HALF-HALF TRANSPOSALS

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
(thorpeds@hotmail.com)

Most readers will be familiar with split-word transposals such as HORSESHOER in which the letters of the first half of the word are repeated in the second half in a different order. The current exercise is similar, but different in that it concerns pairs of words rather than a single word. I set out to find pairs of words (such as ISOLATED and SOLIDATE) in which the letters of the first half of the first word, rearranged, form the letters of the first half of the second word; and the letters of the second half of the first word, rearranged, form the letters of the second half of the second word. I call these half-half transposals. They can only be found amongst words with an even number of letters. Some of the pairs of words below will have appeared in previous issues of Word Ways, purely in the context of being transposals. Most of the words below can be found in the OED Second Edition - head words, variant forms and text words including citations. Sources of non-OED words are given at the end.

HALF-HALF TRANSPOSALS

6-letter words
AFI.ELD BRI.DAL CLA.IRE DAD.DLE ESC.ORT FLO.RET
FAI.ELD RIB.ALD LAC.IER ADD.LED SEC.TOR LOF.TER
GRU.DGE HOR.SED INB.RED JAC.ATE KIS.SER LOW.EST
RUG.GED RHO.DES BIN.DER CAJ.ETA SKL.ERS OWL.ETS
MAL.IGN NEP.ALI OST.END PAS.SED QUS.EIR ROM.EOS
LAM.ING PEN.IAL STO.NED SPA.DES SQU.IRE MOR.OSE
STA.TUE TAR.RED ULS.TER VAC.ATE WID.ENS XES.TES
AST.UTE TRA.DER LUS.TRE CAV.EAT DWI.NES SEX.ETS
YEH.TEH ZAB.RAS
HEY.ETH BAZ.ARS

8-letter words
ANCE.STOR BEAD.INGS CHAR.ISMA DESP.ISED ERAS.URES FORE.STER
ENAC.TORS DEBA.SING ARCH.AISM DEPS.IDES REAS.SURE REFO.REST
GRAN.ITES HARP.INGS INCE.NSES JAIN.ISTS KERA.TOSE LABR.ADOR
ANGR.IEST PHRA.SING NICE.NESS JINA.SITS KREA.SOTE LARB.OARD
(coined phrase)
EXCHANGE HALF-HALF TRANPOSALS

In exchange half-half transposals, the letters of the first half of the first word, rearranged, form the letters of the second half of the second word and vice versa. Reversals (such as STRESSSED and DESSERTS) are a special type of exchange half-half transposal and are not included here.

In exchange half-half transposals, the letters of the first half of the first word, rearranged, form the letters of the second half of the second word and vice versa. Reversals (such as STRESSSED and DESSERTS) are a special type of exchange half-half transposal and are not included here.

6-letter words:

- AVE.NGE
- BELLIED
- CHE.EPS
- DEA.RTH
- ENI.GMA
- FLU.ENT
- GEDI.GER
- HE.C.TOR
- IGN.ITE
- JAN.GER
- KIN.NEL
- LAI.RED
- MAN.UAL
- NEC.TAR
- ORN.ATE
- PIE.CER
- QUI.LES
- RES.EAT
- SPE.ECH
- TEM.PLE
- UNT.APE
- VEI.NED
- WRE.ATH
- XER.IFO
- YAT.TER
- ZAR.ISH
- SHI.RAZ

10-letter words:

- AUST.RALIAN
- CARPETINGS
- DECIMATERS
- ETHOLOGIES
- FOREFINGER
- SATURNALIA
- PRECASTING
- MEDICASTER
- THEOLOGISE
- REOFFERING
- LIMITARIES
- MONOLOGISE
- NECROTISED
- PERSISTING
- REDUNDANTS
- MILITARISE
- NOMOLOGIES
- RECONDITES
- PRIESTINGS
- UNDERSTAND

12-letter words:

- LATERIATION
- RETALIATIONS

(coined phrase)