

KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws editor (drABC26@aol.com). Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions.

On Predicting the Election

In the May Kickshaws, I presented several double word squares by the editor incorporating BUSH and GORE. The fact that both men enjoy the same number of letters in their surnames should encourage Will Shortz, puzzle editor of the New York Times, to repeat a stunt he performed in the crossword puzzle the day before the November 1996 election. He clued the across entries for 39 and 43, each containing seven spaces, by "Lead story in tomorrow's paper." The answer could be either CLINTON ELECTED or BOBDOLE ELECTED, with the seven relevant vertical words clued to support either outcome:

- 39 down: Black Hallowe'en animal (Cat or Bat)
- 40 down: French 101 word (Lui or Oui)
- 41 down: Provider of support, for short (IRA or Bra)
- 23 down: Sewing shop purchase (yarN or yarD)
- 27 down: Short writings (biTs or biOs)
- 35 down: Trumpet (bOast or bLast)
- 42 down: Much-debated political initials (NRA or ERA)

Pangrammatic Initialisms

The editor, cleaning out some old files, came across a December 11 1996 letter from Christopher McManus describing a word game he recently devised. "The object is to use all the capital letters of the alphabet in a coherent sentence, as initialisms. My example: 'HQ searched the YWCA for an UXB; elsewhere JFK (Junior) discussed ZPG, SETI and VD in a joint appearance with NORML.' This example uses only eight common initialisms, uses each capital letter only once over all the initialisms, uses no computer initialisms (which make the task too easy)." (Not all of McManus's initialisms are common; I had to look up UneXploded Bomb and National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.) Surely readers can improve on his effort.

The Preposition Proposition

The March 22 1998 NY Times Review of Books contained the following letter from George F. Werner of Edgewood NM:

I read the review of Nathan Miller's "Star-Spangled Men" (Feb. 22) by Douglas McGrath, who challenged the reader to produce a sentence with three prepositions in a row, after I had picked my copy of *The New York Times* up from under the front porch, thankful that I didn't have to get it down from above the porch roof, and at the same time, knowing that the delivery boy usually threw it to within a foot of the door, leaving me a quick way back in out of the cold each morning, I decided not to yell at him, especially since an argument was not something I wanted to get into outside of the house at this time of the morning, but still thinking that this was a matter that should be taken up from inside of the house by writing a letter to the editor, being careful not to use up to over three or four prepositions in a row in any sentence.

The Origin of a Literary Pangram?

Chris Cole passed along the following discovery in *The Twentieth Century Standard Puzzle Book* (George Routledge & Son, London, 1907) by A. Cyril Pearson:

ALL THE ALPHABET Many of us know that there is a long verse in the Book of Ezra in which all the letters of the alphabet are used, taking "J" as "I". This very curious coincidence also occurs in a comparatively short sentence in "The Beth Book," by Sarah Grand: -
 "It was an exquisite deep blue just then, with filmy white clouds drawn up over it like gauze"; and here "J" is itself in evidence.

According to Chris, Pearson says in the book's introduction that the contents "are selected from a series which has been running for the last two years in *The Evening Standard*." Since *The Beth Book* was not published until 1898, the date of the discovery must be between 1898 and 1907, depending upon the date on which the item in *The Evening Standard* was published. However, Chris notes that *The Evening Standard* ceased publication March 13 1905 and did not resume until 1916. So does Pearson mean 1903-05 when he refers to items published in the "last two years"? Did Pearson accept items from his readership? Could one of them have discovered the pangrammatic window? *The Evening Standard* is available on microfilm; so a search might shed some light on these questions. Chris also notes that *The Royal Magazine* was published by Pearson in London from 1898 on.

Palindromic Perfection

Rich Lederer writes "At the U.S. Tennis Open, which I've been watching, the analysts use a video camera called a Mac Cam, named after John McEnroe, the legendary tennis star who often questioned line calls. The Mac Cam shows the ball in slow motion landing on the line (or out) and then reverses the motion, showing the ball going back and forth. How appropriate that Mac Cam is a palindrome!"

Elementary, My Dear Watson

Mike Keith writes "I saw this puzzle on the Internet and thought it was pretty neat. Hard, but not impossible for the readers of *Word Ways*. What is the rule behind the number sequence?"

11,4,6,46,2,9,12,1,3,(undefined),19,3,25,7,8,15,(undefined),18,14,22,29,23,74,54,39,30?

Note that there are 26 entries, which is a clue that these are values assigned to the 26 letters according to some rule."

Naming the Letters

The English alphabet, like all other Roman alphabets, is composed of letters named in single-syllable words chosen mostly for their sounds. The Greek alphabet, on the other hand, has far more elegant and personable letter names. As earlier Word Ways articles have pointed out, English dictionaries provide different printed letter names, but no two dictionaries agree completely. For example, B can be either "be" or "bee" depending on the dictionary. The most imaginative letter name in current English usage is "double U" for W. The letter Z is sometimes referred to as "zed." In Middle English one letter was called "thorn" but it was dropped from the modern alphabet as being a little too sharp.

At the beginning of a new millennium, the alphabet should be given new names for its letters to breathe new life into them. Applying the method used to name new chemical elements (see Nyr Indictor's February 1998 article "Add a Million Words to Your Vocabulary" for details), each letter is identified by a name that also indicates its number. The number part of each letter's new name consists of one or more prefixes representing the digits 0 through 9 (NIL-, UN-, BI-, TRI-, QUAD-, QUIN-, HEX-, HEPT-, OCT-, NOV-), just as has been done for the elements. The prefix is followed by a suffix that refers to writing. The two most appropriate suffix choices are -GRAM and -GRAPH, both combining forms that signify something written. However, to avoid reusing the words bigram and trigram (which already describe two-letter strings and three-letter strings, respectively), the suffix -GRAPH is the better choice. The resulting letter names are given below:

A ungraph	K unungraph	U biungraph
B bigraph	L unbigraph	V bibigraph
C trigraph	M untrigraph	W bitrigraph
D quadgraph	N unquadgraph	X biquadgraph
E quingraph	O unquingraph	Y biquingraph
F hexgraph	P unhexgraph	Z bihexgraph
G heptgraph	Q unheptgraph	
H octgraph	R unoctgraph	
I novgraph	S unnovgraph	
J unnilgraph	T binilgraph	

Now when you're asked to spell CAT, simply reply "trigraph, ungraph, binilgraph."

If any new letters are added to the alphabet in the future, their names are ready and waiting for them.

And now a puzzle. The alphabet can be divided into two sets based on the new letter names, ABDGHNPRU and CEFIJKLMOQSTVWXYZ. What is the difference between these sets?

Honorificabilitudinitatibus

Who says that this venerable Shakespeare coinage is a nonce word? Or at least a nonsense word? It has lost its meaning since Shakespeare's time. To retrieve it, anagram it:

IDIOTIC FRUITION'S HABITUAL BIN (Shakespeare is referring to that part of the mind, the anti-creative part, in which stupid ideas are constantly born)

HIFALUTIN' BIOTIC RIB'S AUDITION (God's tryout for the part of the leading lady in the play called "The Human Race", in which all the world was first considered a stage. Eve won the role, with Lilith as her understudy)

When the editor submitted this word to William Tunstall-Pedoe's computer program, Anagram Genius, a large number of additional phrases popped out, mostly involving inhibitions. You are invited to supply your own interpretations.

A ridiculous bit: fat inhibition
 Inhibit a biscuit fluoridation
 Bad inhibition if I boil haircuts
 Futuristic oil a bad inhibition
 O, suicidal fruit-bat inhibition
 Boastful, I inhabit idiotic ruin
 Bad if I inhibit riotous lunatic
 Ouch! It is not bad if I rub initial
 Dubious calibration if I hint it

Newtopias

The world is no Utopia, but it has several Newtopias among its nations. To identify them, take a word with -TO at or near the end and connect it with -TOPIA by overlapping the TO. For instance, AUTO + TOPIA = AUTOPIA, the first Newtopia on this list.

AUTOPIA a country in which cars are the main means of transportation
 BENITOPIA a country ruled by Mussolini (Italy was once a Benitopia)
 DITTOPIA a country that takes its national heritage and identity by copying another country
 ELEVATOPIA a country which holds the vertical speed record for Olympic elevator racing
 MOSQUITOPIA a country infested by mosquitoes
 MOTTOPIA a country in which everyone is given at birth a personal motto that they must follow throughout their life or be exiled
 ONOMATOPIA a country whose people speak in words that sound like what they're talking about
 PLATOPIA a country in which everyone is a philosopher
 PLUTOPIA a country in which everyone resembles the Disney dog
 PHOTOPIA a country that relies on paparazzi as its main source of truth in journalism
 POTATOPIA a country whose economy is based on potatoes (Ireland was once a potatopia)
 STACCATOPIA a country in which everyone talks very fast (Venezuela is a staccatopia)

TICTACTOPIA a country whose national pastime is tic-tac-toe
 TONTOPIA a country from which the Lone Ranger is banned
 VETOPIA a country whose president automatically vetoes every bill

Adz Balcony

This poem by Nick Montfort is "about an arrival, at some ambiguous point during the afterlife or a time of religious questioning, at an unusual waypoint. In the seemingly abandoned place, a strange pastiche hooligan is eventually spotted."

Abuzz bewilderingly, chatterbox dumbshow.
 Electromaglev flambeau, gaslit hallways.
 Innkeeper?...jerk-coq?...kelp?

Limbo mansion--nihilism.

Oddball patchwork: Qur'an-haj? Rabbi?
 Seraph truanting. Unbelief, vagabondage...
 Warped, xenophobic yob zebra!

There are a few unusual or rare words: JERK-COQ is clearly a French-Jamaican dish, QUR'AN-HAJ is an Islamic pilgrimage specifically inspired by scripture, and ELECTROMAGLEV is a more forcefully-correct version of the word maglev.

Eric Chaikin Investigates AEIOU x 2

The search for AEIOU-words (supervocalics) in Webster's Third, described elsewhere in this issue, can hardly leave one MALNOURISHED with many SUPERORGANIC MACRONUTRIENTS to choose from. But since once is never enough, our natural word appetite soon finds us hungry for more: AEIOU-times-two. (Perhaps to call them "double pair supervocalics" would be stretchign self-reference a bit too far.)

Various contributors have in the past supplied double-AEIOU words either coined or from assorted reference sources. The only Webster's Third entry I'm aware of is the very pleasing AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE. The current investigation also turned up a few near-misses. NEUTRALIZATION NUMBER and the solid uncapitalized LABOULBENIACEOUS would each feature back-to-back AEIOU pairs but for a missing O and I, respectively.

The realm of number names provides ample opportunity for double-AEIOU words. The smallest such number is ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIX. The most concise appears to be QUATTUORDECILLION AND TEN, a number name with more digits than letters.

Dare we dream of a decadent feast of AEIOU-times-three delicacies? Number names again satisfy, with the smallest appearing to be FOUR MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND TEN THOUSAND AND TEN. The most concise name can be derived by adding FIVE THOUSAND to our AEIOUx2 example: QUATTUORDECILLION FIVE THOUSAND AND TEN.

But might we find a ripe triple-AEIOU example growing elsewhere in the vast vineyard of words? Starve no more--Alanis Morissette's recent multi-million selling album **A SUPPOSED FORMER INFATUATION JUNKIE** provides food for thought (okay, so I added the indefinite article to compensate for a small deficiency in vitamin "A").

Hybridogs

Jim Denigan provided the following list of breeds of dogs that are not yet recognized by the American Kennel Club.

Spitz + Chow Chow = Spitz-Chow, a bulimic dog
 Pekinese + Lhasa Apso = Peekasso, an abstract dog
 Irish Water Spaniel + English Springer Spaniel = Irish Springer, a dog clean as a whistle
 Labrador Retriever + Curly Coated Retriever = Lab Coat Retriever, for the research scientist
 Newfoundland + Basset Hound = Newfound Asset Hound, for the financial advisor
 Bloodhound + Labrador = Blabador, a dog that barks incessantly
 Malamute + Pointer = Moot Point, owned by...oh well, it doesn't matter
 Collie + Malemute = Commute, a dog that travels to work
 Deerhound + Terrier = Derriere, a dog that's true to the end

Letter-Truthful Numbers

A letter-truthful number has a number name with one or more letters whose alphabetic values (A=1 to Z=26) work in some way to equal the number. Here are four different kinds of letter-truthful numbers up to 26 in each case. The absolute highest number for each of the first three kinds is twentY-five, fortY-seVen, and twEntY. What is the highest for the fourth kind? What is the highest for multi-letter truthful patterns with any amount of letters in each number used?

1. Letter-truthful numbers: fivE, eigHt, nIne, tweLve, fourteeN, Twenty, tWenty-three, twentY-five
2. Two-letter-addition-truthful numbers: tHirtEen, Fifteen, NinEteen, twenty-FouR, TwEnty-five
3. Two-letter subtraction-truthful numbers: ONe, tHrEe, thiRtEen, FourTeen, fifTEen, sEVenteen, twEntY
4. All-letter subtraction-truthful numbers: VN-SEE=7, EEEV-LN=11, THREE-ITN=13, FORT-UEEN=14, FITE-FEN=15, SEENT-VEEN=17, TWENNE-TYO=21, TWETET-NYHRE=23

'Twas The Lamb Before Christmas

If Clement Moore had written "Mary Had a Little Lamb" it might sound something like this:

'Twas the day before Christmas, when all through the school,
 Not a creature was stirring or breaking a rule.
 The teacher was warning the children in fear:
 "Don't you dare bring your pets to the schoolhouse this year!"
 But Mary was absent that day from her class

And wasn't aware of the rule, poor lass.
 She had a small lambkin whose fleece was snow white,
 And he followed her always by day or by night.
 Now Mary and Lamb nestled snug in their beds,
 While visions of snowflakes just danced in their heads
 And Lamb in its fleeces, and Mary in covers
 Had just settled down where the snow never hovers.
 When out in the pasture there rose such a storm,
 She sprang from her bed, though it wasn't too warm.
 Away to the window she flew in great fright,
 Tore open the curtains and turned on the light.
 Her Lamb jumped outside on the new-fallen slush
 Where its snowy white fleece was all colored like mush.
 More rapid than snow, the slush fell down with ease,
 And Mary was worried the poor Lamb might freeze.
 "Now, Lambie! Now, Fleecy! Now, Snowy! Now, Hush!
 Come into the house so you won't turn to mush!"
 But the Lamb only bleated and stood in the light,
 And Mary went back to her bed for the night.
 But then when she walked to her school next day,
 The Lamb trotted after her, wanting to play.
 It entered the building, went through the front door,
 And pranced down the hallway and tried to ignore
 The loud ringing bell that meant class would begin.
 The children all laughed till the teacher walked in.
 The teacher, on seeing the animal, yelled,
 "That filthy lamb's lunchmeat, and Mary's expelled!"

99 Bottles of Words on the Wall

On pages 236-7 of *Making the Alphabet Dance*, two of the figures list the shortest trans-additions of number names from 1 to 99. Less than 50 per cent of the number names (46 out of 99) have a transaddition. Jeremy Morse has sent three words to fill in the gaps, bringing the list just one-half of a word shy of 50 per cent, and he has also sent three shorter words than those listed:

- 22 WEST-NORTHWESTERLY
- 38 THYROPARATHYROIDECTOMIZING
- 93 TRINITROPHENYLMETHYLNITRAMINE
- 6 XIS (as in "for Herodotus there were two xis in Xerxes")
- 14 BEFORTUNE (adds B)
- 96 EXSANGUINITY (adds A,G,U)

Alphabet of Long Heterograms

Sir Jeremy also put together this alphabet from words in the OED or Webster's Second. Each word is a long heterogram; that is, it's made of a lot of all-different letters.

ambidextrously	benzhydroxamic	copyrightable	dermatoglyphics
exclusionary	flexographic	goldsmithery	hydropneumatic
incomputable	journalised	kinetographs	lycanthropised
musicotherapy	neighbourly	outspreading	pneumogastric
questionably	recognizably	subordinately	thumbscrewing
uncopyrightable	voluntaryism	workmanship	xylographist
yachtswomen	zincographed		

Alphabet of Short Heterograms

After reading Sir Jeremy's alphabet, I decided to tackle the other side of the problem, knowing full well that it could take several minutes of intense dictionary work. Each word is the shortest heterogram from Webster's Second Unabridged: an, be, cwm, do, eh, fa, go, he, it, ja, ka, la, me, no, of, pi, qua, re, so, to, up, va, we, xi, ye, and za.

Non-Scrabble Words

Sir Jeremy writes "The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary lists categories of words like proper nouns which are not allowed. However there are some words which are in principle allowable, but which cannot in practice be used. Such are all words of more than 15 letters, but also words which exhaust the stock of a particular letter, including the two blank tiles. An obvious example is PIZZAZZ (not in the dictionary, although PIZAZZ is), and similarly RAZZMATAZZ. Other such words (which might also fail for rarity) are CIRCUMCRESCENCE, ECHINOCOC-CIC, COCCOCHROMATIC, KNICKKNACK (rare without a hyphen), KUKUKUKU and STRESSLESSNESS (in the OED)." Sir Jeremy's non-Scrabble words suggest a special challenge which may appeal to Bill Webster: create an alphabet of non-Scrabble words that don't qualify because each word exhausts the stock of one of the letters. Each word should be no longer than 15 letters.

Ben Pewtery on Wordplay

A few years ago I asked Word Ways writers to write about their thoughts, beliefs, influences and goals in writing wordplay. Ben Pewtery of New Bybwen sends this contribution:

Wordsmithery tends to attract obsessives--usually self-described as logologists--who, discovering a concept, exploit it to the limits of absurdity. By contrast, we dilettantes of wordplay are far more likely to content ourselves with a solitary observation, then pass on to pastures anew. For example, RIO. Appending the identical letter at either end gives us a TRIO or a RIOT. A mildly-amusing observation, but the logologist would then extend 'heads and tails' to the remainder of the alphabet. The existence of BRIO would be to him a suffix challenge. Does RIOB exist in a dialect? A telephone directory? An atlas? A zoological jargonary? What other three-letter words exhibit the same facility? What is the longest known base word capable of such manipulation? You think it, one of them will find it. Some will superheat their mice in an endeavor to prove that 'back first' is superior to 'first first' in a computerized trawl of a lexicon's headwords.

Poe's Crypt by Ben Pewtery

Question: Can you Treat Williams? Answer: Yes, thanks to Eddie Cantor.

You Ccan Ccount on the Dictionary

From Webster's Second Unabridged comes a word beginning with two C's which has two more consecutive C's in it. Its definition contains two other words that also begin with two C's. It reads like this: "CCAPACCOCHA: One of the four great solar feasts of the Incas, celebrated at the autumnal equinox. Others were CCAPAC RAYMI, celebrated at the summer solstice, and CCAPAC SITUA, at the vernal equinox." Four great feasts, three great names!

Dis Is Dissed

Jay Ames sends a group of words associated by their first three letters and disassociated by their definitions:

DISADVANTAGED too short for your tonnage
 DISALLOWED too noisy to suit
 DISBARRED tossed outa all the watering-holes in town
 DISCARDED bank credit/credit cards cancelled
 DISDAINED tossed outa Denmark
 DISENFRANCHISED and France and Belgium, too
 DISGORGED not welcome in the Grand Canyon and similar spots
 DISMANTLE wife gave your Batman and Superman gear to Goodwill
 DISPERSED bag snatched
 DISPLACED bad luck at the track
 DISPLAYED benched forever around here
 DISPONDENT never involved in a divorce
 DISPUTED your rep's torn to shreds
 DISTENDED no TLC from your nurses
 DISCOMBOBULATED anyone ever the other?

Terse Verse Corner

The following poem by Jay Ames is about a fish story:

Thrasonic boasts (not mine alone) are ours in boundless measure.
 Next time you hear an angler's tale, just smile--give someone pleasure.
 That doesn't hold for macho boast "Yes, sir, I bonked 'er plenty";
 Such bragging's from a lonesome dove whose head's stone-filled or empty.

You Say Cayapa, I Say Cayapo

What a difference a letter makes! Webster's Second Unabridged lists CAYAPA and CAYAPO one right after the other. The first is defined as an Indian of a Barbacoan tribe dwelling near the

coast in Ecuador, and the second as an Indian in a group of Tapuyan tribes dwelling in Brazil. The plural for the former is listed as CAYAPAS, but no plural is listed for CAYAPO. Can anyone find the listings for CAYAPE, CAYAPI, CAYAPU or CAYAPY?

Milking the Customer

Peter Newby relates this tale of foodishness: "The food giant H.J. Heinz canned their 58th product at a new factory in New Bybwen. A traditional milk-based hot drink including wine and spices, it is marketed under the slogan TESS, OPEN ONE POSSET.

Prose Poser or Three

Three questions that Peter would like to know the answer to: Is a twist of FATE a FEAT? Is POE'S RIM a broken PROMISE? Will a DROW SWAY the appeal of WORD WAYS?

Suffixed

Bill Webster composed the following quiz. Can you add three letters to the end of each of these words to form ten-letter words without using the same ending twice? If you're familiar with Scrabble, there's an extra challenge: find the words in which the final letter is the highest-scoring.

amalgam---	macadam---	highway---	sandbag---	ransack---
laundry---	churchy---	classic---	descend---	traffic---

Man About Town

Here's another quiz by Bill. He writes "When you are playing Scrabble, you'll want to know the left hooks for many words." Can you find the left hooks for the following words, one letter per word? Simply put the correct letter at the beginning of each word to find the answer. One word has two correct answers. Can you find the word and the answers?

-unman	-axman	-adman	-reman	-ragman
-wingman	-ashman	-Oman	-cowman	-atman

Washday Wordplay

Bill points out that there's an unusual coincidence in the endings of the words LAUNDRY and LAUNDRIES. It's doubly unusual when you realize that many people hang their wash on the clothesline over the lawn. The word LAWN sounds like LAUN- but it isn't spelled the same. The endings -DRY and -DRIES are spelled the same as the words, but they sound like 'dree' and 'drees'. Unfortunately, such irony doesn't iron the laundry.