

# DOUBLE DOUBLES

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This article searches for words in which 2 pairs of doubled letters occur **adjacently**. Previous items in Word Ways have looked for words with 2 pairs of doubled letters but, almost exclusively, words in which the 2 pairs occur **anywhere** in relation to each other. However, scattered in these lists are examples in which the 2 pairs occur together. The *History* section below extracts these examples. The words are listed in alphabetical order of the doubled letters. Unreferenced words in this *History* section can be found in Webster's Second Edition.

## HISTORY

WW73017 *Words With Two Pairs of Like Letters* by Darryl Francis.

TAAFFEITE (oed), KAARRE (tig), JERUBBAAL, CARIBBEE, SUBBOOKKEEPER, OCCAANECHY (Hodge), RACCOON, COFFEE, BUFFOON, GEGGEE, URHHEEN, FISHHOOK, IIKKA (tig), MARKKAA (cham), SUBBOOKKEEPER, AKKYA (tig), BOUGANVILLIDAE, SAMMAA, ANNAAS, BLENNID, BUDENNY (tig), COOEE, BOOKKEEPER, HOOQQA (oed), TIPPEE, WHIPPOORWILL, OPPUURS (tig), SARRII (Hodge), KIBROTHHATTA AVAH, QUUNNIPIEUCK (Hodge), ARROWWEED, BOWWOOD, QUIZZEE

WW77246 *Words With Two Doubled Letters* by Philip Cohen. All these words are places:

UUSAAARI (osn Finland), UUSAAARI, RUUTTI (osn Finland), YEEERE (osn USSR), ARYLLAKH (osn USSR), NYSSOLA (osn Finland), Ikhn'ou FEZZA is a mountain (osn Morocco)

WW76206 *Eight-Letter Two-Pair Words* by Ross Eckler.

AAHOTEP (cad), BALLOONS, ROOMMATE

Others: AARRGHH (93084 - ospd), CUBBYEW (73083), EEEJJA (83156), FFOOTT (79241 - dews), UHHI-HHEE (81024 - oed), YOH-HGHERT (68016 yoghurt), COOKKOOOSE (81157 - Hodge), HAYPP-NNEEH (68016 halfpenny), OOLLY (69120), WOOLLOOMMOOLOO (77114), JUUJUARAAPIK (83156 - March 1982 National Geographic page 385 - an Eskimo town), UULLINGS (dubious! - 77170)

A small number of words have found their way into Word Ways purely on the basis of having **adjacent doubled vowels**:

WW92185 Jeff Grant offered ASSEGAAING (cham), O-O-A-A (solid form OAAA only in Mrs Byrne's Dictionary, hyphenated in web2) and COOEE. He added TEEOO (oed) in 93155, and TUUII (Dictionary New Zealand English, 1997) in 2000191.

He asked if there are any other words with adjacent doubled vowels. I can add BAAEELTERNE (a Danish strait), STRAAEED (a North Atlantic strait), NAAEE (stream in Canada), NAAIK (Hodge), RAAING (canal in the Netherlands), STAAIN (Hodge), TIKKALANSAAI (island in Finland), MAAOOPE (farm in Australia), DAAUUDOW (populated place in Somalia), EL-MAAUUEG (locality in Libya), LAAUUCH (wadi in W. Sahara), MAANTEEAARE (pop. pl. in Estonia), TWEEAAR, (farmstead in S. Africa), WEEAASI (pop. pl. in Indonesia), YEE-AAY-EE (oed - from *Gone With The Wind*),



SEEOOGAKTOOK (island in Canada), SEEOONAY (**Hodge**), WHEE-OO (**oed** - imitative of the cry of some birds), YEEOO-LOE (to scull a yulo, a boat with a Chinese oar), JIAA (Jlian Pata Jiaa is a marine channel in S. Korea), BOO-EE (*bowie-knife*), CARAPOOEE (pop. pl. Australia), COOEYANA (farm in Australia), HOOTCHOOEE, NAHBAHTOOTOOEE, NAHCHOOREETOOEE (note 2 OOs and 2 EEs) and SHCHEETSOOEE, all 4 words in **Hodge**, WOO-EE (a call to a horse to stop), AKURUUEE To (one of the Marshall Islands).

Jeff also asked if there is a word with **adjacent doubled consonants**. In the list of 'Double Doubles' below, I include words with the following adjacent doubled consonants : BBSS, CCLL, CCSS, DDLL, DDSS, FFYY, GGSS, HHGG (**WW68016**), KKYY, LLCC, LLDD, LLGG, LLPP, LLRR, LLSS, LLYY, MMSS, MMY, NNGG, NNSS, NNYY, PPLL, PPNN, PPSS, PPYY, RRDD, RRNN, RRSS, RRY, SSJJ, SSSL, SSTT, TTCC, TTLL, TTSS, TTY.

WW2001141 In *Double Double Trouble*, I listed 4-letter words made solely of two doubled letters: AALL, FFEE, FFOO, OOLL, YYFF (all **oed**), OOFF, OOSS, (both **csd**), ZZEE (a Hans Zzee lived in Manhattan in 1974) To these, I can now add AABB (Aabb ej Jinnate is in Syria) and AARR (Aarr ej Jamouss is a wadi in Lebanon).

## DOUBLE DOUBLES

There are  $26 \times 26 = 676$  different double double arrangements, ranging from AAAA, AABB through ZZZY, ZZZZ. In the list of words which follows, however, I do not include words such as ESSSSE (**oed**), in which the 2 pairs of letters are identical. The number of double double arrangements under scrutiny is thus reduced to 650 (676-26). Words were found for 221 of the 650. Unreferenced words can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition (**oed**) as head words, variant forms and text words including citations. Locations are taken from The United States Board on Geographic Names. Unless specified otherwise, the locations are populated places. The sources of other words can be found at the end. I give priority to well-known words and words from the OED. When these words are hyphenated, I also include a less familiar, solid, example where possible. Of particular interest are words which either begin with a doubled pair or end with a doubled pair and I have included a liberal sprinkling of these in the list below. Asterisked\* words indicate those which have appeared in earlier issues of Word Ways (see *History* above).

- AA?? SHA-ABBAS (see 'square' n. 1678), AABBA (Lebanon), CONTRA-ACCOUNTS, MAADD al Ghaziyat (wadi in Jordan), NAAEE (stream in Canada), SAAFF (*save*), ULTRA-AGGRESSIVE (**web2**), Aaglet el AAGGAIA (well in W. Sahara), AAHHOTEP\* (**cad** - Egyptian Queen), ASSEGAIIING\*, AAJJAZ (Syria), JAACKOLA (railroad station in Finland), STAALL (*steal*), WAAMMLE (*wamble*), SHAANNANOPHYLLUM (**nz** - fossil coelenterate), MAAOOPE (farm in Australia), SAAPPE (*sap*), Tell Abou AAQQA (hill in Syria), ZAARRA (*Sahara*), WAASS (*wash*), GALNSLAATT (Norway), DAAUUDOW (Somalia), LAUVVUVARRI (hill in Finland), HMAAWWUN (stream in Burma), CHAPPARAAYY (Russia), AAZZE (Lebanon)
- BB?? JERUBBAAL\* (**web2** - a name of Gideon), SNUBBEE, GABBII (Bassaricyon gabbii is a kinkajou), ABBOORD (*abord*), YBBSSTEINBACH (Austria), TABBUULI (*tabbouleh*), CUBBYYEW\* (**web2**)
- CC?? OCCAANECHY\* (**Hodge**), SUCCEED, MERLUCCIIDAE (**web2**), LLACCLLE (Peru), POCCOON (*puccoon*), ICCSSIFINISSA (monastery in Greece), VACCUUM
- DD?? Khirbat al MUJADDA'A (ruin in Israel), NODDEE, SWYDDFFYNNON (**gb**), MADDIINA (Somalia), MYNYDD-LLAN (**gb**), ADDOOM (to award), ODDSSTADHATUNGA (hill in Iceland), CADDUUDO (Somalia)
- EE?? YEE-AAY-EE, WEEAASI (Indonesia), BE-EBBIAN (see 'ebb' - to strand a ship), REEBBAY (Somalia), ANTE-ECCLESIASTICAL (**web2**), FEEDD (*feed*), DEEFF (*deaf*), SEEGGE (*segge*), ESEEJJA\* (Voegelin & Voegelin, **Classification and Index of the World's Languages**, Elsevier 1977 - var. Chama, a Bolivian language), CHEEKKE (*check*),



- HEELLESS, HORSEEMMET, GREENNESS, TEEOO\* (*lapwing*), DEEP-PAN (**cham** - 'deep-pan apple pie'), SEPPOTKOP (hill in S. Africa), DEERRE (*dere*), TEESSIDE (in UK), LEETT (*let*), LEEWE Kuils Poort (farmstead in S. Africa), EEZ-ZEE (**p**)
- FF?? GAFFAA (*guffaw*), TOFFEE, SAULFFIING (see 'saufey' 1571), TIFFOON (*typhoon*), DYFFYYN (*defy*)
- GG?? STYGGAA (stream in Norway), PUGGEE (*puggy*), KELLOGGII (*Lilium kelloggii* is a plant), BEGGOON (*begum*), HALEGGSSTADHIR (farm in Iceland), MBAENGGUU (area in the Solomon Islands)
- HH?? ROTHHAAR (a surname), URHHEEN\* (**web2**), YOHH-GGHERT\*, BIRTHHOOD, TEENNENHOGHHUUT (**Hodge**)
- II?? Jlian Pata JIIAA (marine channel in S. Korea), IIBBET (*gibbet*), RUMPTI-IDDITY (**cham**), IIDDA (Somalia), IIGGE (*jig*), CHIRIIHHA (*church*), Gal Kal SHIIKK (mountain in Somalia), SEMI-ILLITERATE, Hareen IILLIYO (locality in Somalia), ANTI-IMMUNE (**web2**), RIIMMAJAVRI (lake in Finland), QUASI-INNUMERABLE (**web2**), KIINNDAA (Republic of the Congo), HIIPPO (house in Finland), QUASI-IRREGULAR (**web2**), CHIIRRE (Mozambique), WAIISSE (*wash*), MIITTE (*may*)
- JJ?? Oulad NEJJAA (Morocco)
- KK?? MARKKAA \* (**cham** - monetary unit of Finland), BOOKKEEPER\*, LAAKKII (Finland), KOOKKOOOOSE (**Hodge**), LEIKKUU (Finland), AKKYAA\* (Kyrgystan)
- LL?? ALLAAS (*alas*), ALLCCANJA (Peru), CULLDDEN (Jamaica), COLLEEN, NJOAMMELCIELLGGE (ridge in Norway), ALLIIN (**sted**), HALLOO, VELLPPALAIYAM (railroad station in India), Estacion BULLRRICH (railroad station in Argentina), L'LSSER (Algeria), USULLUUP Sermia (glacier in Greenland), BALLYYS (*bailiffs*)
- MM?? SAMMAA\* (**web2** - a name in the Douay Bible), KISSIMMEE (**tig** - Florida), Trichoscyphella WILLKOMMII (a fungus which causes cankers on the bark of larch trees), MIMMOOD (**web2**), TAMMSSE (Burkina Faso), YUMMY-YUM-YUM
- NN?? ANNAAS\* (**web2** - in Bible), PLANNEE, TUNNGGAL (hill in Malaysia), SUNNIISM (*sunism*), CANNOODLE (*canoodle*), FRENSSCE (*French*), SPLENNTT (*splint*), ANNUUM, BUDENNY\* (Kyrgystan)
- OO?? O-O-A-A\* (**web2** - a bird), JOOBBA (*jubbah*), CO-OCCUR, JAPOOCCO (Peru), BOODDHA (*buddha*), COOEE\*, PROOFFUL, GOOGG (**csd** - a heavy cloud), OOHHOTEP (**cad** = AAHHOTEP\*), CHOOKKA (**Hodge**), WOOLLEN, SOOMME (*sum*), SOONNESS, SOOPP (*soap*), HOOQQA\* (*hookah*), WOORRY (*worry*), POOSS (*pose*), STOOTT (*stut*), MOOZZELL (*muzzle*)
- PP?? KEMPPAALA (Finland), YIPPEE, APPII (**web2**), ETTUPPLLKANDE (estate in Sri Lanka), HAYPP-NNEEH\*, SUPPOORTE (*support*), SKEPPSSKAR (island in Sweden), OPPUURS\* (Belgium), SAPPYYA (lake in Russia)
- QQ?? SAQQAA (fjord in Greenland), LIQQUUS (**cdz**)
- RR?? HARRAA (Somalia), AGUERRDDRAR (mountain in Morocco), ARREED (*aread*), SARRII\* (**Hodge**), HERRNNEUSES (Germany), PRROO (a call to cattle), BORRSSOWO (Bulgaria), MARRUUDOW (wadi in Somalia), CHERRY-YARD
- SS?? MESSAAD (Algeria), TENNESSEE, MESSASSGGUES (**Hodge**), QUASSIIN (**web2**), BENI-ESSJJEL (tribal area in Morocco), SSLLUSKEN (Poland), BASSOON, Sodra VISSTTRASKET (lake in Sweden), RHOICISSUUS (**cham** - a genus of the plant family Vitaceae)
- TT?? KIBROTHHATTA AVAH\* (**web2**), PETTCCE (Peru), GAZETTEER, BITTIINAE (**tf**), SCHOTTLLE (*shuttle*), TATTOO, MATTSSHTUBERN (Lithuania), IVITTUUT (Greenland), CUTTYYN' (*cutting*)
- UU?? SUUBBIYE (well in Somalia), MARPUUCCRO (mountain in Peru), Cumar MUUDDEY (Somalia), AKURUUEE To (one of the Marshall Is.), TUUII\* (**Dict. New Zealand English**),



JUUJJUARAAPIK\*, KUUKKA (island in Finland), UULLAD (Somalia), UUMMANNAK (island in Greenland), QUUNNIPIEUCK\* (**Hodge**), SUUPPO, SUURRAHO, USSAARI\* (all 3 in Finland), UUTTULA (house in Finland)

VV?? TAVVAATNO (stream in Sweden), AVVEEL (Finland), VVOOD (*wood*)

WW?? POWWAA (*powwow*), ARROWWEED\*, OEWWGGER (island in Indonesia), ARROWWOOD

YY?? Dhivehi Raajjeyge JUMHOORIYYAA (independent political entity in the Maldives), BELYYDDE (*bellied*), YYEERE\* (Estonia), YYFF\* (*if*), PYYKKÖ (Finland), ARYYLLAKH\* (lake in Russia), YYMMAN (*yeoman*), SUMYYNN bulak (spring in Mongolia), AYYOOGH (Iran), HYYPPA (Finland), DYYSS (*die*, as in 'dice'), PYYTTI (island in Finland)

ZZ?? SHAZZAASING (*daw* - an awkward person), JEZZEEA (*jeziah*), CRIZZLLING (becoming rough on the surface), WAZZOO (*woodoo*), Jabal MUJAZZTT (hills in Saudi Arabia)

## TWO DOUBLE DOUBLES

Some words enjoy two double doubles. These may be overlapping, contiguous or discrete.

### *Overlapping Double Doubles*

These occur in words with 3 or more consecutive doubles. There are a substantial number of words with triple doubles, especially in Finnish and Dutch. I do not intend to dwell on triple doubles here, and only use them to demonstrate overlapping double doubles. Examples include BOOKKEEPER\* (OOKK and KKEE overlap), BOOMMEERKAT (*mow* - an African bush squirrel), and FFOOTT\* (*dews* - variation of *foot*), the only word I know which consists solely of 3 different doubled letters.

### *Contiguous Double Doubles*

These occur in words with 4 or more consecutive doubles. In *Double Trouble* (WW68152), Dmitri Borgmann highlighted SUBBOOKKEEPER\* (**web2**) as being the only English word featuring four consecutive pairs of doubled letters. It has the contiguous double doubles BBOO and KKEE. Now, some 35 years on, it appears that still no other such English word has surfaced. Also in *Double Trouble*, Dwight Ripley supplies three Finnish examples: LIIKKEESSA (*chief*), LAPPEELLAAN (*flat*) and PUUTTEELLNEN (*defective*). I can now add WOOGGOODDY (Australia) and LAASSAASSA (Morocco). In the latter, the contiguous double doubles are identical, as they are in WUURRUURR (*sated* - in **Macquarie Aboriginal Words**, University of Melbourne, NSW 1994).

HOOT-TOOT-TOOT\* (**csd** - an exclamation of annoyance) has 5 consecutive doubled letters thus offering a choice of contiguous double doubles, either OOTT+OOTT or TTOO+TTOO, each alternative identical. WOOLLOOMMOOLOO\* (77114), according to the 1958 **Australian Encyclopedia**, is the original spelling of Woolloomooloo, a suburb and bay in Sydney, Australia which can be found in various editions of the Encyclopedia Britannica. WOOLLOOMMOOLOO also offers a choice of contiguous double doubles, either OOLL+OOMM or LLOO+MMOO.

### *Discrete Double Doubles*

A few words have 2 double doubles separated by one or more letters:

KAADDUPPOOVARASANKULAM (Sri Lanka), MAASSELVAARRI (mountain in Finland), TEENNENHOGHHUUT (**Hodge**), POCKENTALLEEHASSEE (**Hodge**), PANNOOMILLOO (Australia), and OLLCCOLLCCA (mountain in Peru) with identical double doubles.

The ultimate in discrete double doubles must surely be the word in which the first double double occurs at the beginning of the word and the second double double at the end. I found just one such word: Arsuup UUMMANNAA is an island in Greenland.



**WORD SOURCES**

cad	Coopers Archaic Dictionary, 1876
cham	Chambers Dictionary
csd	Chambers Scots Dictionary, 1975
cdz	Collegiate Dictionary of Zoology by Robert W. Pennak, The Ronald Press Co. 1964
daw	Dictionary of Archaic Words by J.O. Halliwell, Bracken Books 1989
dews	A Dictionary of English Weights and Measures by Ronald E. Zupko, Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press 1968
edd	English Dialect Dictionary
gb	Bartholomew Gazetteer of Britain
Hodge	Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico edited by F.W. Hodge, 1907
mow	Mammals of the World by E.P. Walker, John Hopkins University Press 1975
nz	Nomenclator Zoologicus
osn	Official Standard Names Gazetteer
ospd	Official Scrabble Players Dictionary
p	The Palindromicon by Jeff Grant, 1992
sted	Stedman's Medical Dictionary
tf	Tertiary Faunas vol. 1 by A. Morley Davies, George Allen & Unwin 1971
tig	The Times Index Gazetteer of the World, 1965
web2	Webster's Second Edition
WW	Word Ways