

SIX-LETTER CONNOISSEUR'S LADDERS

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By the time we reach six-letter words, conditions for superior ladders are much improved: nearly one-half of six-letter words are heterograms (all letters are different), the fraction of isolanos (words which have no neighbours) decreases to less than one-tenth, there is a reasonable number of onalosis (words which have neighbours for each letter-change), and each word has on average almost six neighbours (one for each letter). In this article, we therefore only consider ladders in which the terminal words are heterograms, with corresponding letters different, and with letters replaced in order. Even so, there are about fifty thousand of them.

In "Snakes and Ladders" in the May 1998 Word Ways, the reader can find four ideal six-letter ladders between heterograms, with terminal words either reversals or related in meaning; however, none changes the letters in order, as required here.

To make a Connoisseur's Ladder of the semantic type, we only have to find terminal words which bear an apt relationship to one another, and it is hoped the reader will find most of the examples do show such a relationship, whether straightforward or contradictory, amusing or surrealistic, or even satiric. Just as a taster, consider: carton holder, donate saving, fasten lingam, meltyd fusion, randie fucker, tricky rhymes, money's lustre, gayest wreath, blinks stared, louche sentry.

It is also possible to find, despite the very significant restrictions, ladders in which all the words are instantly recognisable.

At last we find a Connoisseur's Ladder of the technical variety, in that the terminal words are permutations of each other. Because this was discovered within a few hours of the birth of my first grandson to bear the family name, it is dedicated to him, and will be referred to as

Dominic's Connoisseur's Ladder

LANTER (obsolete form of "lantern")

TANTER (12th-14th century popular Anglo-French form of "tempt")

TENTER (a frame on which to stretch cloth, hence "tenterhooks")

TERTER (variant form of "tertre," a little hill)

TERNER (a student of St. Andrew's University, Scotland)

TERNAR (alternative spelling of previous word)

TERNAL (threefold, triple).

All words can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary. This is the longest known technical Connoisseur's Ladder.

Words in the following lists are OED headwords or obvious derivations thereof unless marked otherwise. The first word in the ladder is earlier in the alphabet than the last. Bl = Bloomsbury Thesaurus, Ch = Chambers, Lo = Longman's, Tert F = Tertiary Faunas, vf = OED variant form. The same place names may occur in different countries.

Ideal Ladders between heterograms with sequential letter change (about 0.5% of those found)

forward replacement

ALICES (pl, pers name)—SLICES—SPICES—SPACES—SPANES (vf)—SPANKS—SPANKY. Also—SPARKY
 ALIGHT—BLIGHT—BRIGHT—BROGHT (vf)—BROWHT (vf)—BROWST—BROWSE
 AMORES (A of Ovid)—SMORES (OED)—SPORES—SPARES—SPANES (vf)—SPANKS—SPANKY. Also—SCALDY,
 —SCALPY,—SPINAL,—STALKY
 AROUSE—CROUSE—CLOUSE (vf)—CLAUSE—CLAISE (vf)—CLAIME (vf)—CLAIMS. Also—CLANSE (vf)—CLANGE (vf)
 —CLANGS
 AUSTEN (OED, also Pers name)—LUSTEN (vf)—LISTEN—LINTEN—LINGEN (in Herefordshire)—LINGAN (vf)—LINGAM
 AUSTER (OED wind, or light aircraft)—BUSTER—BASTER—BANTER—BANDER—BANDIR (The Electronic Alveary)—BANDIT
 BACTON (gas shore terminal in Norfolk)—HACTON (vf)—HOCTON (vf)—HOLTON (in Suffolk)—HOLD ON (OED)—
 HOLDEN—HOLDER
 BANGER—HANGER—HONGER (vf)—HOLGER (Sted)—HOLDER—HOLDUR (OED)—HOLDUP (Web2). Also BANKER—
 HANKER—HONKER—HOLKER (in Cumbria)
 BANTER—CANTER—CONTER—COSTER—COSHER—COSHAR (vf)—COSHAM (Portsmouth. UK HQ of IBM)
 BARLEY—CARLEY—CORLEY (in Warwickshire)—COULEY (vf)—COUREY (vf)—COURTY—COURTS
 BATHER—HATHER (vf)—HITHER—HISHER (OED hiss vb)—HISTER—HISTOR (Gk histor, whence history)—HISTON (word,
 but also near Cambridge)
 BATHER—LATHER—LUTHER—LUSHER—LUSTER—LUSTIR (vf)—LUSTIE (vf=lusty)
 BAWDIE (vf)—CAWDIE (vf)—COWDI—CONDIE (OED)—CONGIE (vf)—CONGEE—CONGER
 BERLIN—MERLIN—MARLIN—MASLIN—MASTIN (OED)—MASTEN (Ger to feed, whence Eng mast = fruit of oak)—
 MASTER. Hitler or Isaiah or Irving
 BLACKS—SLACKS—STACKS—STICKS—STINKS—STINGS—STINGY. Also—STOCKS—STONKS—STONES—STONED,
 and—STORKS—STORMS—STORMY
 BLADES (young men)—SLADES (OED)—SPADES—SPODES—SPORES—SPORTS—SPORTY
 BLANKS—PLANKS—PRANKS—PRINKS—PRICKS—PRICES—PRICEY. Common words
 BLINKS—SLINKS—STINKS—STANKS—STARKS (OED)—STARES—STARED
 BLOUSE—CLOUSE (vf)—CROUSE—CREUSE (vf)—CREASE—CREAKE (vf)—CREAKY. Also—CREAME (vf)—CREAMY
 BOILED—SOILED—SEILED (=ceiled, OED)—SEALED—SEA BED—SEA-BUD (OED)—SEA-BUG (OED)
 BOSCHE (vf=Boche, Germans)—MOSCHE (vf)—MESCHE (Ch, Old Fr, whence match)—MEACHE (vf)—MEASHE (vf)—
 MEASLE—MEASLY
 BOTHER—MOTHER—MATHER—MASHER—MASTER—MASTIR (vf)—MASTIC
 BOTHER—TOTHER—TUTHER (OED)—TUSHER—TUSKER—TUSKAR—TUSKAN (OED=Tuscan). Recent fuss over Tony
 Blair's holiday in Tuscany
 BOWERS—SOWERS—SAWERS—SABERS—SABIRS—SABINS—SABINE
 BOY-MAN (OED)—COY-MAN (OED)—CAYMAN—CARMAN—CARDAN (OED)—CARDEN (OED under trans-condyloid)—
 CARDEW (C the Cad, English comic character)
 BRICKS—CRICKS—CLICKS—CLOCKS—CLONKS—CLONES—CLONED
 BRIDGE—FRIDGE—FLIDGE (vf)—FLADGE (OED)—FLANGE—FLANKE (vf)—FLANKS
 BRIQUE—CRIQUE (OED under creek)—CAIQUE—CANQUE (OED)—CANOUE (vf)—CANOPE (OED)—CANOPY
 BRITON—WRITON (vf)—WAITON—WALTON (angling author, or one of 16 towns in UK)—WALK-ON—WALKEN (vf)—
 WALKED/WALKER
 BROCKS (badgers)—CROCKS—CHOCKS—CHICKS—CHIRKS—CHIRPS—CHIRPY. Also—CLOCKS—CLICKS—CLINKS—
 CLINGS—CLINGY
 BROWSE—CROWSE (vf)—CLOWSE (vf)—CLAWSE (vf)—CLAISE (vf)—CLAIME (vf)—CLAIMS
 BRUSHY—FRUSHY (OED)—FLUSHY—FLESHY—FLECHY (vf)—FLECKY—FLECKS
 BUDGES—PUDGES (OED)—PODGES (OED)—PORGES (OED)—PORTES (OED)—PORTAS—PORTAL
 BURTON (word, also Richard B, actor)—PURTON (in Gloucestershire)—PIRTON (near Letchworth)—PICTON (in Cheshire)—PICK
 ON (OED)—PICKEN (vf)—PICKED/PICKER/PICKET
 BUSKIN (leg covering)—SUSKIN (OED)—SISKIN—SINK IN (Ch)—SING-IN (OED)—SINGEN (vf)—SINGED
 BUSTLE (wire framework for women)—RUSTLE—ROSTLE (OED)—ROUTLE (vf)—ROUSLE (vf)—ROUSTE (vf)—ROUSTY (vf=rusty)
 BUSTLE (activity)—TUSTLE (vf)—TASTLE (vf)—TARTLE—TARDLE—TARDIE (vf)—TARDIS (Dr Who's spaceship)
 BUXTON (in Derbyshire, water very hard)—CUXTON (in Medway)—CAXTON—CARTON—CARION (vf)—CARIEN—CARIES

CANTOS—PANTOS (pantomimes)—PONTOS (OED)—POLTOS (Ch Gr, whence poultice)—POLIOS—POLISS (vf)—POLISH
 CARTON—HARTON (in Shropshire)—HORTON (in Shropshire)—HOLTON (in Suffolk)—HOLDON (OED)—HOLDEN—HOLDER
 CARTON—PARTON—PORTON (OED under germ)—POUTON (in UK)—POUR ON (BI)—POUREN (Middle Eng pour)—POURED
 CASTLE—TASTLE (vf)—TUSTLE (vf)—TURTLE—TURKLE—TURKIE (vf)—TURKIC (OED)
 CAXTON (word, but famous printer)—SAXTON (vf)—SIX TON (The Electronic Alveary)—SINTON (in Worcssetershire)—SINGON (vf, sect)—
 SINGEN (vf)—SINGER. Also nine other famous singers(!), including DALTON—, DORIAN—, GALTON—, PAXTON—
 CHIVES—SHIVES—STIVES (OED)—STAVES—STALES—STALKS—STALKY
 CHORES—SHORES—SPORES—SPARES—SPANES (vf)—SPANKS—SPANKY
 CLAIRE—SLAIRE (vf)—STAIRE (vf)—STEIRE (vf)—STEARE (vf)—STEADE (vf)—STEADY. Also—STEAME (vf)—STEAMY,
 —STOIRE (vf)—STORRE (vf)—STORME (vf)—STORMY
 DALTON (famous high school in Mass.)—HALTON (in Buckinghamshire)—HOLTON (in Suffolk)—HORTON (in Kent)—HORSON
 (OED)—HORSEN (OED)—HORSEY
 DANGER—LANGER (vf)—MONIST—MODIST—MODEST—MODEL T (OED, Ford car)—MODELS
 DEVOUR—LEVOUR (vf)—LAVOUR (vf)—LAMOUR (OED)—LAMBUR (vf)—LAMBER—LAMBES (vf)
 DITHER—LITHER—LUTHER—LUSHER—LUSTER—LUSTIR (vf)—LUSTIE (vf lousy)
 DIVERS—SIVERS (OSPD)—SAVERS—SABERS—SABIRS—SABINS—SABINE!!!
 DONATE—SONATE (vf)—SANATE (OED)—SAVATE—SAVITE (OED)—SAVINE—SAVING
 DORIAN—SORIAN (vf)—SYRIAN—SYLIAN (Ch, Old Eng defile)—SYLVAN—SYLVIN—SYLVIA/SYLVIE. Sex change
 DOUBLE—SOUBLE (vf)—STUBLE (vf)—STIBLE (vf)—STICLE (vf)—STICKE (vf)—STICKY. Also—STIGLE (vf)—STIGME—
 STIGMA, —STOUBLE (OED), —STODLE (vf)—STODGE—STODGY
 DOUCHE—SOUCHE (vf)—STUCHE (OED)—STICHE (vf)—STIGHE (vf)—STIGME—STIGMA
 DRINKS—PRINKS—PLINKS—PLANKS—PLACKS—PLACES—PLACED
 DWAYNE (pers name)—SWAYNE (vf)—SHAYNE (pers name)—SHRYNE (vf)—SHRENE (vf)—SHREWE (vf)—SHREWD
 DWAYNE (pers name)—SWAYNE (vf)—STAYNE (vf)—STEYNE (vf)—STEANE (vf)—STEADE (vf)—STEADY. Also—
 STEAME (vf)—STEAMY, —STOYNE (OED)—STORNE (vf)—STORME (vf)—STORMY
 DWAYNE (pers name)—TWAYNE (vf)—TRAYNE—TREYNE (vf)—TRENNE (vf)—TRENDE (vf)—TRENDY
 FAG-END (OED)—RAGEND (OED)—REGEND (OED)—REMEND—REMAND—REMAID (OED)—REMAIN
 FALTER—VALTER (vf)—VELTER (vf)—VERTER (vf)—VERDER (OED)—VERDUR (vf)—VERDUN (warfare in France)
 FASTEN—LASTEN (vf)—LISTEN—LINTEN—LINGEN (in Herefordshire)—LINGAN (vf)—LINGAM
 FASTER—HASTER—HISTER—HINTER—HINDER—HINDUR (vf)—HINDUS. Also—HOSTER—HOLTER (OED holt vb)—
 HOLDER—HOLDUR (OED)—HOLDUP
 FATHER—LATHER—LUTHER—LUSHER—LUSTER—LUSTIR (vf)—LUSTIE (vf)
 FICKLE—MICKLE—MUCKLE—MUSKLE (vf)—MUSCLE—MUSCAE—MUSCAT (wine or sheikhdom)
 FINDER—MINDER—MANDER (vf)—MARDER (vf)—MARTER (vf)—MARTIR (vf)—MARTIN (bird or person).
 Also FUDGES—, JUDGES—, KINDER—, FOILER—, FOULER—, etc. Some also—MARTYN
 FORAGE—SORAGE—STRAGE—STOAGE (vf)—STORGE—STORME (vf)—STORMY
 FORGED—PORGED (OED)—PARGED—PANGED—PANTED—PANTOD—PANTOS (pantomimes)
 FORTES—MORTES (vf)—MARTES (OED foumart, 1523)—MATTES—MATIES—MATINS—MATING
 FOSTER—MOSTER (vf)—MASTER—MANter—MANGER—MANGOR (vf)—MANGOS. 17 others incl LOANED—, BUSKED—
 FUCKER—RUCKER—RACKER—RANKER—RANDER—RANDIR—RANDIE. 19 other RANDIES, incl DOCKER—, FICKER—,
 LICKER—, POSTER—
 FUSION—MUSION—MESION—MELION (OED)—MELTON—MELTYN (vf)—MELTYD (vf)
 GAMBLE—WAMBLE—WOMBLE—WORBLE—WORLLE (vf)—WORLDE (vf)—WORLDS. Also—WORTLE (vf)—
 WORTHE (vf)—WORTHY
 GAYEST—WAYEST (vf)—WRYEST—WREEST (vf)—WREAST (vf)—WREATT (vf)—WREATH
 GIVERS—SIVERS—SAVERS—SABERS—SABIRS—SABINS—SABINE
 HAMBLE (river, Southampton)—SAMBLE (vf)—SEMBLE—SEABLE (OED)—SEARLE (Ronald, cartoonist or pharmaceuticals
 coy)—SEARCE—SEARCH
 HASTEN—LASTEN (vf)—LISTEN—LINTEN—LINGEN (in Herefordshire)—LINGAN (vf)—LINGAM
 HELVIN (Marie, very beautiful model, or silicate)—MELVIN (pers name or Loch)—MALVIN (Pull)—MARVIN (pers name)—
 MARGIN—MARGON (vf)—MARGOT (pers name). Obviously christened wrongly!
 HONEST—MONEST (vf)—MENEST (OED feeble, 1450, 2nd pers sing)—MEREST—MERIST—MERITT (vf)—MERITS
 HUMBLE—WUMBLE (Web2)—WAMBLE—WARBLE—WARDLE (vf)—WARDEE (OED)—WARDEN. Also—WOMBLE—
 WORBLE—WORTLE—(vf)—WORTHE (vf)—WORTHY
 JAPERY—PAPERY—PIPERY—PILERY (vf)—PILORY (vf)—PILOTY (OED)—PILOTS
 JILTER—MILTER—MALTER—MANter—MANGER—MANGOR (vf)—MAN-GOD (OED)
 JUMBLE—WUMBLE (Web2)—WOMBLE (Web2)—WORBLE—WORLLE (vf)—WORLDE (vf)—WORLDS
 KAISER—PAISER (Old Fr whence pease, or EDD)—PRISER—PROSER—PROFER (vf)—PROFIR (OED)—PROFIT
 KATION—LATION—LUTION (The Electronic Alveary)—LUSION (OED)—LUSTON (in Herefordshire)—LUSTEN (vf)—LUSTER. = anion!
 LAURIE (pers name)—SAURIE (vf)—STURIE (vf)—STORIE (vf)—STODIE (vf)—STODGE—STODGY
 LAYERS—SAYERS—SKYERS (OED)—SKIERS—SKIRRS—SKIRTS—SKIRTY. Crinoline?
 LEMONS—SEMONS (OED)—SOMONS (vf)—SOLONS—SOLENS (OED)—SOLERS (OED)—SOLERA. For those who find
 grapes too sweet?

LISPER—WISPER (vf)—WASPER (vf)—WARTER—WARDER—WARDOR (vf)—WAR-DOG (OED)
 LIVERS—SIVERS—SAVERS—SABERS—SABIRS—SABINS—SABINE
 LOUCHE—SOUCHE (vf)—SEUCHE (vf)—SENCHE (vf)—SENTE (vf)—SENTE (vf)—SENTRY
 LUSTER—MUSTER—MASTER—MANter—MANGER—MANGOR (vf)—MAN-GOD (OED)
 LUSTRE—MUSTRE (vf)—MASTRE (vf)—MARTRE (vf)—MARBRE (vf)—MARBLE—MARBLY. Also—MOSTRE (vf)—
 MONTRE—MONERE (vf)—MONEYE (vf)—MONEYS
 MAIDEN—SAIDEN (vf)—SLIDEN (vf)—SLADEN (S Green in Hampshire)—SLAVEN (OED)—SLAVIN—SLAVIC
 MARCHE (Fr meaning, for in English it is wild celery!)—SARCHE (vf)—SERCHE (vf)—SENCHE (vf)—SENTE (vf)—SENTE
 (vf)—SENTRY
 MILERS—SILERS (OED)—SALERS (OED)—SABERS—SABIRS—SABINS—SABINE. Also MOWERS—SOWERS—SAWERS—
 MOTHER—TOTHER—TUTHER (OED)—TUSHER—TUSKER—TUSKAR—TUSKAN (vf = Tuscan)
 NIMBLE—WIMBLE—WAMBLE—WARBLE—WARDLE (vf)—WARDEE (OED)—WARDEN
 NUDGES—PUDGES (OED)—PODGES (OED)—PORGES (OED)—PORTES (OED)—PORTAS—PORTAL
 PAYERS—SAYERS—SHYERS—SHIERS—SHIRRS—SHIRTS—SHIRTY (because they were over-charged?)
 PISTLE (= letter)—RISTLE (vf)—RASTLE (vf)—RANTLE (vf)—RANCLE (vf)—RANCHE—RANCHY (OED = raunchy)
 PLATES—SLATES—SPATES—SPITES—SPINES—SPINAS (eg spina bifida)—SPINAL
 POLERS—SOLERS—SALERS (OED)—SABERS—SABIRS—SABINS—SABINE. Also POWERS—SOWERS—SAWERS—
 RAMBLE—SAMBLE (vf)—SEMBLE—SEABLE (OED)—SEARLE (Ronald, cartoonist, or pharmaceutical coy)—SEARCE—SEARCH
 RASTLE (= wrestle)—TASTLE (vf)—TUSTLE (vf)—TURTLE—TURKLE—TURKIE (vf)—TURKIC (OED). See any Olympic Games
 RHYMES—THYMES—TRYMES (Ch, Old Eng gen plural of next word)—TRIMES (Ch, under thrymsa, gold coin)—TRIBES—
 TRIBAS (CH, Grk, whence tribade)—TRIBAL. Also—TRICES—TRICKS—TRICKY
 SHAYNE (pers name)—THAYNE (vf)—TRAYNE (OED)—TREYNE (vf)—TRENNE (vf)—TRENDE (vf)—TRENDY
 SIMPLE—WIMPLE—WAMPLE—WARPLE—WARDLE (vf)—WARDEE (OED)—WARDEN
 SIMPLE—WIMPLE—WOMPLE (vf)—WORPLE (vf)—WORTLE (vf)—WORTHE (vf)—WORTHY
 HUMPER (OED)—SUMPER—SAMPER (vf)—SAPPER—SAPHER (vf)—SAPHIR (vf)—SAPHIC (vf = Sapphic). Also BUMPER—,
 JUMPER—, LIMPER—, LUMPER—
 Also 27 beginning VERDUN, 21 beginning HERBAL etc

reverse replacement

BAILED—BAILEE—BAILIE—BAIKIE—BACKIE—BUCKIE—DUCKIE
 BAILED—BAILEE—BAILIE—BAIKIE—BANKIE (Lo)—BUNKIE—JUNKIE/PUNKIE. Also—DUCKIE, and BAILER/BAILEY
 BANDIT—BANDIR (The Electronic Alveary)—BANDER—BANKER—BACKER—BICKER—NICKER (nick = steal)/FICKER/
 LICKER/PICKER/SICKER. Also—CODGER, —LODGER, —FUDGER, —JUDGER, —DUCKER, —FUCKER, MUCKER, —
 SUCKER, —MILKER, —MISTER, —POSTER, —LUSTER, —FLUTER, —POUTER
 BARDOT (Fr actress)—BARDON (in Leicestershire)—BARDAN (OED)—BARMAN—BADMAN—BEDMAN—WEDMAN (OED)
 BARKED—BARKEN—BARKAN (Pull)—BARMAN—BAGMAN—BOGMAN—DOGMAN/HOGMAN/LOGMAN. Also—
 COYMAN, TOYMAN
 BARTOK (composer)—BARTON—BARTEN (vf)—BARDEN (in N Yorks)—BALDEN—BOLDEN—GOLDEN
 BEATON (Cecil, society photographer)—BEATOR (OED)—BEATER—BEADER—BELDER (Pull)—BILDER—GILDER/
 MILDER/WILDER. Also—COLDER, —FINDER, —MINDER, —WONDER, —HACKER, —FICKER, —LICKER,
 —PICKER, —FUCKER, —SUCKER
 BINDER—BINDEN (Ger to bind)—BINDAN (Old Eng band)—BINMAN—BIRMAN (vf)—BERMAN—GERMAN/HERMAN
 BLOWUP—BLOWUN (vf)—BLOWEN (vf)—BLOUEN (vf)—BLAUEN (vf)—BRAUEN (Ger brew)—FRAUEN (Pull, Mod Ger
 women). (for lonely males). Also BLOWIT—
 BONDER—BONDEN (vf)—BONDON—BONBON—BORBON (Span pretender)—BARBON (in Cumbria)—CARBON The
 tetravalent bonds make life possible
 BOWSER—BOWSEN (vf)—BOWSON (OED)—BOWDON (in Trafford)—BORDON (OED)—BARDON (in Leicestershire)—
 HARD-ON/PARDON (must refer to the fuel pipes)
 BRAISE—BRAISS (vf)—BRAIES (Pull)—BRAZES—BRIZES (OED obs breeze)—BAIZES—MAIZES
 BRENDA (pers name)—BRENDE (vf)—BRENNE (vf)—BREINE (vf)—BRAINE (vf)—BLAINE (vf)—PLAINE/SLAINE (both vf)
 BUNGAY (in Suffolk)—BUNGAR (vf)—BUNGER (vf)—BUNDER—BULDER (Pull)—BILDER—WILDER/MILDER. Also—
 COLDER, —SICKER, —TALKER, —WALKER, —MILKER, —MALTER, —FASTER, MASTER, —FASTER, —VASTER,
 —PASTER, —MISTER, —POSTER. Somewhat similar list for the town of Burgos (OED under life)
 BURIAL—BURIAR (vf)—BURIER—BURTER (OED)—BUSTER—BASTER—WASTER/MASTER. Also—PAXTON (TV
 interviewer), —CODGER, —LODGER, —DANGER, —LINGER, —SINGER, —HACKER, —SICKER, —WICKER, —
 TALKER, —WALKER, —MILKER, —CANKER, —TANKER, —WANKER, —MISTER, —POSTER
 BURIED/BURIES/BURNED—BURIEN (vf)—BURION—BURTON—BUPTON (in UK)—BEPTON (in W Sussex)—LEPTON. Such
 a tiny grave! Also—CAXTON
 CABINS—CABINS (vf)—CABIGE (vf)—CABAGE (vf)—CARAGE (vf)—CORAGE (vf)—FORAGE/PORAGE
 CABINS—CABINE (vf)—CABIGE (vf)—CABAGE (vf)—CARAGE (vf)—CORAGE (vf)—PORAGE (vf)
 CANDIE (Ch, S Indian weight)—CANDID—CANDED (vf)—CANTED—CASTED—COSTED—POSTED. —LISTED
 CARDEX (card index. Rex's Dict of Words in Common Use)—CARDEN (Chalice of, OED fribble)—CARDAN (OED)—CARMAN—
 CAYMAN—COY-MAN (OED)—TOYMAN. Handy for Xmas presents
 CARNIE (vf)—CARNIS (Sted)—CARNES (Sted)—CARLES—CABLES—COBLES—NOBLES Princes of peep-shows

CARNIE (vf)—CARNIS (Sted)—CARNES (Sted)—CARLES—CABLES—COBLES—NOBLES Princes of peep-shows
 CAROLE (pers name or vf)/CAROL'S (pers name)—CAROLL (vf)—CAROUL (vf)—CARFUL—CAPFUL—COPFUL (OED)—
 TOPFUL (means lofty, but ...)

CHALKY—CHALKS—CHALES (vf)—CHAVES (OED)—CHIVES—CLIVES (vf)—OLIVES
 CHARMS/CHARTS—CHARME (vf)—CHARNE (vf)—CHAINED (vf)—CHRINE (vf)—CARINE (vf)—MARINE. All the nice girls
 love a sailor. Also CHEAPO—, CHEATS—, CHERTS—

CHEATS—CHEATE (vf)—CHEASE (vf)—CHEISE (vf)—CHAISE—CRAISE (vf)—PRAISE because they show initiative!
 CHERYL (pers name)—CHERYE (vf)—CHERNE (vf)—CHEYNE (vf)—CHAYNE (vf)—CLAYNE (vf)—SLAYNE (vf)
 CHESTY—CHESTE (vf)—CHESSE (vf)—CHEISE (vf)—CHAISE—CRAISE (vf)—PRAISE
 CHILDS—CHILDE—CHILCE (OED)—CHINCE (vf)—CHANCE—CRANCE—TRANCE
 CHINKY—CHINKS—CHINES—CHIVES—CHAVES (OED)—CRAVES—GRAVES
 CHINTZ—CHINTS—CHINKS—CHICKS—CHOCKS—CROCKS—FROCKS. Also—GRAVES,—FLOCKS,—TRUCKS
 CHIRPY—CHIRPS—CHIRKS—CHINKS—CHANKS—CRANKS—PRANKS. Also—FLOCKS,—FROCKS,—PLANKS,
 —PRANKS,—FLANKS

CLEATS—CLEATH (vf)—CLEACH—CLENCH—CLUNCH—CAUNCH (Web2)—LAUNCH
 CLERKS—CLERKE (vf)—CLERGE (vf)—CLENGE (OED)—CLUNGE (vf)—COUNGE (OED)—LOUNGE
 CLINGY—CLINGS—CLINKS—CLICKS—CLOCKS—CROCKS—FROCKS. Common words
 CLONED—CLONES—CLONKS—CLOCKS—CLICKS—CRICKS—PRICKS/TRICKS (for Bobbit). Also—TRACKS,—TRUCKS
 CLOTHE—CLOTHS—CLOTES (vf)—CLOVES—CLAVES—CRAVES—GRAVES
 CLOUDS—CLOUDE (vf)—CLOUSE (vf)—CLOISE (vf)—CLAISE (vf)—CRAISE (vf)—PRAISE. Also CLOWNS—
 COMPAQ (PC manufacturer)—COMPAS (vf)—COMPTS—COMETS—COVETS—CIVETS—RIVETS. Also—DUVETS
 Diversification from PC production.

CONGAS—CONGAR (vf)—CONGER—CONTER—COSTER—CASTER—FASTER/MASTER/VASTER. Also—MUSTER
 CORNEA—CORNEL—CORNAL (vf)—CORTAL (vf)—COSTAL—CISTAL (OED)—DISTAL
 CRAMPY/CRANKY—CRAMPS—CRAMES (OED)—CRARES (OED)—CRORES—CHORES—WHORES
 CRETAN—CRETAE (Sted)—CRETHE (OED)—CRECHE—CRUCHE—COUCHE—LOUCHE/DOUCHE
 CROUTE—CROUTH (vf)—CROUCH—CROTCH—CRITCH—CLITCH—GLITCH. Cooking accident
 CUTLAS—CUTLAR (vf)—CUTLER—CUTTER—CUSTER (of Last Stand fame)—CASTER—FASTER/MASTER/VASTER. Also
 —POSTER,—OYSTER

DARKEY/DARKEN—DARKEE (The Scoundrel's Dict)—DARKLE—DARGLE (Ch)—DANGLE—DINGLE—JINGLE/MINGLE/SINGLE
 DEBARS—DEBARE (OED)—DEBATE—DEBITE (OED)—DELITE (vf)—DOLITE—POLITE
 DENTAL—DENTAR (OED)—DENTER (Web2)—DENKER (Roget)—DECKER—DACKER—HACKER/PACKER. Also—
 PICKER,—MOCKER,—FUCKER,—PUCKER

DICKEY—DICKEN (OED)—DICKON (vf)—DICON (vf)—DITION—DATION—RATION ration of donkey or bird, or poor quality ration
 DORSAL—DORSAR (vf)—DORSER—DORNER (Sted)—DOWNER—DAWNER (vf)—YAWNER
 FEALTY—FEALTE (Old Fr whence fealty)—FEALLE (vf)—FEABLE (vf)—FEMBLE (vf)—FAMBLE—GAMBLE.
 Also—NIMBLE,—HUMBLE

FERMAN (James F, former UK film censor, also Persian whence firman)—FERMAR (vf)—FERMER (vf)—FERDER (vf)—FENDER—
 FINDER—MINDER. Also—PONDER,—WONDER,—HALTER,—MASTER,—LUSTER
 FERMAT (OED, also Fr mathematician)—FERMAR (vf)—FERMER (vf)—FERTER (OED)—FESTER—FASTER—MASTER of
 maths, except for his "Last" Theorem

FLECKS—FLECKE (vf)—FLECGE (Old Eng (Kentish) whence fledge)—FLENGE (vf)—FLANGE—FRANGE (Sted)—ORANGE
 FORGAT—FORGAR (OED)—FORGER—FORDER (in Cornwall or vf)—FOLDER—FULDER (OED)—MULDER (Web2). Scully,
 in the X-Files

FRENCH—FRENCE (vf)—FRENNE—FREYNE (OED)—FRAYNE—FLAYNE (vf)—SLAYNE (vf) at Waterloo
 FROTHS/FROTHY—FROTTE (vf)—FROTTE (vf)—FROSTE (vf)—FRISTE (vf)—FOISTE (vf)—MOISTE (vf)
 GARTHS (enclosed ground)—GARTH (Ch, Old Norse whence garth)—GARTER—GARDER (Ch, Old Fr whence guard)—
 GANDER—GONDER (vf)—YONDER/PONDER. Also—MILDER

GENIAL—GENIAN—GENION—GENSON—GEISON—GRISON—PRISON. Also—PARSON
 GROANS—GROANE (vf)—GROATE (vf)—GRONTE (vf)—GRUNTE (vf)—GAUNTE (vf)—HAUNTE (vf)
 GROUPS—GROUPE (vf)—GROUNE (vf)—GROYNE—GRAYNE (vf)—GLAYNE—SLAYNE (vf)
 HABITS (as on nuns)—HABITE (vf)—HABILE—HABBLE—HAMBLE—HUMBLE—TUMBLE/JUMBLE
 HAMLET—HAMLEN (?)—HAMLIN (1916 Hamlin Hist. Ornament OED under all-over)—HAMKIN (OED)—HARK IN (OED)—
 HERKIN (vf)—MERKIN/JERKIN

HERBAL—HERBAR (OED)—HERBER (OED)—HERDER—HENDER (vf)—HINDER—MINDER/KINDER. Also—MILDER,
 —WILDER,—PONDER,—WAFTER,—SALTER,—WANTER,—MINTER (pun),—WINTER,—PUNTER,—MASTER,
 —PASTER,—WASTER,—MASTER

HINDUS—HINDUR (vf)—HINDER—HINTER—HISTER—HASTER—MASTER/VASTER/WASTER. Also—POSTER
 HOLDER—HOLDEN—HOLDON (OED)—HOLTON (In Oxfordshire)—HORTON (in Kent)—HARTON (in N Yorks)—PARTON a bra!
 HOLDUP—HOLDUR (OED)—HOLDER—HOLGER (Sted)—HONGER (vf)—HINGER—LINGER/SINGER/WINGER.
 Also—WANGER,—NUMBER,—LUNGER,—LAZIER,—LICKER,—WACKER,—SUCKER,—TANKER,—WANKER,
 —MASTER,—WASTER,—MISTER

HOLIER—HOLIEN (vf)—HOLIAN (vf)—HOLMAN (H Hunt, Pre-Raphaelite)—HOYMAN—HEYMAN (Francis H, Eng painter, OED shambling)—KEYMAN church warden?

LANGOR (vf)—LANGOT (vf)—LANGET (vf)—LANKET—LACKET (OED)—LOCKET—ROCKET

LANGUE—LANGUR—LANGER (vf)—LANTER (vf)—LASTER—LYSTER (OED)—OYSTER

LEGION/REGION—LEGIOR (vf)—LEGIER (vf)—LEGHER (vf)—LEATHER (vf)—LITHER—ZITHER. Also—LOCKED,—LOCKET

LUSTIE (vf)—LUSTIR (vf)—LUSTER—LUSHER—LUTHER—LITHER—ZITHER

MANCHU (OED)—MANCHE—MANCLE (vf)—MANKLE (vf)—MACKLE—MICKLE—PICKLE/SICKLE/TICKLE. Also—SUCKLE

MAN-GOD (OED)—MANGOE (vf)—MANGLE—MANKLE (vf)—MACKLE—MICKLE—TICKLE. Also—POSTER

MANGOS—MANGOE (vf)—MANGLE—MANKLE (vf)—MACKLE—MICKLE—PICKLE. Also—SUCKLE—TUSKED etc

MANTIS—MANTIE (OED)—MANTLE—MANKLE (vf)—MACKLE—MICKLE—TICKLE/PICKLE. Also—SUCKLE

MARBLY—MARBLE—MARBRE (vf)—MARTRE (vf)—MASTRE (vf)—MYSTRE (vf)—OYSTRE (OED)

MARTIN/MARTYN—MARTIR (vf)—MARTER (vf)—MARLER—MAILER—MOILER—SOILER/TOILER. Also—VOIDER,—NUDGES

MASTER—MASTEN (German for mast)—MASTIN (OED)—MASLIN—MARLIN—MURLIN—PURLIN

MASTIC—MASTID (vf)—MASTED—MASSED—MANSED (OED)—MINSED (OED)—RINSED

MATING—MATINS—MATIES (Pull)—MATHES—MACHES (OED)—MICHES (OED)—RICHES

MEASLY—MEASLE—MEASNE (vf)—MEAINE (vf)—MELINE—MALINE—SALINE

MISLED—MISLEN (vf)—MISLIN (vf)—MISKIN (OED)—MIRKIN (vf)—MORKIN—WORK-IN (OED). Also PANTOS—

MORTAL—MORTAR—MORTER (vf)—MORDER (vf)—MOLDER—MILDER—WILDER

MUSCAT—MUSCAE—MUSCLE—MUSKLE (vf)—MUCKLE—MACKLE—TACKLE. Also—PICKLE,—SICKLE,—TICKLE,—NICKEL. MUSTER— is similar

PARLEY—PARLER (OED)—PARLUR (Ch, Anglo-Fr whence parlour)—PAROUR (vf)—PALOUR—PELOUR (vf)—VELOUR smooth talking!

PATERS (OSPD)—PATERE (Latin whence patera)—PATENE (Old Fr whence paten)—PATINE—PARINE—PHRINE (Sted)—SHRINE

PERISH—PERISE (vf)—PERIGE (vf)—PERAGE (vf)—PELAGE—PILAGE—SILAGE

PREFAB—PREFAR (OED)—PREFER—PREYER—PRAYER—PLAYER—SLAYER

PROFIT—PROFIR (OED)—PROFER—PROTER—PRATER—PLATER—SLATER (word, but Jim S, UK company wheeler-dealer)

PROWLS—PROWLE (vf)—PROWNE (vf)—PROYNE (vf)—PRAYNE (vf)—PLAYNE (vf)—SLAYNE (vf)

RANCHY (OED)—RANCHE—RANCLE (vf)—RANKLE—RACKLE—RUCKLE—SUCKLE

RANDIE—RANDIR—RANDER—RANKER—RACKER—RUCKER—SUCKER

RECHIP (Web2)—RECHID (vf)—RECHED (vf)—RECTED (vf)—RENTED—RANTED—WANTED sick computer

RUSTIC—RUSTIE (vf)—RUSTLE—RUSKLE (OED)—RUCKLE—RICKLE—SICKLE/TICKLE

SABINE—SABINS—SABIRS (OSPD)—SABERS—SAWERS—SOWERS—VOWERS/TOWERS. Also—WIVER (OED weaver)

SAVOYE (vf)—SAVOYS—SAVORS—SAVERS—SABERS—SUBERS—TUBERS. Also—TILERS,—TOWERS

SCALDY/SCALPY—SCALDS—SCALES—SCARES—SCORES—SHORES—WHORES

SCHULZ (discoverer of Schulzite, OED)—SCHULD (vf)—SCHUED (vf)—SCHRED (vf)—SCORED—SHORED—WHORED

SEA-BUG/SEA-BUN (both OED)—SEA-BUD (OED)—SEA BED—SEALED—SEILED (OED)—SAILED—WAILED/TAILED/WAILED. Also—WHINED

SENTRY—SENTRE (vf)—SENTTE (vf)—SENATE—SERATE (OED)—SPRATE (vf)—UPRATE (OED)

SERVAL—SERVAR (vf)—SERVER—SERCER (vf)—SENCER (vf)—SINCER (vf)—WINCER

SHREWD—SHREWE (vf)—SHRENE (vf)—SHRYNE (vf)—SHAYNE (pers name)—SWAYNE (vf)—TWAYNE (vf)

SINGER—SINGEN (vf)—SINGON (vf)—SINTON (in Worcestershire)—SILTON (in Dorset)—SALTON (in N Yorks)—WALTON (in Cumbria, or Eng composer, or Izaak the Compleat Angler)

SLEAZY—SLEAZE—SLEAGE (vf)—SLENGE (vf)—SLINGE—SWINGE—TWINGE

SPANKY—SPANKS—SPANES (vf)—SPARES—SPORES—SHORES—WHORES

SPICED/SPICER/SPICEY—SPICES—SPICKS—SPINKS (OED)—SPANKS—SHANKS—THANKS

SPINAL—SPINAS (OED)—SPINES—SPILES—SPALES—SHALES—WHALES/WHORES

SPINED/SPINEY—SPINES—SPINKS (OED)—SPICKS—SPECKS—SNECKS—V-NECKS (OED)

SPORTY—SPORTE (vf)—SPORNE (vf)—SPOINE (vf)—SPAINE (vf)—SWAINE (vf)—TWAINE (vf)

STALKY—STALKS—STALES—STARES—STORES—SHORES—WHORES

STAPHO (Old High Ger whence estafette, but start of bacterial name)—STAPHS—STAPES—STARES—STORES—SHORES—WHORES

STINGY—STINGS—STINKS—STICKS—STACKS—SHACKS—WHACKS. Also STONED—, STONEY—, STORED—

STORMY—STORMS—STORES—STOLES—STALES—SHALES—WHALES. Also—WHACKS,—THANKS

SUN-DOG (mock sun)—SUNDOR (OED under sunder)—SUNDER—SUNNER (vf)—SUINER (vf)—SHINER—WHINER

TERNAL (threefold)—TERNAR—TERNER—TERTER (vf)—TENTER—TINTER—WINTER. Also—WANTER,—VASTER,—WASTER

THEIRS—THEIRE (vf)—THEINE—THERNE (vf)—THURNE (in Norfolk)—TOURNE (vf)—YOURNE (vf) sadly not antonymic

TOUKAN (vf)—TOUKAR (vf)—TOUKER (vf)—TOUTER—TOSTER (Old Fr whence toast)—TASTER—VASTER/WASTER

TRIBAL—TRIBAS (Grk, whence tribade)—TRIBES—TRILES (OED)—TRALES (OED)—THALES (Grk philosopher)—WHALES. Also TRICKY—, TRIPOD—

TROPEZ (STT, S France)—TROPEE (OED)—TROPHE (OED)—TROTHE—TRUTHE—TOUTHE—YOUTHE. youth remove their topz at St Tropz

TURKIC—TURKIE (vf)—TURKLE—TURBLE (vf)—TUMBLE—TOMBLE (vf)—WOMBLE (vf, UK children's TV character)
Also TURPIN—

TUSKAN (vf)—TUSKAR—TUSKER—TUSHER—TUTHER (OED)—TITHER—ZITHER

VERDUN—VERDUR (vf)—VERDER (OED)—VERGER—VENGER—VINGER (OED)—WINGER. Also—WANTER,
—WINTER, —WASTER