SHORTEST WORDS CONTAINING A GIVEN NUMBER OF NUMBER-NAMES

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Following my article *Number Names contained in Words and Phrases* in November 2001, the editor asked if I could find shorter words containing as many number-names as possible.

There are many variations possible in the conditions set for this exercise. Here, I attempt to find the shortest words containing 2, 3, 4... number-names. The number-names are taken from the modern versions of 1 to 100 (no three-and-twenty allowed!). All letters in each number-name must be contained in the solution word: letters in the word may be re-used between number-names, but not within them. Although solid words are preferred when a selection is made, hyphenated words and phrases may be chosen when there are no solid alternatives, or when the solid words are obscure. The reader is specifically referred to the previous article for details in the few common cases.

The use of number-names as solution words is not simple. Firstly, the number-name itself is never counted. Secondly, there may be unrelated number-names, eg NINETY-TWO contains ONE, TEN, TWENTY, as well as the related TWO, NINE, and NINETY. Surely we should not disqualify words or phrases just because a number word appears in them, eg FOUR-SQUARE or IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO, or even the prize-winning TONE. Words which are number-names are generally omitted below. Familiar words are given when they are not too much longer than the minimum.

1. Analysis

Theory

It is clear that the smallest number of letters for one number-name must come from anagrams of the names of 1, 2, 6, and 10, the only 3-letter number-names. Two number-names can be made efficiently from ONE and TEN, because their names have two letters in common, so we need to look for words using the letters ONET. Adding a third number-name, TWO, adds only one letter, requiring a word made from the letters ONETW. All such words can be found. Moreover, 1, 2, 10 is a common start to longer number lists requiring a minimal set of letters. However, from this point, the theory becomes more complicated.

The following list attempts to define the theoretical minimum number of letters that contains 2,3... number-names, for comparison with what can actually be achieved. The original list was kindly provided by the editor, who says that some possibilities, especially in the larger numbers, may have been overlooked. An asterisk indicates where actual words using the set of letters has been found. The list gives the number of number-names contained in (/) so many letters, then the actual letters and numbers. In this and the following list, dominated results are not shown, eg 18/16 is not shown because you can get more number-names in that number or fewer letters, eg 19/15.

2/4* ENOT 1 10

3/5* ENOTW 1 2 10

4/7* EINNOTW 1 2 9 10

5/8   EINNSTXY 6 9 10 60 90 or EINOSTXY 1 6 10 60 61 or EINNOTWY 1 2 9 10 90.

7/9   EINNOSTXY 1 6 9 10 60 61 90

8/10 EINNOSTWXY 1 2 6 9 10 60 61 90

9/11 EEINNOSTWXY 1 2 6 9 10 16 60 61 90

14/13 EEFFINORSTUVY 1 4 5 7 10 14 15 40 47 50 51 57 70 74

17/14 EEINNOSSTTVWXY 1 2 6 7 9 10 16 20 21 26 60 61 62 67 70 76 90

19/15 EEFINNOSSTTVWXY 1 2 5 6 7 9 10 16 20 21 25 26 60 61 62 67 70 76 90

24/16 EEFFINNOSSTTVWXY 1 2 5 6 7 9 10 15 16 20 21 25 26 50 51 52 57 60 61 62 67 70 76 90

30/17 EEFFIINNOSSTTVWXY 1 2 5 6 7 9 10 15 16 20 21 25 26 50 51 52 56 57 59 60 61 62 65 67 69 70 76 90 95 96

Efficient Number patterns

The following are not always optimal, but they are relatively efficient in the the use of letters to represent multiple number-names. They are derived from the list in section 2 by removing unused letters from the word. Only the more efficient results are shown. Note that the same result (same number of letters and number-names) may be achieved with different letters and numbers. 4/7 means four number-names in 7 letters.

4/7   EINNOTY 1 9 10 90, ENOTTWY 1 2 10 20

5/8   EINOSTXY 1 6 10 60 61, EGHINNTY 8 9 10 80 90, EINNOTWY 1 2 9 10 90

[6/9 FIORSTUXY 4 6 40 46 60 64, EIINNSTXY 6 9 10 60 69 90, EINNOTTWY 1 2 9 10 20 90, EIINNSTXY 6 9 10 60 90 96. Though dominated by 7/9, this is included for its variety of solutions]

7/9   EINNOTTWY 1 2 9 10 20 90 92, EIINNSTXY 6 9 10 60 69 90 96

8/10 EEIINNSTXY 6 9 10 16 60 69 90 96, EFINNORTUY 1 4 9 10 40 49 90 94, EEINSSTVXY 6 7 10 16 60 67 70 76

10/11 EGHINNOTTWY 1 2 8 9 10 20 80 82 90 92

16/13 EEGHINNORTTWY 1 2 3 8 9 10 13 20 21 30 31 80 81 82 90 92

19/15 EEFFHINOORTTUWY 1 2 3 4 10 13 14 15 20 24 30 31 40 41 42 50 51 52 53

25/17 EEEFGHIINNNORTTUY 1 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 19 30 31 39 40 48 49 80 81 84 89 90 91 93 94 98

29/18 EEEFGHHINNOORTTUWY 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 20 21 24 30 31 40 41 42 48 49 80 81 82 83 84 90 92 93 94

33/19 EEEFGHIINNOORRTTUWY 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 20 21 24 30 31 34 39 40 41 42 43 48 49 80 81 82 84 89 90 92 93 94 98

34/20 EEEFFFHIINNOORSTTUVY 1 3 4 5 7 9 10 13 14 15 30 31 35 37 39 40 41 45 47 49 50 51 53 54 55 57 59 70 71 74 90 93 94

42/21 EEEEFFGHIINNOORRSTTVY 1 3 5 7 8 9 10 13 15 17 18 30 31 35 37 39 40 41 43 45 47 48 49 50 51 53 57 58 59 70 71 73 78

Note also:

for the numbers 1 to 10, you need the 16 letters: EEFGHINNORSTUVWX

for the numbers 1 to 100, you need the 37 letters: DDEEEEFFFGGHHIILNNNNOORRSSTTTUVVWWXXY

Drop the two Ds, and see that the numbers 1-99 need just 35 letters.

Theory vs Practice

In the table below, "Numnams" = number of Number-names to be contained in a word. "Lets, theory" = theoretical minimum number of letters needed to contain this number of number-names. "Lets found" = minimum number of letters in actual words found. For example, nine number-names in theory need a word with just 11 letters, but the nearest actual word has 12 letters. The numbers in brackets are from the previous table, the rest being from the earlier theory table.

Numnams	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Lets, theory	3	4	5	7	8		9	10	11	(11)			13		(13)
Lets found	3	4	5	7	8	9	9	11	12	12	13	13	14	14	16	15

Numnams	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Lets, theory	14		15					16	(17)				(18)	17		
Lets found	18	17	18	20	17	19	19	21	18	23	28	28	23	26	23	24

Numnams	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	...44	...49	...54	...58	59...100
Lets, theory	(19)	(20)								(21)					37
Lets found	23	23	-	27	26	-	28	24	52	25	42	37	59	43	71	-

Best ratios of number-names contained to number of letters in actual words
There is a natural growth in this ratio as the length of the word increases

14/14 = 1.00 first time 1:1 reached, but a number-name: NINE-FIFTY-SEVEN
18/17 = 1.06 1:1 exceeded but part number: FIFTEEN-STOREY-HIGH
19/18 = 1.06 ditto, but phrases: IN THE FLOWER OF YOUTH, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX
24/21 = 1.14 1:1 bettered by entity with hyphens, but no numbers: NEVER-TO-BE-SUFFICIENTLY
21/17 = 1.24 EIGHTEEN-FIFTYFOUR, THINK EVERYTHING OF
25/18 = 1.39 NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR
34/23 = 1.48 TO FIND FAVOUR IN THE EYES OF
40/24 = 1.67 WITHOUT ANYTHING WHEREFORE
42/25 = 1.68 TO THE VERY FIBRE OF ONE'S BEING

The best solid words just miss the 1:1 cut: 14/17 (0.82) HYPERPIGMENTATION, 15/16 (0.94) OVERSUFFICIENTLY, 22/23 (0.96) HYSTEROVAGINOENTEROCELE

2. List of words containing most number-names one-at-a-time

Please note that the following lists are generally small selections from many more words. Little attempt has been made to show the different sets of number words that may be contained in words of a given length.

Throughout this article, words and phrases are taken from the OED except where noted. An entry such as "BIGYNNETH OED begin 1382" means the word will be found in the 1382 quotation under BEGIN. Bloomsbury = Bloomsbury Thesaurus. CGNA = Columbia Gazeteer of North America. ITIS = Integrated Taxonomic Information System, US Dept. Agriculture. TEA = The Electronic Alveary (= UK Advanced Cryptics Dict). Web2 = Webster 2.

One number-name:
eon (one), owt, tow (two), Xis (plural, six), net (ten), etc

Two number-names:

ENTO	EONT	ETON	NEOT	NETO	NOET	NOTE
ONET	ONTE	OTEN	TENO	TEON	TOEN	TONE

All are in the OED somewhere, except for ENTO (Longmans)

Three number-names:
The most economical packing of three short number-names is ENOTW (1, 2, 10):

EWTON	NEW TO	NOWTE	OWTEN	TOWEN	TOWNE	TWEON	TWONE
WONET	WONTE	WOTEN					

All are in the OED somewhere, except for NEW TO (Bloomsbury Thesaurus). Of the solid words, TOWNE may look most familiar, but TWEON is an OED headword.

To get more familiar words, it is necessary to use six letters, eg INTONE, which, like many, use (1, 9, 10). Webton and Weeton, both UK placenames, are two examples of many that use (1, 2, 10). A few use (9, 10, 90), eg NYNTIE (OED headword), TINNEY (family name in OED) and TYNNIE (OED tinny).

Four number-names:

7 ENIOYNT (OED recklessness 1340), ENNOYIT (OED uncompleted 1515), both 1 9 10 90

7 INTOWNE (OED in-town 1538), INWONET (OED inwone 1400), NEWTONI (OED T Newtoni, a kestrel), TWINE ON (Peevish Dict English Slang = to rant), all 1 2 9 10

8 NEW POINT (Decatur co., SE central Ind. CGNA), NONWHITE (Web2), PINETOWN (E N.C. CGNA), WENT INTO (TEA), WINSTONE (Gloucestershire), WINTONNE (OED wine 13..), WIOTONNE (OED wit 897), WONTINGE (OED wont 1599), all 1 2 9 10

8 WEIGHTON (OED side 1814 place?), and WOE-THING, both 1 2 8 10

8 WEORNETH (OED warn 1225), and WEORTHEN (OED seldom 888), both 1 2 3 10

8 WORTTYNE (OED unringed 1510), WOTTENLY (OED wittingly 1851), WYTOUTEN (OED list 1389), all 1 2 10 20

8 NON-DEITY (OED no-God) 1 9 10 90, ONE-NIGHT 1 8 9 10

Five number-names:

8 ONE-SIXTY (OED luminosity 1936) (1 6 60 61) + 10

9 ANYTHINGE (OED cadger 1641), BIGYNNETH (OED begin 1382), ENNYTHING (OED moon-eyed 1889), THYNKINGE (OED unthriftily 1509), etc, all 8 9 10 80 90

9 EXTENSION 1 6 9 10 16

9 XYLOSTEIN 1 6 10 60 61

Six number-names:

9 (FOURTY-SIX, NINETY-SIX, NINETY-TWO, SIXTY-NINE)

10 ENHERYTING (OED inherit, enheryte, vb) 3 8 9 10 80 90, NIHGONTYNE (OED nineteen 1000), and YOUTHENING (Official Scrabble Players Dict), both 1 8 9 10 80 90, VENENOSITY 1 7 9 10 70 90

more common words:

11 COEXISTENCY 1 6 10 16 60 61, EVERYTHINGS (OED everything 1865, Dickens) 3 7 8 10 70 80, PHENOTYPING 1 8 9 10 80 90, YESTERNIGHT 3 8 10 13 30 80

Seven number-names:

9 SIX-NINETY 6 9 10 60 69 90 96

10 (FOUR-TWENTY, NINETY-FOUR, NINETY-TWOS, SEVENTY-SIX, SIXTY-NINES, SIXTY-SEVEN), WERITYNTON (OED openly, Weritynton college) 1 2 9 10 20 90 92

11 SIXPENNY BIT 6 9 10 60 69 90 96, EXTENSIVELY 6 7 10 11 16 60 70, FOTHERINGEY (OED sperware 1534) 1 3 8 10 40 80 81, VNFORTIFYED (OED unfortified 1525) 1 5 10 40 45 50 51

Eight number-names:

11 INEXISTENCY 6 9 10 16 60 69 90 96, INFORTUNYTE (OED infortunity 1494) 1 4 9 10 40 49 90 94

Nine number-names:

12 SEVENTY-FOURS, TWENTYFOURMO (cf octavo) 1 2 4 10 20 24 40 41 42

13 COEXTENSIVELY 1 6 7 10 11 16 60 61 70, [LINE OF COUNTRY (Longman), NOT ON YOUR LIFE both 1 4 9 10 40 41 49 90 94], OWTBRAYTHINGE (OED intend 1565) 1 2 8 10 20 30 31 80 82, OXYPHENISATIN (Stedman) 1 6 9 10 60 61 69 90 96, WIN THE LOTTERY (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 10 13 20 30 31 32

Ten number-names:

12 (NINETY-FOURTH), TOURNEY-FIGHT OED tourney 1814 1 4 8 10 30 31 40 48 80 84

13 EIGHTEEN-STORY (OED penthouse pentice 1948, NY Sun), HETEROGENEITY, HETEROGENIETY (OED heterogeneity 1674), all 1 3 8 10 13 18 30 31 80 81; WITHSTONDYNGE (OED bay 1440), WYTHSTONDINGE (OED casting 1340), both 1 2 8 9 10 20 80 82 90 92

Eleven number-names:

13 ONE-NINETYFOUR (OED R 1961) 1 4 9 10 14 40 41 49 90 91 94, WITHYNNEFORTH (OED withoutforth 1400) 1 2 9 10 20 30 31 40 49 90 92

14 ANTI-EVERYTHING (OED anti- 1898) 3 8 9 10 13 30 39 80 89 90 98, FUNCTION-THEORY (OED Tauberian 1979) 1 4 9 10 30 31 40 41 49 90 94

15 [DEXTROTHYOXINES, ERYTHRODEXTRINS both Stedman and 1 3 6 10 13 16 30 31 60 61 63], HYPERTENSINOGEN 1 3 8 9 10 18 19 80 81 90 91

Twelve number-names:

13 IN TWENTY-FOURS 1 2 4 9 10 20 24 40 49 90 92 94

14 WITHESTONDYNGE (OED noying 1440) 1 2 8 9 10 20 21 80 81 82 90 92

15 TWOPENNY UPRIGHT 1 2 8 9 10 20 30 31 80 82 90 92

16 SIX-AND-EIGHTPENNY (OED six 1825) 6 8 9 10 16 60 69 80 86 89 90 96

17 CONVENIENTLY-SIZED (OED pendicle) 1881 1 7 9 10 11 19 70 71 79 90 91 97

17 HYPERTENSINOGENIC (Stedman) 1 3 8 9 10 18 19 80 81 89 90 91

17 HYPERVENTILATIONS (Stedman) 1 3 7 9 10 13 30 31 37 39 70 90

17 KNOW-EVERY-THINGISM (OED know-) 1 2 3 7 8 9 10 70 80 81 89 90

17 METHYLGRANATONINE (Stedman) 1 3 8 9 10 13 30 31 80 81 90 91

17 PEGGY-WITH-LANTHORN (OED peggy 1869) 1 2 8 9 10 20 30 31 80 82 90 92

Thirteen number-names:

14 ENERGY-TO-WEIGHT (OED recharge 1972) 1 2 3 8 10 13 18 20 30 31 80 81 82

14 (SEVEN-FORTY-FIVE (OED hundred 1967) 1 5 7 10 15 40 45 47 50 51 57 70 75)

16 CHTENOPTERYGINAE (Chtenopteryginae ultima praesidii, animal in ITIS) 1 3 8 9 10 13 18 30 31 80 81 90 93

17 COUNTEREFFICIENCY (Web2) 1 4 9 10 14 15 40 49 50 51 59 90 94

17 HYPERSEGMENTATION (Stedman) 1 3 8 9 10 13 18 30 31 80 81 90 93

17 PENNY-NOVELETTEISH (OED novelettish 1904) 1 7 9 10 11 17 19 70 71 79 90 91 97

Fourteen number-names:

14 (NINE-FIFTY-SEVEN (OED cleanup 1929 Wodehouse) 5 7 9 10 15 19 50 57 59 70 79 90 95 97)

15 ANTI-EVERYTHINGS (OED anti- 1848) 3 7 8 9 10 13 30 37 39 70 80 89 90 98

17 HYPERPIGMENTATION 1 3 8 9 10 13 30 31 39 80 81 89 90 98

18 NEUROPATHOGENICITY (Stedman) 1 3 8 9 10 13 30 31 39 80 81 89 90 98

18 UNIVERSITY-TEACHING (OED university 1962) 3 7 8 9 10 13 30 37 39 70 80 89 90 98

Fifteen number-names:

16 OVERSUFFICIENTLY Web2, though not in my edition. Oversufficient is in Funk & Wagnall Standard Dict of the Eng Lang, International Edition, 1966. Oversufficiently is in wordlist at http://www.selfpromotion.com/ domains/words/len/16.txt 1 4 5 7 10 14 15 40 45 47 50 51 57 70 74

16 THIRTY-FIVE-TONNER (OED thirty) 1 3 5 9 10 13 30 31 35 39 40 43 49 90 95

Sixteen number-names:

15 TRY SOMETHING NEW (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 8 9 10 13 20 21 30 31 80 81 82 90 92

16 THE HUNGRY FORTIES 1 3 4 8 10 13 14 30 31 34 40 43 48 80 81 84

17 TWENTY-SIX COUNTIES (OED twenty) 1 2 6 9 10 16 20 21 26 60 61 62 69 90 92 96

18 FREQUENTLY-SHIFTING (OED furiant) 3 8 9 10 13 15 30 39 50 53 58 59 80 89 90 98

18 TWENTY-EIGHT-YEAR-OLD (OED break-away 1954) 1 2 3 8 10 13 18 20 23 28 30 31 32 80 81 82

18 WESTERN GIANT HYSSOP (ITIS plant) 1 2 3 8 9 10 13 20 21 30 31 80 81 82 90 92

19 UNIVERSITY-CONFERRED (Web2) 1 4 5 7 9 10 14 40 47 49 70 71 74 90 94 95

19 YELLOW FLOATING HEART (ITIS) 1 2 3 8 10 13 20 30 31 40 41 42 48 80 81 82

20 ERYTHRODEGENERATIVES (Stedman) 1 3 7 8 10 13 18 30 31 37 70 73 78 80 81 87

20 SLAVERY-EXTENSIONISTS (OED slavery 1860) 1 6 7 9 10 11 16 60 61 67 69 70 71 76 90 96

Seventeen number-names:

18 LAW OF HETEROGENEITY 1 2 3 8 10 13 18 20 30 31 40 41 42 48 80 81 82, & other phrases with 19/20/21 letters

22 CARBOHYDRATE-FERMENTING (OED carbohydrate 1964) 1 3 8 9 10 13 18 30 31 40 43 48 49 80 81 90 93

22 DICARBETHOXYGUANIDINES (OED urethane 1926) 1 3 6 8 9 10 16 60 61 69 80 81 86 89 90 96 100

22 EXHIBITIONIST-VOYEURIST (OED voyeurist 1960) 1 3 6 7 10 13 16 30 31 36 37 60 61 63 67 70 76

22 VAGINOHYSTERECTOMIZING (Stedman) 1 3 7 8 9 10 13 30 31 37 39 70 80 81 89 90 98

Eighteen number-names:

17 FIFTEEN-STOREY-HIGH (OED project 1966) 1 3 8 10 13 15 18 30 31 40 48 50 51 53 58 80 81 83

There are 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, and 24 number-names in various other phrases

25 CINEROENTGENOFLUOROGRAPHY (see W01-256 for numbers)

Nineteen number-names:

18 IN THE FLOWER OF YOUTH (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 4 10 13 14 15 20 24 30 31 40 41 42 50 51 52 53

18 UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX (UK) 1 4 5 6 7 10 14 16 40 46 47 60 61 64 65 67 70 74 76

19 THE GREY OF THE MORNING and UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

20 SOMETHING-FOR-EVERYONE (OED something 1971) 1 3 5 7 8 9 10 17 18 40 41 47 49 70 71 80 81 87 90

21-27: various phrases

21 TWO-HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY-ODD (OED kurume 1964) 1 2 4 9 10 20 24 30 31 40 41 42 49 50 51 52 90 92 94

28 TRIFLUOROMETHYLPHENOTHIAZINE (OED 2-trifluoromethylphenothiazine) 1 3 4 9 10 13 14 30 31 33 34 39 40 41 43 49 90 93 94

Twenty number-names:

20 THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 8 9 10 13 20 21 30 31 39 80 81 82 88 89 90 92 98

22 upwards: various phrases

46 TETRAHYDROHYDROXYDIMETHOXYDIMETHYLISOQUINOLINE OED 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-8-hydroxy-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2-dimethylisoquinoline 1 3 6 9 10 13 16 30 31 33 36 39 60 61 63 69 90 93 96 100

Twenty-one number-names:

17 EIGHTEEN-FIFTYFOUR (OED Swazi 1973) 1 3 4 8 10 13 14 15 18 30 31 40 48 50 51 53 54 58 80 81 84

17 THINK EVERYTHING OF (Bloomsbury) 1 3 5 8 9 10 13 30 31 35 39 40 48 49 80 81 85 89 90 95 98

20-34 various phrases

34 HYDROXONITROSOTETRA-AMMINERUTHENIUM (OED hydroxo 1907) 1 3 6 9 10 13 16 19 30 31 33 36 39 60 61 63 69 90 91 93 96

Twenty-two number-names:

19 THE WRONG SIDE OF FORTY (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 8 10 13 15 20 30 31 40 41 42 43 48 50 51 52 53 80 81 82

19 TO WISH ANY ONE FURTHER 1 2 3 4 9 10 13 14 20 21 24 30 31 34 40 41 42 43 49 90 92 94

23 HYSTEROVAGINOENTEROCELE (see W01-256 for numbers)

Twenty-three number-names:

19 THE UNIVERSITY OF LIFE 1 3 4 5 7 10 11 13 14 15 30 31 35 37 40 45 47 50 51 53 57 70 74

19 THE WINE OF THE COUNTRY 1 2 3 4 9 10 13 14 20 21 23 24 30 31 32 40 41 42 49 90 92 93 94

Twenty-four number-names:

21 NEVER-TO-BE-SUFFICIENTLY (OED white ant 1849) 1 4 5 7 9 10 11 14 15 17 40 45 47 49 50 51 57 59 70 71 74 90 94 95

22 RUYTON OF THE ELEVEN TOWNS (UK) 1 2 3 4 7 10 11 12 14 17 20 21 23 24 27 40 41 42 47 70 71 72 73 74, and other longer phrases

35 ACETYLGLUCOSAMINEPHOSPHOTRANSFERASE (or -AMINYLPHO-, see W01-256 for numbers)

Twenty-five number-names:

18 NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR (Longman, also novel by George Orwell) 1 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 19 30 31 39 40 48 49 80 81 84 89 90 91 93 94 98

21 FORTY-FIVE-THOUSAND-ACRE (OED paddock 1968) 1 3 4 5 7 10 13 14 15 30 31 34 37 40 41 43 44 45 47 50 51 53 57 70 74

22 TO PUT THE FINGER IN THE EYE 1 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 30 31 38 39 40 48 49 80 81 83 84 89 90 93 94 98

Twenty-six number-names:

23 EXPANDING UNIVERSE THEORY (TEA) 1 3 6 7 8 9 10 16 17 18 19 60 61 69 70 71 79 80 81 86 87 89 90 91 96 97

23 INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT (Bloomsbury) 1 3 8 9 10 13 15 30 31 39 40 41 43 48 49 50 51 53 58 59 80 81 89 90 91 98

Twenty-seven number-names:

28 SAY WHATEVER COMES INTO ONE'S MIND (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 7 9 10 13 17 19 20 21 27 29 30 31 37 39
70 71 72 73 79 90 91 92 93 97, and other longer phrases

34 LEGS-DO-YOUR-DUTY-FOR-THE-BODY-IS-IN-DANGER (OED muck-a-muck 1852) 1 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 30
31 34 39 40 41 43 48 49 80 81 84 89 90 93 94 98 100

Twenty-eight number-names:

28 FALLACY OF THE INVERSION OF PARTS 1 3 5 7 9 10 13 15 30 31 35 37 39 40 41 43 45 47 49 50 51 53 55
57 59 70 90 95

Twenty-nine number-names:

23 WITHOUT A CHANGE OF SCENERY (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 20 21 24 30 31 40 41 42 48 49 80
81 82 83 84 90 92 93 94

26 ROENTGEN-EQUIVALENT-PHYSICAL (OED rep 1947) 1 3 7 8 9 10 11 13 17 18 19 30 31 37 39 70 71 73 78
79 80 81 87 89 90 91 93 97 98

Thirty number-names:

26 HAVE SPOTS IN FRONT OF ONE'S EYES (Bloomsbury) 1 3 5 7 9 10 13 15 17 19 30 31 37 40 41 45 47 49 50
51 53 57 70 71 73 79 90 91 93 97

26 SOMETHING-NOTHING-EVERYTHING (OED something 1817) 1 3 7 8 9 10 13 18 19 30 31 37 38 39 70 71 78
79 80 81 83 87 88 89 90 91 93 97 98 99

Thirty-one number-names:

23 FOR WANT OF ANYTHING BETTER (Bloomsbury) 1 2 3 8 9 10 13 15 20 21 28 29 30 31 32 40 41 42 43 48 49
50 51 52 53 80 81 82 90 91 92

Thirty-two number-names:

24 HERRINGBONE BUTTERFLYFISH (ITIS) 1 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 15 18 30 31 34 39 40 43 48 49 50 51 53 58 59 80
81 83 84 89 90 93 94 98, and longer phrases

41 PENTA-NITRO-DIAZO-AMIDO-MONOXY-HOMO-FLUORESCEIN (OED penta-) 1 3 4 6 9 10 13 14 16 19 30
31 34 36 39 40 41 43 46 49 60 61 63 64 69 90 91 93 94 96 99 100

Thirty-three number-names:

23 YELLOWFRUIT HORSEGENTIAN (ITIS) 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 20 21 24 30 31 34 39 40 41 42 43 48 49 80
81 82 84 89 90 92 93 94 98

46 JOHN F KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS MEMORIAL (Washington, DC, 1971, CGNA)
1 3 8 9 10 13 15 18 19 30 31 33 38 39 40 41 43 48 49 50 51 53 58 59 80 81 83 89 90 91 93 98 99

Thirty-four number-names:

23 TO FIND FAVOUR IN THE EYES OF 1 3 4 5 7 9 10 13 14 15 30 31 35 37 39 40 41 45 47 49 50 51 53 54 55 57
59 70 71 74 90 93 94 95

Thirty-six number-names:

27 PRESENTATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY 1 3 5 7 8 9 10 13 18 19 30 31 35 37 39 40 41 43 47 48 49 70 71 78
79 80 81 85 87 89 90 91 93 95 97 98

Thirty-seven number-names:

26 HAVE NOTHING TO SAY FOR ONESELF (Bloomsbury) 1 3 5 7 8 9 10 11 13 15 18 19 30 31 37 40 41 45 47
48 49 50 51 53 57 70 71 78 79 80 81 83 87 90 91 93 97

38 EVERYWAY-MULTIFORM-EXQUISITELY-MECHANICAL (OED everyway 1768) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13
14 16 20 24 25 26 30 31 34 35 36 37 40 43 46 47 60 61 62 63 64 65 70 72 73 74

Thirty-nine number-names:

28 OUT OF THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE 1 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 15 18 19 30 31 33 34 38 39 40 41 43 44 48 49
50 51 53 54 58 59 80 81 83 84 89 90 91 93 94 98

30 THE GLORIOUS UNCERTAINTY OF THE LAW 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 20 21 23 24 28 30 31 32 33 34 38 39
40 41 42 43 48 49 80 81 82 83 84 89 90 92 93 94 98

37 HONEST-TO-GOODNESS-TWELVE-MONTHS-IN-THE-YEAR (OED honest 1916) 1 2 3 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 17
18 19 20 21 23 27 28 29 30 31 32 37 70 71 72 73 78 79 80 81 82 83 87 90 91 92 93 97

Forty number-names:

24 WITHOUT ANYTHING WHEREFORE 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 18 20 21 22 23 24 28 30 31 32 33 34 38 39 40 41 42 43 48 49 80 81 82 83 84 89 90 92 93 94 98

31 WITHOUT SEEING THE ERROR OF ONE'S WAYS (Bloomsbury, numbers as previous)

Forty-one number-names:

52 CONGREGATION OF THE ORATORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN FRANCE 1 3 4 8 9 10 13 14 15 18 19 30 31 33 34 38 39 40 41 43 44 48 49 50 51 53 54 58 59 80 81 83 84 88 89 90 91 93 94 98 99

Forty-two number-names:

25 TO THE VERY FIBRE OF ONE'S BEING (Chambers) 1 3 5 7 8 9 10 13 15 17 18 30 31 35 37 39 40 41 43 45 47 48 49 50 51 53 57 58 59 70 71 73 78 80 81 85 87 89 90 93 95 98

Forty-four number-names:

42 A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE (see W01-256 for numbers)

Forty-nine number-names:

37 ORDER OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY (see W01-256 for numbers)

Fifty-four number-names:

69 FEELING-UPSET-PHYSICALLY-AND-MENTALLY-WITH-ANTICIPATORY-EXCITEMENT-AND-ANXIETY (OED journey 1938) 1 2 3 4 6 8 9 10 13 14 16 18 19 20 21 23 24 26 28 29 30 31 32 36 38 39 40 46 48 49 60 61 62 63 64 66 68 69 80 81 82 83 84 86 89 90 91 92 93 94 96 98 99 100

Fifty-eight number-names:

43 CYTOMEGALOVIRUS INCLUSION DISEASE OF THE NEWBORN (see W01-256 for numbers)

Fifty-nine number-names:

71 FEELING-UPSET-PHYSICALLY-AND-MENTALLY-WITH-ANTICIPATORY-EXCITEMENT-AND/OR-ANXIETY (OED journey 1938) 1 2 3 4 6 8 9 10 13 14 16 18 19 20 21 23 24 26 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 36 38 39 40 41 42 43 46 48 49 60 61 62 63 64 66 68 69 80 81 82 83 84 86 89 90 91 92 93 94 96 98 99 100

Tailpiece

We have seen octopuses IQing their way through cage mazes. The intelligence of chimps and the like is well-known. What may not be so well-established is the arithmetic capability of their plant cousins. The "Santa Lucia Mountain bush monkeyflower" (ITIS) can count no fewer than 24 numbers, though it tends to lose some (1 2 3 4 9 10 13 14 20 21 24 29 30 31 39 40 41 42 49 90 91 92 94 99). But the monkey component is not essential: the "St. Anthony Dunes evening-primrose" (ITIS) neatly manages 29 numbers in 29 letters (1 3 7 8 9 10 13 17 18 19 30 31 37 39 70 71 73 78 79 80 81 87 89 90 91 93 97 98 99).

Antidote — words containing no number-names (excl. words consisting solely of a repeated letter):

11 AKAMAKAMAKA   AKAPAKAPAKA (both Palindromicon)

10 AJAJA AJAJA (spoonbill, Funk & Wagnall NSD)

9 ABABBCBCC (Edmund Spenser's rhyming pattern in the Faerie Queene!)

   ABBA-DABBA (Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang = dessert)

   AKA'AKA'AKA (ITIS plant)   AMAMAMAMA (Palindromicon)

   DABABABAD (in Iran, Palindromicon)   JACKAJACK Jack-a-Jack (OED war 1832)

   PACK-A-BACK (OED piggy-back)

As so many of the above are Mangaravan (!), here are some more familiar ones, but of length 7: MACADAM, JAZZ-MAD (OED jazz 1924).

It is difficult to find common words of reasonable length that do **not** contain at least one number-name.

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