the top two levels. END-ARTERIALS is a double (mixed) alternade, and also multilevel. SEPARATENESS is a good example of a triple: it gives reasonable 4-letter words both forwards and backwards, and some recognisable 3-letter entities forwards.

In the following lists I have sometimes quoted a somewhat arbitrary source when the word in question does not appear in very many sources. Where no source is quoted, the word should appear in more than one of the OED, Webster 2 and 3, American Heritage, and Pulliam.

abbr = abbreviation
gen = genitive
Pcon = Palindromicon
Pull = Pulliam
TEA = The Electronic Alveary

Bl = Bloomsbury Thesaurus
Lo = Longmans
pl = plural
Sted = Stedman

Ch = Chambers
obs = obsolete
pname = personal name
TAW = Times Atlas of World
vf = OED variant form

8 letters to 4 + 4 (all in Pulliam)

ABLATION = ALTO + BAIN
BARRICOS = BRIO + ARCS
BREADNUT = BEDU + RANT
CHAINLET = CANE + HILT
ENLISTEE = ELSE + NITE
GROUNDED = GONE + RUDD
OPTATION = OTTO + PAIN
PIEDNESS = PENS + IDES
POORNESS = PONS + ORES
SCHOOLED = SHOE + COLD
SOUPLIKE = SULK + OPIE
SPOOKIES = SOKE + POIS

BARRETRY = BRER + ARTY
BLOODIER = BODE + LOIR
CALLIOPE = CLIP + ALOE
CHEERLED(AmHer) = CERE + HELD
FARCETTA = FRET + ACTA
IMPASSES = IPSE + MASS
ORNATION = ONTO + RAIN
PLEONASM = PENS + LOAM
PORPOISE = PROS + OPIE
SHOALIER = SOLE + HAIR
SPARSEST = SASS + PRET
TAUTNESS = TUNS + ATES

9 letters to 5 + 4 (all in Pulliam)

ALLODIARY = ALDAY + LOIR
BARBARIAN = BRAIN + ABRA
BLUISNESS = BUSES + LINS
GREENIEST = GENET + REIS
PORPOISES = PROSS + OPIE
and two more:
BALLOONED = BLOND + ALOE

ATMOSTEAL = AMSEL + TOTA
BLOODWEED = BODED + LOW
CHAUSSEES = CASES + HUSE
PALMARIAN = PLAIN + AMRA
THREENESS = TREES + HENS

TRUANCIES = TUNIS + RACE

10 letters to 5 + 5

BARRACLADE = BRALD (OED) + ARCAE
COLLOPCAKE (OED) = CLOCK + OLPAE (Pull)
GROUNDEDLY = GONEL (OED) + RUDDY
PRAETORIAL = PATRA (Ch, Greek root of allopatric) + REOIL
SPALLATION = SALTO + PLAIN (all Pulliam)

CHEERLEADS = CERED + HELAS
COURTLIEST = CUTIS + ORLET
PLAYSCHEME (OED) = PASHM (fur for pashminas) + LYCEE
SCORTATION = SOTTO + CRAIN
STARPULLEY (OED) = SAPLE + TRULY

10 letters to 4 + 3 + 3

ANOMALIPED = AMID + NAP + OLE
CALAMITIES = CATS + AMI + LIE
DENATURANT = DART + ETA + NUN
HALOGENATE = HONE + AGA + LET
LATEWHILES (Pull) = LEIS + AWL + THE
MANIFESTOS = MISS + AFT + NEO (Pull)
MEGALOCYTE = MACE + ELY + GOT
PHILOSOPHY = PLOY + HOP + ISH (= exit) also PSILOSOPHY

BENEVOLENT = BELT + EVE + NON
COLONOPEXY = COPY + ONE + LOX
DENATURATE = DARE + ETA + NUT
LATELINESS = LENS + ALE + TIS
LEGITIMATE = LIME + ETA + GIT
MANIPULATE = MILE + APA + NUT
PALUDICOLE = PUCE + ADO + LIL (vf, Pull)
PINACOCYTE = PACE + ICY + NOT

11 letters to 6 + 5

ALTERNATION = A TRAIN (US song, Take the...) + LENTO
BURRAMYIDAE (Longman's Illus Animal Encyclo) = BRAYDE (obs. braid) + URMIA (Bl)
CELLOBIOSES (pl cellobiose) = CLOISS (vf) + ELBOE (vf)   CELLOBIOSUS (Sted) = CLOISS (vf) + ELBOU (vf)
DEERBERRIES (?, hyp?) = DEBRIS + ERERE (Pcon)   OOLOOPOOLOO (Pcon) = OLOOLO (Pcon) + OOPOO (Pcon)
PRE-ORDAINED = PERAND + RODIE
PROALSATIAN (presume hyphen) = POLAIN (Ch, Old French knee armour) + RASTA
SCARLET SEED = SALTED + CRESE (obs. crease)   SPALLATIONS = SALTOS + PLAIN
SPARVER-WISE = SAVRIE (obs) + PREWS (obs)   *TRIENNIALLY = TINILY + RENAL*
UNPATTERNED = UPTEND + NATRE

11 letters to 4 + 4 + 3

COLONOMETER (Sted) = COME + ONER + LOT
DENATURANTS (Sted) = DART + ETAS + NUN
DILATOMETER = DAME + ITER + LOT
GYNAEOLATER (Pull) = GALE + YEAR + NOT
LEGITIMATES = LIME + ETAS + GIT
PAPAL STATES = PATE + ALAS + PST
SMOKE HELMET (OED) = SKEE + MELT + OHM

DEHUMANISER (derived) = DUNE + EMIR + HAS
DERIVOMETER (OED) = DIME + EVER + ROT
FILARICIDES (Sted) = FACE + IRIS + LID
IMPRISONING = IRON + MING + PSI
METAPOLITIC = MALI + EPIC + TOT
ROMANOSCOPE (Sted) = RASP + ONCE + MOO
VASORELAXED (Sted) = VOLE + ARAD + SEX

12 letters to 6 + 6

ALTERNATIONS = A TRAIN (US song, Take the...) + LENTOS

12 letters to 4 + 4 + 4 (based on Pulliam)

BETACAROTENE (AmHer) = BARE + ECON (Ch, abbr) + TATE   CELADON GREEN (?, light green) = CANE + EDGE + LORN
COLONOMETERS (Sted) = COME + ONER + LOTS   DILATOMETERS (Sted) = DAME + ITER + LOTS
DISENHERISON (OED) = DEES + INRO + SHIN   DISINHERISON = DIES + INRO + SHIN
GLORIOUSNESS = GRUE + LISS + OONS   *LAMINARINASE = LIRA + ANIS + MANE*
LEPIDOMELANE = LIMA + EDEN + POLE   LITERARINESS = LERE + IRIS + TANS
LOCOMOTILITY = LOTI (AmHer) + OMIT + COLY   MACERATIVELY (Sted) = METE + ARIL + CAVY
MANIPULATORS = MILO + APAR + NUTS   *METAPOLITICS = MALI + EPIC + TOTS*
MODERATENESS = METE + ORES + DANS (buoys etc, OED)   OSCULATORIES = OUTI (Bl) + SLOE + CARS
PACIFICATORY = PICO + AFAR + CITY   *SAPONARINESS (OED) = SORE + ANIS + PANS*
SCOLOPACIDAE (Web2) = SLAD + COCA + OPIE   SEMIVALENTLY (Sted) = SILT + EVEL + MANY
SEPARATENESS = SATE + ERES (OED) + PANS   SILICONONANE (Web2) = SINA + ICON + LONE
TELEPOLITICS (OED) = TELI + EPIC + LOTS   UTEROVAGINAL = URAN + TOGA + EVIL
VOMERONASALE (Sted) = VENA + ORAL + MOSE   VOMERONASALS (Sted) = VENA + ORAL + MOSS

12 letters to 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 (some of an all-Pulliam selection)

ADAPTATIONAL = ATO + DAN + ATA + PIL
COLLINEARITY = CIR + ONI + LET + LAY
COMPANIONATE = CAN + ONA + MIT + POE
CONNUBIALITY = CUL + OBI + NIT + NAY
CRANIOLOGIST = CIG + ROI + ALS + NOT
ETHEREALNESS = ERN + TEE + HAS + ELS
GLACIOLOGIST = GIG + LOI + ALS + COT
HEAVENWARDLY = HER + END + AWL + VAY
LABIOPALATAL = LOA + APT + BAA + ILL
MISDEMEANING = MEN + IMI + SEN + DAG
PARTITIONING = PIN + ATI + RIN + TOG
PATHOPOIETIC = POE + APT + TOI + HIC
SECRETIONARY = SEN + ETA + CIR + ROY (= prince)
SUBTERRANEAN = SEN + URE + BRA + TAN
TROPHOBIOTIC = THO + ROT + OBI + PIC

ARTERIARCTIA = ARC + RIT + TAI + ERA
COMPANIONAGE = CAN + ONA + MIG + POE
CONGENIALITY = CEL + ONI + NIT + GAY
CONTINUATELY = CIT + ONE + NUL + TAY
DEFLATIONARY = DAN (judo) + ETA + FIR + LOY
FLUOROGRAPHY = FRA + LOP + UGH + ORY
GLACIONATANT = GIT + LOA + ANN (Ch = annates) + CAT
HELIOCULTURE = HOT + ECU + LUR + ILE
LIBRARIANESS = LAN + IRE + BIS + RAS
PANTALOONERY = PAN + ALE + NOR + TOY
PASSEMEASURE = PES + AMU + SER + SAE
PETTICOATERY = PIT + ECE + TOR + TAY
SPELEOLOGIST = SEG + POI + ELS + LOT
SUPERSALIENT = SRI + USE + PAN + ELT
UNBELIEVABLE = ULA + NIB + BEL + EVE

13 letters to 5 + 4 + 4

AVERAGE STATER (OED) = AREAR + VAST + EGTE (OED)   CORONA VENERIS (OED) = OVES (OSPD) + ONER + RANI
CYPRAEORBINAE (Tert. Faunas) = CROIE (OED) + YARN + PEBA   HAMAMELIDALES (Web3) = HALAS (Pull) + AMIL + MEDE
LEGITIMATISES (z in OED) = LIMIS (OED) + ETAS + GITE   MADURA DISEASE (OED) = MUDEE (Web2) + ARIA + DASS
MALACICHTHYES (W80-104) = MACHS (OSPD) + ACHY + LITE   MYTILOCERAMUS (Biol) = MICAS + YLEM (Pull) + TORU (Pull)
PALACE-COVERED (OED) = PACED + ACOR + LEVE   SHAPELINESSES = (all Pull) SPISS + HENS + ALEE
SYSTEMATICITY = STACY (pname) + YETI + SMIT   VASODILATATES (Sted) = VOLAS (OED) + ADAT + SITE
VENETIAN GLASS (OED) = VEALS + ETNA + NIGS

14 letters to 5 + 5 + 4

ACCELEROMETERS = AERER (vf) + CLOTS + CEME (vf)   *BENEVOLENTNESS = BELTS + EVENS + NONE*
DECORATIVE TILE (Bl) = DOTEL (vf) + ERITE + CAVI (Sted)   DEFERENTITISES (Sted) = DENTE + ERTIS (W81-104) + FEIS
ICE-CALORIMETER = ICOME (vf) + CARER + ELIT   LITERARINESSES = LEREE (place) + IRISS (vf) + TANS
MALEVOLENTNESS = MELTS + AVENS + LONE   PARASITOCENOSE (Sted) = PATES + ASONE + RICO
PREAURICULARES (Sted) = PAILE (vf) + RUCAS (vf) + ERUR   RUMENOCENTESIS = RECTI + UNEES (vf) + MONS
RUN ONE'S FACE FOR = ROSCO (vf) + UNFER (vf) + NEAF (vf)   STOMATOCYTOSES (Sted) = SMOTE + TACOS + OTYS (vf)
TO COOL ONE'S TOES = TOOSE + OONTS + CLEO   TREE OF PARADISE = TEPAS + ROADE (vf) + EFRI (vf)

15 letters to 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 (virtually all short words in Pulliam, even if marked otherwise)

ARACHNORHINITIS (Sted) = ANN (vf) + ROI + ART + CHI + HIS   CERATOPOGONIDAE (Dorland) = CON + EPI + ROD + AGA + TOE
ELECTROPAINTING (OED) = ERN + LOT + EPI + CAN + TIG   HAMAMELIDOXYLON (?) = HEX + ALY + MIL + ADO + MON (vf)
IN A NATURAL STATE (Bl) = ITS + NUT + ARA + NAT + ALE   MARINE BAROMETER = MEM + ABE (vf) + RAT + IRE + NOR
MARRIAGEABLE AGE (Bl) = MAL + AGE + REA + RAG + IBE   PARAGENETIC TWIN = PEC + ANT + REW + ATI (Web3) + GIN
PARASITOLOGICAL = PIG + ATI (Web3, Pull) + ROC + ALA + SOL   PARAVITAMINOSIS (Sted) = PIN + ATO (vf) + RAS + AMI + VIS
PSEUDOLAMINATED (Web2) = PON + SLA + EAT + UME + DID
RADICATE VINEGAR = RAN + ATE + DEG (verb) + IVA + CIR (AmHer)
REAPPORTIONMENT = RON (= rest) + ERM (vf) + ATE + PIN + POT   SELF-REFERENTIAL (OED) = SEN + EFT + LEI + FRA + REL
WEATHER-MOULDING = WEL (vf) + ERD + AMI + TON + HUG

15 letters to 5 + 5 + 5

PARASITOGENESES (Sted) = PATES + ASONE + RIGES (vf)
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ = ZZZZZ + ZZZZZ + ZZZZZ (all Pcon)

16 letters to 4 + 4 + 4 + 4

ASSIGNATION HOUSE = AGIO + SNOU (vf) + SANS + ITHE
CONSONANT-CLUSTER = COTS + ONCT (vf) + NALE (vf) + SNUR
ESPERLEY LANE ENDS (place) = ERLE (vf) + SLAN (vf) + PEND + EYES
GRADUATING ENGINE (?) = GUNG (vf or gung-ho!) + RAGI + ATEN (vf or Egyptian god) + DINE
LABOURING CLASSES = LUGS + ARCS + BILE + ONAS (Ch)
LARGE-HEARTEDNESS = LERN (vf) + AHTE (vf) + REES + GADS
MASCULINE PROTEST = MUET + ALPE (vf) + SIRS + CNOT (vf)
POPLITEAL TENDONS = PILD (vf) + OTTO + PEEN + LANS (vf)
PREMIERE DANSEUSE = PIDE (vf) + REAU (Ch) + ERNS + MESE
SOMEWHERE OR OTHER (Ch) = SWET (vf) + OH-OH + MERE + EROR (vf)
TAKE AN INTEREST IN (Bl) = TATS + ANET + KIRI + ENEN (vf)
TO SHAKE ONE'S SIDES = TANI (Web3, apa tani) + OKED (Ch) + SESE + HOSS
TO TURN UP ONE'S NOSE = TRON + ONNO (Italy, Times Atlas) + TUES (plural) + UPSE (vf)
VESPERTILIONINAE (Web2) = VELI (Sted) + ERIN (Ireland) + STOA + PINE

17 letters to 5 + 4 + 4 + 4

ASSISTANT ENGINEER (?) = ASTIR + STEN + SANE + INGE
CAVALIERE SERVENTE (Ch) = CLEVE + AISE (Ch, Old French ease) + VEEN + ARRT (vf)
CYSTOEPITHELIOMAS (Sted) = COTIS (Ch, Latin root of coticular) + YE-HO + SPEM (Roget) + TILA (Ch, Sanskrit origin of til = sesame)
FLAVOURING-ESSENCE = FONSE (W80-005) + LUGE + AREN (obs.) + VISC (abbr. Viscount)
GIVE A FALSE READING (Bl) = GASAG (Pcon, Gaelic) + IFED + VARI + ELEN (Ch, modern Ger eland)
LEARIE CONSTANTINE (W Indies cricketer) = LINNE (vf) + EEST (vf) + ACTI (Roget) + ROAN
PATHONEUROTICALLY = PORCY (vf) + ANOA + TETL (vf) + HUIL
SUBTERRANEOUSNESS = SENSS (vf) + UREN (vf) + BROE + TAUS
TO BEAR ARMS AGAINST = TAMAT (Pcon, place) + ORSI (Med) + BAAN + ERGS
VERMILIONECTOMIES (Sted) = VINOS + ELEM (vf) + RICI (?) + MOTE

18 letters to 6@3

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL (OED) = ATO (vf) + GEG (vf) + ROI (Web2) + ORC + MOA + ELL
ANTIHISTAMINERGICS (Sted) = ASE + NTR (Ch, Egyptian nitre) + TAG + IMI (Web2) + HIC + INS (OSPD)
HAVE A BACHELOR'S FLAT (Bl) = HAR (Pull) + ACS (Ch, Active Control System) + VHF (AmHer) + EEL + ALA (Web2) + BOT
LACRIMOGUSTATORIES (Sted) = LOT + AGO + CUR + RSI (Pull) + ITE (vf) + MAS
MALEYLACETOACETATE (Med) = MAC + ACE + LET + ETA + YOT + LAE (vf)
PSEUDOPHENANTHRENE (Web2) = PPT (AmHe) + SHH (Book of Interesting Words) + EER (obs ere) + UNE (vf) + DAN (vf) + ONE
PSEUDOPRESENTIMENT (OED) = PPT (AmHe) + SRI + EEM (vf) + USE + DEN + ONT (Lo)
ROTARY CLOTHES-DRIER (OED) = RCS (Lo) + OLD + TOR + ATI (Web3) + RHE (vf) + YER (vf)
TO CAST ASIDE ONE'S EAR (OED) = TAN + OSE + CIS (Web3) + ADE (Web2) + SEA + TOR
TO LIVE ON ONE'S NERVES (OED) = TON + ONE + LOR (OED) + INV (Ch, = invenit) + VEE + ESS

20 letters to 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4

RIBOFURANOSYLADENINE (Sted) = RUSE + IRYN + BALI + ONAN + FODE

21 letters to 7@3

DISPROPORTIONATEDNESS (OED) = DOT + IRE + STD (Ch, standard) + PIN + ROE + ONS (obs once) + PAS (= precedence)
IMAGINATIVE JOURNALISM (Bl) = ITR (Pull) + MIN (OED, obs verb) + AVA (OED, spirit) + GEL + IJI (TIG) + NOS (vf) + AUM (vf)
LAY SALT ON SOMEONE'S TAIL (Ch) = LON (vf) + ANE + YSS (vf) + SOT + AMA + LEI + TOL
PLASMODIOPHOROMYCETES (Outline of Plant Classification, Sandra Holmes) = PIM (vf) + LOY + APC (Ch, Armoured Personnel Carrier) + SHE + MOT (witty saying) + ORE + DOS (obs does)
PUT SALT ON SOMEONE'S TAIL (Ch) = PON (= upon) + UNE (vf) + TSS (= typescript) + SOT + AMA + LEI + TOL

24 letters to 8@3

ANTIHYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIC (Sted) = ARE + NCR (National Cash Register coy or No Carbon Required paper) + THO + IOL (vf) + HLE (Ch, Old Norse basis of alee) + YEM (vf) + PSI + ETC
AS IF ONE'S LIFE DEPENDED ON IT (Bl) = ALN + SID (vf) + IFE + FED + ODO (half-bro of William 1 or shape-shifter in DS9) + NEN (vf) + EPI (Pull) + SET
BASTARD MITHRIDATE MUSTARD (OED) = BIE (vf) + ATM (AmHer) + SHU (vf) + TRS (Lo) + AIT + RDA (Sted) + DAR + MTD (Ch, Moving Target Detector)
BOOKS OF COUNCIL AND SESSION (OED) = BOD + OUS (vf) + ONE + KCS (Lo) + SIS + OLI (vf) + FAO (Ch, UN Food & Ag Org) + CNN (Ch, Cable News Network)
HYPERBETALIPOPROTELNEMIC (W93-238) = HAT + YLE (vf) + PIL (vf) + EPN (a word in Web3 addenda) + ROE + BPM (?) + ERI (vf) + TOC (vf)
HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMICALLY (Sted) = HLE (Ch, Old Norse basis of alee) + YEM (vf) + PSI + ETC + REA + CRL (TEA) + HOL (vf) + OLY (vf) [also ...STERI... and HIL (vf)]
IF THE WORST COME TO THE WORST (OED) = IST + FTH (Ch, = fathom) + TCE (Lo) + HOW + EMO (Roget) + WER + OTS (?) + ROT
LYMPHOGRANULOMA INGUINALE (OED) = LAN (vf) + YNG (vf) + MU'U (Ch, Hawaiian dress) + PLI (Ch, Fr basis of plait) + HON + OMA (Med) + GAL + RIE
NOT SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES (Ch) = NET + OWH (vf) + TOE + SOT + EDR (?) + EFE (vf) + TOE + HRS (AmHer)
TAKE SOMEONE TO THE CLEANERS (Ch) = TOC (vf) + ANL (Ch, Anti-Nazi League) + KEE (vf) + ETA + SON + OTE (vf) + MHR (Ch, Member House of Representatives) + EES (vf)