

BB AND THE REBUSGRAM

ANIL

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BB is a rebus. In fact it's a rebus of **rebus**: "Re-B us." In this article I mainly explore the one-letter rebus, its opposite the "antirebus" and their use in higher dimensional constructions I call "rebusgrams". I close with a quiz-full of multi-letter rebus puzzles.

A ONE-LETTER REBUS is a letter interpreted as a word or phrase (E = the end), often to be reread as a charade (M = misnamed = M is named). Kickshaws introduced it to Word Ways in May and August '73. In the May '76 issue Philip M. Cohen catalogued and attributed a large selection of the best one-letter rebuses from *Enigma*, organ of the National Puzzlers' League. He divided alphabetical rebuses into four types: 1. literal or CHARADE (Z = amazed = Am a zed.); 2. PHONETIC (X = low necks = "lone X"), 3. ENIGMATIC (D = Bottomless Pit = a P, it, with no bottom), and 4. SUBER or reversal (K = Kamehameha = Ahem, ahem, a K!). Other outstanding items from these lists: B = bread and butter, E = Erebus (rebus and suber), P = epicenter, Q = ringtailed, S = night letter and V = half-wit.

The present collection lumps Cohen's four types together since some overlap types, ie, work as both rebus and suber, or mix phonetic and charade, etc. This also makes reading them more challenging. I start with some single rebuses that play on font style and size

I. ONE-LETTER REBUSES (charade, phonetic, enigmatic, suber and mixed)

<i>A</i>	aversion	h	smallish	<i>N</i>	impartial
b	belittle	<i>i</i>	an "iota"	<i>IV</i>	inseparable
<i>c</i>	cant	k	*	<i>P</i>	pink elegant
<i>d</i>	destiny	m	minim	<i>p</i>	oliguria
<i>e</i>	emote	((m))	immodest	5	senescence
<i>f</i>	little f to see	<i>M!!</i>	emergent	<i>s</i>	sickle, self
<i>g</i>	grunt	ll	improbably	<i>t</i>	midget
<i>G</i>	Goddam!	n	u-turn	<i>y</i>	tiny
G	gastronomical	N	Enlarge, ingrate!	T	thigh
X	exemplified	M m M m	four freedoms	○ ☺ ☹ ☹ 0	ovaries

I. notes: *f* = antirebus as well *G* = odd or mad **G** **5** A five and an S are essentially the same shape and often hard to differentiate as one senescences. *s* "Ickle" is Oz baby talk for little

II. ANTI-GREEK REBUSES

Not an exercise in racism or ethnic jokes, just using Greek letters to introduce the one-letter ANTIREBUS. Unlike a rebus, an antirebus is a negation or impairment of the letter, or a flat lie: D = nod (no D), A = avoid (A void). They resemble the "one-letter liporebus" (Word Ways

'79-137) which lists the whole alphabet minus one letter to set up a pun (cutE, Tout). D-, N-, O and X are suicide antirebuses. The most apt antirebuses are themselves negation words like avoid, un (below) and, in IV, aren't, cease, dearth and many others. Antirebuses can also be DOUBLES, like r above. "A = a D is played" ('76-108) charades to "A displayed", so it is antirebus *and* rebus. Any antirebus with "out" in the answer doubles by meaning absent *or* present, unhidden. Doubles are marked ^d. Some of the following are quite lame and beg the readership for improvements.

<u>letter</u>	<u>antirebus</u>	<u>translation</u>
A,α	alpha smudge	"half as much" [inverse of a double, a half and half not]
B,β	Bade adieu.	Beta due a farewell.
Γ,γ	gamma radiation	Lethal dose, or gamma itself radiated away.
Δ,δ	delta loser	"I got dem delta blues from dis lousy life I was dealt."
E,ε	epsilon ^d	No lisp ε. (suber; or antigrams: Nil pose, lips "No ε.", lone psi)
Z,ζ	zeta least	Zero, to say the very least.
H,η	eta poison	(Not the brand name!)
Θ,θ	North Adelaide	"Nor theta laid."
I,ι	iota printer ^d	Withheld from print until I pay the printer's previous bill!
K,κ	Kκ ^d	(a suicide, like ε): "Cap a kappa"--cover, seal off or surpass it.
Λ,λ	lambda slaughter	Led away like a ...
M,μ	music	Mu's sick and couldn't be present.
N,ν	un	Nu's had a reversal of fortune, an un-nu. (Nothing nu here.)
Ξ,ξ	xi ^d	Xi is an oxymoronic <i>multiple suicide</i> : ex see, ex-ξ, Sigh!, Ex, I.
O,ο	omicron ^d	double suicide: "o micron" (invisibly small) and "Nor see I'm O."
Π,π	piano	Pi? A "No." \ (phonetic suber)
P,ρ	robust	rho bust
Σ,σ	ΣΦ0	Sigma Phi Nothing (actual old 'alternative' fraternity) "Σ? Φ, 0!"
T,τ	kowtow	Cow tau and scare it away.
Υ,υ	upsilon gone	"Oops, a long gone!"
Φ,φ	fireplace	Phi replace.
X,χ	chiropractor	chi roper actor
Ψ,ψ	Saigon	Psi gone. (So is Saigon!)
Ω,ω	omega ^d	3 suicides: "the end", 0 mega (giant zero), "Age, 'm zero." (suber)

III. ONE-LETTER REBUSGRAMS: Same-Letter Rebuses

For added fun--and to help justify another rebus article!--I string unrelated rebuses together into sentences or REBUSGRAMS. Combined rebuses of the same letter create a new sort of lipogram, the "one-letter sentence". Ideally the sentence should relate to the letter itself in some way but I can't figure out how to do that. Any ideas? Rebuses J and M1 and antirebus O (part IV) achieve some degree of self-reflection, C, I, V and Z less so. In the rest, at least all parts relate to the letter and to each other. Punctuation relates only to the sentences, except that carets connect rebus ^ phrases. Hyphens and dashes too connect rebus--phrases but also punctuate. Every unconnected word is a separate rebus. Bracketed notes translate the rebusgrams while footnotes clarify some of the individual rebuses.

A Ascertain heart^to^heart "palace area" asset. [Does your partner still love you?]

- B** "Business bottom? Basic, ^it. Imbibe ^beer, booze! Abnormal Bismarck Don, ^"D.", absolves ^it." ("SOB! Sober ^being ^able!") [D., North Dakota mafia-boss/bootlegger, absolves all boozers. But the sober leave off gin and ale, considering alcohol the "bottom" in another sense.]
- C** Logic centered clog? Credit creep force "half-S" ^character, 3/4 ^open. Contemplate 'insect' details, cosmic context concurrently. Connotation: conserve consummation. [Don't jump to conclusions. Be fully open, thoughtful, broad and thorough to unblock the logi jam.]
- D** Alfred ^Hitchcock 'sider', rigid, bared a ^red, detoned aftercare dub. [A.H.'s stuffy offsider has toned down the color in one of his films during editing.]
- E** "Everyone prefer wine?" Disturbed ^brute: "Nowise, four ^eyes!" ["It's for nerds and sissies!"]
- F** Confused? Sign ^off, flit, single ^file. ^ "No ^lies!" (Left, ^let ^out!) [Drop out if you can't handle the lies and obfuscations.]
- G** 1. Give ground, grave gin, bringing gratification, gratefulness.
2. Gloss ^over gold ^standard, galleon crab propper?
[1. a prayer to gin (pro or con?) 2. from a write-it-yourself pirate story]
- H** Hovercraft letter ^rate [is] ^extremely ^harsh. [expensive "expedited sea mail"]
- I** Eyewitness autobiography item, see knowing's isomorphs. ["I am legion."]
- J** Jingo: "Jam jocular jaunty ^jungle hooked-on ^drugs joy!" [Patriot enjoins Aunty and Ungle Rebus to cease their fun and come down from those J hooks.]
- K** 1. Beak untied ^kite knotless. [Smart bird (a kite?) disentangled itself.]
2. Kaiser keyed kinky kin "kid kit". [Planned parenthood advice, or inbreeding paraphernalia?]
- L** 1. Ladder sentinel: "Limit lib! Lam!" [Highly placed watchman signals immediate danger.]
2. Art ^Linkletter: "Levi slight unameliorated!" [Missed out on a jeans commercial?]
- M** 1. "Imperceptible" implied imprinted impenitence. Impeccable symbolism!
2. Embedded Twin ^^Peaks immigrant emmet.
[1. Don't call this perfectly good symbol imperceptible! 2. Dinosaurs in amber?]
- N** Nominees inscribed incomplete information, infinite insight never shown. (Non ^show = invisible?) [Political shortsightedness the norm.]
- O** Prepare Cluedo hologram.
- P** Appointer pled pact paper pic. [Picture means case or overview.]
- Q** Apple ^turnover? Qat quart? Skew, circle, ^queue Iraq headquarters.
- R** Retching man ^urinating. Rare user? Rabid cur? Ring undertaker?
- S** 1. Sexists: "Prettier, imposing ^ass." "Uses? ^Useless!"
2. Pentagon ^papers' spearhead sentry presents essay letters, beholds overt slot.
[1. "Too stuck up to be 'used'." 2. a hole ('slot') in government-military secrecy (sentry = D.Ellsberg)]
- T** At 40, portend overly ^perpendicular tight ^end put betting. "Avert heart attack!" (Hindsight understands that tissue.) [Male midlife crisis, desperately seeking sex while he can. For therapy?]
- U** "Seaside ^view uneatable, upend!" [coastal developers (Uneatable means unbankable.)]
- V** Deliver valleyed cleavage "vision", rev starved metronome lever. [prelude to T above]
- W** "Win? ^Place? ^Show?" Waver where witness Win awfully ^written. [Couldn't read ticket.]
- X** Ibex exoneration: exposing ecstasy more ^female ^than ^male, exclude exit!
[Save the ibex--it's high on life! (And feminine in French.)]

- Y** "Looky, yew!" "Noway! Men^only obey Yin."
[Of Nature, does only the female principle interest men? Is loving trees "queer"?]
- Z** A^light^nap, inside^view: zamias, zibelines, zany zit zone Seven-Upper zest.
[vivid dreams, eg, of regained youth]

III. notes: **B** B-"isness" (or B = us, in ess.) Sober, being able = Be B. Sober alone is also a B rebus, "so B-er". **C** Pen half an S (remove its tail) or 3/4 of an O **D** simplified (headless) side view of Hitchcock (Reversing his TV signature, but who wants a kcochctiH-derflA rebus?) **E** (4) E--very one!, E (Very "on", E!), ever yon E, every 'on' E [on paper] Brute minus turb is E. E is made of four I's. (Eyes also is a rebus, of E and of S. Nowise is also an antirebus, of Y.) **F** Take lie out of file or let out of left. (Left is also a rebus, "F inlet".) **G** Crab (suber) = "Put a bar across C." **H** Hovercraft: turn an H (letter 8) over, it's still an H (and an 8)! Crafty, eh? **I** K, no wings **K** Kaiser is a suber. *Res*, thing, is the Latin singular of *rebus*, used here as a nonce verb: "Rebus I a K." **M** Pen it hence, or is peckable on the keyboard. **R** two- legged P **R**-ing and **T**-ing are R and T doing their thing. **V** v in stared [at] position **X,Y** "Female" and "men" refer to the sex chromosomes. **Z** A light nap is a short ZZZ. Seven is the upper part of a Z. -- NB: The following, and others where noted, are pictorial: Don D., Twin Peaks, apple turnover, circle queue, overly perpendicular, cleavage, metronome, seaside- and inside-views. The last two are also phonetic (C, N side views).

IV. ANTIREBUSGRAMS: Same-letter Antirebuses (and doubles, ^d = both rebus & antirebus):

- A** Alack, aren't northeastern opera availed! [Boris isn't Godunov?]
- B** "About^d robust lamb blurb: Garbage, bless bran!" [vegetarian slogan (or bran-fed lamb?)]
- C** 1. "Can't^I close Cimarron cleft,^d contemporarily^d consent excused?"
2. Cram crazed, antic, uncooperative "committed", cease delectable cover, uncare.
[1. Dam this gorge-ous river? 2. "Cram the antisocial 'crazies' into uncaring, undelightful asylums."]
- D** Deicide: deleted, erased, disused,^d 'wasted'! [Deicidedly an atheist.]
- E** "Note 'hide fear^place', ego.^d Erase!^d (80.)" [psychiatry (\$80, please.)]
- F** "Faint flame flicked fallout^d!" "Let^d it!" [radioactive waste "debate"]
- G** 1. Antigone, goner.^d 2. Grip grid, outgoing agoutis^d! 3. Finagle,^d Governor^General! God^d reign missing? [1. G, a suicide! 2. endangered species 3. The current Governor General (nominal vicarious sovereign of Australia) is an Archbishop taking a lot of the flack over clerical child abuse.]
- H** "Outlandish^d hover, nothing! Shift shell^down!" [Quit showing off and land this thing!]
- I** Indigo iron^d tonic--I^felt^d polymeric! [Oh, what a feeling!]
- J** Juno^d joust [heavenly battle]
- K** "Book, kick^out,^d kidnap, skewer, kill banker^d kook^d!!" (Bark shook biker!)
[Post-deregulation Oz bank customer's outburst startles even a bikie.]
- L** Lax lout's^d laniard lamp plain defiled^d fireflies, elf^led luciferase lender. "Lift!^d L-fire!"
[Lout's firefly lamp plainly defiled the fireflies and "deserves Lucifer's fire unless s/he lifts hir game!"]
- M** Emend mungo, Norman^Mailer.
[Mungo (wool scraps) suggests waste *and* low quality, two things Mailer might rail against.]

- N** Non^d 'neaten'^d inflamed intern^d infiltration.^d [Clinton's error]
- O** Lino around[^]one,^d "noose[^]encircled!" [Hung up on kitchen ('lino') duties that circle one.]
- P** Parent power plaque plop. (pun)
[Triple pun on plaque: parenting award presentation v. dental miracle v. heart attack.]
- Q** Quaint, cueless *banque*. [Contrast K.]
- R** 1. Varnish north Timor radios. [old tech]
2. Revoker,^d render frog dearth outrage rout!^d [Save the frogs, Man! (And hence yourself!)]
- S** Spillage hides slack negatives: snot sleeves. [Perfect landing! "One bad turn deserves another."]
- T** Closet atheist trifled, "Exist tinfoil shunts?"
[Tinfoil shunts are fabricated shortcuts to truth or Heaven.]
- U** "Unopen, prevail, unabnegating!" [Conquistadors (or those damned developers again! cf. III.U)]
- V** "Vend no[^]vin!" (Wove, vomitted, gie,^d unextended.) [Rail, weave, puke, "give" and fold up.]
- W** Swift will won^d nowhere. [See III.C. But neither did Slow Won't!]
- X** "Exterminated 0x index?" Maxim: "Present, no[^]exit!" ["Gotta have beef!"]
- Y** "Yon^d bran[^]dainty annoy?" "Ain't[^]brandy!" ["Too sweet a pastry?" "I prefer alcohol!"]
- Z** Boozing bozos awaken, Zenned! (Zend?) [Zen Enlightenment (via Zoroastrianism?)]

IV. notes: A opera is a suber, A-"repo"(s session) C c in deletable position F Let = left f out. It = fit no f. I I felt = I left-out. Polymeric (suber) = "See i re my lop." K "Nap" can mean seize, steal or break (Cassell Dictionary of Slang). L Defiled is "defied L in" plus a triple suber: anti (De-L I fed.) + two-part charaded pro (L if indeed L I find, 'eed.); also an antirebus of F (De-F I led). Fireflies "fire L in fies." Lift = L-misfit; its double (rebus) = "L fit-out" Lamp = L? Am P! O "Ar(e) O undone." + rebus, "a round one" V Gie = Give no V. X 0x = zero x Y "Bran dainty" and "Ain't brandy!" are anagrams (word rearrangements) of the same antirebus denying it's "brand Y".

In addition to LIPOREBUSGRAMS, *mixed* one-letter rebuses can be joined in SPELLING REBUSGRAMS. For example, using rebuses from above, a polite **GENT** is aptly spelt "**Give everyone infinite heart.**" And **SNAP** is "**Letters shown ascertain pic.**" (If every rebus started with its own letter, like the first two "letters" of GENT and the last two of SNAP, these would double as acronyms or acrostics.) Such constructions would make good puzzles. But to be more widely useful a much larger 'vocabulary' of rebuses is required. This means many repetitious rebus types must be used. For a single example, the formula [$* = Be*... \text{ or } Bea*$], I counted 87 rebus and 9 antirebus words plus uncounted rebus phrases. Further indicative of the potential for one-letter rebuses is a Word Ways article by Fraser Simpson ('90-229) on one-letter deletions. It includes well over 200 items that could serve as rebus or antirebus, especially of the formula [$* = x*x = "*" \text{ in } xx$]. I've used several of them here. And the first three citations above (two Kickshaws + Cohen'76) give nearly 300 one-letter rebuses, while the present article has well over 400 including antirebuses. Thus a list of several thousand 'one-letter words' is attainable and should support the creation of sentences that aptly spell longer words, phrases or even secondary sentences, and ultimately paragraphs that spell apt sentences that in turn spell apt words! I invite readers to take up this daunting but fascinating challenge.

