# FIBONACCI WORDS

ANIL
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In the November 2002 Kickshaws, Dave Morice introduced the idea of using the Fibonacci sequence to generate all 676 bigrams in fourteen closed loops. Ross Eckler in the current issue points out the lovely symmetry and underlying mathematics of the fascinating pattern Dave found. Dave also noted several words embedded in six of the loops, mostly three-letter words with three of four letters:

joy, man, run, lam, ope, alm(?), hem (in loop 1), tic, wax, WAXY, web, yon (loop 2), sat, POET, fag, how, HOWL, owl, beg, sex, cad (3), sun, gel (4), dim, vie (5), kit, mob, zoo, sib (6)

On top of the neat patterns, I have a strange reverence for the concept of Fibonacci words, and thought it was worth noting some more words from Dave's loops, including four more fours:

Zee, CRUM (in loop 1), OTIC, soh, gip, jis (loop 2), gub, cor, ORGY, ria, CADE (3), uni, lug, dos, Nes, gov (4), ens, gnu, Ras, tau, I've (5), Ods, psi (6), zzz[zzzz...] (14)

Jis = 1. Jeez!, 2. dialect for just, 3. slang for ejaculate. Gub and gov = colloquial forms of address. Uni = university (common Oz slang). Dos, Nes, Ras, Ods = plurals of do, Ne (neon), Ra (radium or sun god), Od (interjection, God!). All these are listed in Macquaire Australian Dictionary—and most others—except jis 1 & 3 [*Cassel Dictionary of Slang* (CDS)] and the four inferred plurals (but the singulars are all in Macquarie).

Counting Dave's, this brings the total to a cool fifty-two Fibonacci words (Why cool? See the accompanying article by the editor.) I did not count ALM, which is in none of my dictionaries.

In addition to these common English words, the loops also contained a few proper names, foreign and archaic words (*Ars, Dei, ein,* Eva, *hai,* Ira, *mer,* Poe, Suni, *wif*). Most notable was *WURMER* (worms, G.), the longest word I found—unless you count long strings of z's as equivalent to zzz, or a couple of fun coinages: ZEEJOY (delight in that rare, brazen letter), and SEXCADE (cavalcade of sex—maybe a Mardi Gras parade?). With the latter two that's another cool thirteen 'words'.

There were also a cool thirty-nine <u>reversals</u> including seven of four letters: air, ash, ave, baa, bis, BOMB, bug, cab, CHUM, con, doo, dye, els, hag, hos, hum, jai, JEEZ, kef, leg, low, mid, nus, out, pig, SARI, sen, sod, sty, sux, toe, vim, WAVE, who, WHOS, win, yet, yip, YIPS). Again all are in Macquarie except for doo [in CDS under do-do], jai (phrase part, from jai alai) [in Random House Unabridged (RHU)], and the inferred plurals of el [RHU], ho, nu, who and yip.

I then tried without success to make something mystical out of this very special group of words. I managed to make sentences out of all the words in the list, using each only once with no helper words. Most sentences aren't worth repeating, but some were fairly intelligible if not memorable:

"Beg crum, fag, rum, Gov" [beggar]
Web poet: "I've jis-joy sex kit, howl 'Orgy!'" [internet libertine]
"Gip, lug, lam, Mob Sib" ["Family" member giving crime instruction]