AN A TO Z OF TEN-SQUARES

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There have been many discussions over the years on how to make ten-squares, including what kind of words are best suited. A review of all these ideas against the words in my 2000+ squares would be very lengthy, so I provide here some raw material for readers to do this if they wish. At the same time, it will be of wider interest to publish further reasonable examples to add to the four best I have already published. The criterion I have chosen is to publish the best square or squares (in my opinion) starting with each letter of the alphabet. Perhaps surprisingly, this turned out to be possible without sacrificing too much quality. The best squares shown (D, E, and P) have few imperfections, whereas the worst (F, J, O, Q, W, X, Y, and Z) have around 10 (there can be a number of imperfections in one word). The squares starting A and D were previously published in *Word Ways* 2002-163 and 2002-244: curiously, it was very rare to find squares as good as these in the remainder of the alphabet.

To obtain ten good words that work together in a square is not a trivial matter: every word must be acceptable. In this respect, I have found one source unhelpful: there is a file on the Internet purporting to list the words in Stedman. It contains many words not in my edition, and *steroidal*, though seemingly reasonable, I have only been able to verify as a typo for *steroidal*.

It will be noted that foreign place names occur in every square: this may not be because of the unusual letter sequences in them but rather due to the sheer number of them. Actually, the fraction of words which are place names in the squares below (less than half) is substantially less than the fraction of the word list they occupy. In part, this is because the selection method discriminates against place names – just as it does against hyphens, initial capitals, phrases, and non-headwords. The place *A-la-le-t'o-pai* in theory should collect six demerits, but this would give it a negative score, and alone would relegate its square to the also-rans, which seems excessive. I have included two O-squares in case *inhalarnter* is deemed unacceptable.

Bold face indicates capitals. Alternatives for single words are sometimes given after a semicolon in the notes. I used a program from Chris Long, whom I wish to thank, to find most of the later squares (though it did cost me a bigger machine!).

The percentages of squares starting with each letter of the alphabet were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>Q</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Dorland = Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary; ITIS = Integrated Taxonomic Information System of the USDA; ITISa = ITIS animal; ITISp = ITIS plant; NIMA = National Imagery and Mapping Agency (USA, default source for place names, given as latitude N and longitude E [erroneously W in 2002-244]); OSPD = Official Scrabble Players Dictionary; q = quote (citation).
**ABAPTISTUM** Web2, abaptiston

**BAHRAMTAPA** in Azerbaijan, 39° 44’, 47° 57’

** AHLERBRUCH** in Germany, 52° 12’ lat, 8° 29’

**PREPARATOR** OED

**TARADANOVA** in Russia, 54° 45’, 86° 41’

**IMBRANGLES** OED imbrangle, verb

**STRANGFORD** in Hereford & Worcester, England (Autostreet 2000 Lite)

**TAUTOLOGIA** Late Latin (or Greek), whence tautology, qv in OED

**UPCOVERING** OED

**MAHRAS DAGI** Mahras Dagi in Turkey, 36° 43’, 33° 17’

**BANPAKKHEN** Ban Pakkhen, Laos, 19° 50’, 101° 04’

**AMARCHHARE** a March hare, OED mad 8

**NAMECUACUA** Monte Namecuacua, Mozambique, -15° 59’, 38° 23’

**PRECORRECT** Web2 below line

**ACCouserntE** Roget 488 assent: chi tace accousente (Italian)

**KHURSHIDAN** Rud-i-Khurshidan, Iran, 33° 2’, 59° 53’

**KHAERIJATE** Kheurbet Khareijate, Syria, 36° 46’, 41° 16’

**HACENDADOS** OED hacendado

**ERUCTATORS** OED eructator

**NEATENESSE** OED neatness 11555q

**CILASTATIN** Stedman

**ITALIANATO** OED Italianate, Italian

**LAMBERTIAN** Lambertian, www.photonics.com/dictionary

**ALBERTITES** OED, albertite (mineral)

**SIERRAMINT** Sierra mint, ITISp

**TARTASESTI** Comuna Tartasesti, Romania, 44° 34’, 25° 49’

**ANTIMELLIN** Web2

**TAITISLAND** Tait Island, Cameroon, 44° 5’, 8° 32’

**ITAENTINGA** Rio Itaentinga, Brazil, -17° 32’, -39° 14’

**NONSTINDAN** Nonstindan, Norway, 65° 27’, 13° 32’

**DESCENDANT** OED

**ECHENEIDAE** Echeneidae, Webster 2 (genus)

**SHORTCOATS** shortcoats, see OED short-coat, 1649 quote

**CERBERULUS** ITIS animal: Camponotus cerberulus venturensis

**ENTEROMERE** enteromere, see Webster 2 entero-

**NECROLATER** necrolater, Chambers, see necro-

**DIOMABANA** Diomabana, Guinea, 11° 16’, 9° 08’

**ADALETABAT** Adaletabat, Turkey, 38° 58, 42° 42’

**NATURE-NAME** nature-name, see OED nature V.15.

**TESSERATED** tesserated, see OED tesserate
nolo episcopari, Chambers

www.mohp.gov.eg/english/Sec/ClinicalRes/druggeneric.asp

In der Trift, Austria, 48° 40', 16° 24'

Sterneedle tuberculin test, Dorland

corn-colour, OED corn 9

Osteomeles tauricum dodgeana, ITISp

Pareledone delicata floridana, ITISa

Alidolobta, Djibouti, 11° 45', 42° 25'

OED refluent, Latin precursor

OED interseam, verb; or INTERSEAM OED interseam, 1590q

Fabodtrask, Sweden, 64° 41', 19° 49'

Ara-Saranta, Russia, 51° 53', 110° 31'

Bates' aster, ITISp

Oseshchina, Ukraine, 50° 34', 30° 33'

Dashchenki, Ukraine, 50° 23', 32° 44'

OSPD, and common error for treacherous on Internet!

Rasherwell, OED tuck 10b, 1860q, personal name

Antinoella parasitica nigrieventris, ITISa

Stenkullen, Sweden, 64° 19', 21° 27'

Kara Island, Japan, 37° 5', 136° 52'

Gatschpar, Micronesia, 9° 32', 138° 11'

Web2

Torreilles, France, 42° 45', 2° 59'

Thaumatopsis pexella strictalis, ITISa

OED bear, 6b 1674q

Heiterbrey, Germany, 52° 29', 11° 19'

Aslam Burnu, Turkey, 38° 44', 26° 44'

pillar-case, OED pillar 12, 1837q

Entomacrodus aneitensis plurifilis, ITISa

OED receive d, 1338q

Haradsmala, Sweden, 56° 31', 14° 28'

Aseleliden, Sweden, 63° 48', 17° 45'

OED relabel, verb; or REPARELING OED reparelling, 1579q*

A-la-le-t'o-pai, Mongolia, 48° 04', 88° 59'

Debeltsovo, Bulgaria, 43° 06', 25° 06'

Slettneset, Norway, 62° 52', 8° 36'

Milosevina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 44° 09', 19° 01'

Dorland

Lenaveni, Lithuania, 55° 18', 22° 14'

Pulliam

* which requires DEREVTSWOVO, Dervtsovo, Russia, 58° 32, 33° 54' to make a second square
IMPRESSUSS
MALASHENKI
PLANTERDOM
RANNAPERA
ESTANTEROL
SHENTANGTI
SERPENTOID
UNDERGOWNS
SKOROTINCI
SIMALIDSID

JASTREBACA
ACHAISONER
SHEDOMITSA
TADITASHAN
RIOORDERA
ESMARMELER
BOISDETTOVA
ANTHELOTIC
CESAREVICH
ARANARACHE

KACHIKAMAR
ADRENALONE
CREPITANTS
HEPHAESTIC
INIANDHERI
KATEDRALEN
ALASHAKEND
MONTELEONE
ANTIRENNIN
RESCIDENT

LATCHESNES
ACCOUNTANT
TCHANDENDA
COALDEALER
HUNDHAMI
ENDEAVOUR
STEAM-ORGAN
NANLIUGANG
ENDEARANCE
STARLINGES

Haliphus impressuss grunniens, ITISa
Malasheni, Belarus, 55° 37', 30° 0'
OED planter 11
Rannanpera, Finland, 64° 04', 23° 39'
OED stentrel, Spanish precursor
Shen-t'ang-ti, Christmas Island, 37° 24', 111° 55'
Web2
OED undergown
Skorotinci, Croatia, 45° 7', 18° 53'
Simalidsid River, Philippines, 10° 50', 123° 20'
Jastrebaca, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 44° 06', 19° 13'
OED chesoun, Old French precursor
Shedomitsa, Russia, 58° 30', 34° 19'
Khrebet Taditashan, Russia, 46° 3', 134° 0'
Rio Tordera, Spain, 41° 39', 2° 47'
Esmarmeler, OED croose, 1611q book by Cotgrave
Bois de Tova, France, 41° 52', 9° 17'
Dorland
Chambers tsar (eldest son thereof)
Aranarache, Spain, 42° 47', -2° 13'
Kachi Kamar, Pakistan, 32° 39', 70° 58'
Web2
Stedman crepitant
Hephaestic, OED Hephaestus
Inian Dheri, Pakistan, 34° 14', 72° 17'
Katedralen, Greenland, 70° 53', -22° 58'
Alashakend, Azerbaijan, 38° 27', 48° 48'
Monteleone, author of Criminal Slang (1949), *
Web2 anti- (no hyphen)
OED
* also Villanova Monteleone, Italy, 40° 30', 8° 28'

Latchesnes, 1481q
OED
Tchandenda, Angola, -12° 30', 15° 24'
Web2
Hun Dhamial, Pakistan, 33° 33', 73° 13'
Metapenaeus endeavouri profunda, ITISa
steam-organ, OED steam 17
Nanliugang, China, 36° 16', 114° 45'
OED
OED starling
Macababalo Creek, Philippines, 14° 10', 122° 44'
Aoulef Arab, Algeria, 26° 57', 1° 5'
curlygrass fern, ITISp
Bloomsbury Thesaurus, or from OED allotheism
Beyt Mansur, Iran, 31° 10', 49° 15'
Afghangori, Pakistan, 29° 42', 66° 18'
Barenganan, Iran, 36° 0', 52° 46'
OED araison
L’Assurance, OED aid 8, 1691q
OED obstringe verb
Maiden Paps, Canada, 62° 1', -72° 25'
Altintarla, Turkey, 38° 24', 39° 27'
Itissa Reef, Greece, 39° 5', 20° 38'
OED walling 2, 1382q (Wyclif)
Pleteniste, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 43° 45', 18° 42'
OED safeness
OED maleness
Awananwala, Pakistan, 32° 42', 71° 11'
Langsnpen, Sweden, 58° 34', 14° 52'
OED englass verb
Nasamwiaga, Ghana, 10° 12', 0° 2'
Ennswiesen, Austria, 47° 35', 14° 23'
Swasieland, (region of) Swaziland, -26° 30', 31° 30'
Sapia Sapia, Angola, -16° 03', 14° 45'
Elengenima, Micronesia, 7° 19', 152° 0'
Sangandaan, Philippines, 14° 39', 120° 57'
Nisis Aspro, Greece, 39° 10', 23° 31'
Heinrich Bunting, “Itinerariu, Sacrae Scriptura…”
Silver Cove, Canada, 50° 53', -55° 54'
OED invadiate, verb
Seedeaters, ITISa
OED Jewism 1, 1579q (no initial cap)
Quebrada Sacatintal, Honduras, 14° 41', -89° 2'
Web2 (no initial cap)
River Manya, Nigeria, 12° 5', 6° 5'
Oued Seltat, Tunisia, 35° 22', 9° 27'
Ochirikrom, Ghana, 6° 43', -1° 31'
Rio Chilanhana, Mozambique, -24° 35', 33° 33'
Hillshaven, South Africa, -26° 22', 27° 40'
il-planned, Bloomsbury Thesaurus
Ras Luluiya, UAE, 25° 22', 56° 21'
OED inhalant, adj & noun
Khanunwali, Pakistan, 32° 44', 72° 1'
Ravni Tavani, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 44° 22', 16° 39'
One Eye Lake, Canada, 51° 58', -124° 55'
Pulliam, also "shorter than haiku (!) to a mandarined high style", www.etext.org/Poetry/PoetryInk/Plvl1n2.txt

Omimi Creek, New Zealand, -45.69°, 170.61°*
Maranhalli, India, 12° 53', 75° 43'
Ironha-ch'on, North Korea, 41° 36', 129° 27'
Man Namiang, Burma, 23° 45', 98° 28'
Rio Inhansanga, Mozambique, -16° 10', 33° 10'
Cham Soltan, Iran, 33° 16', 49° 54'
OED racialist
Chormet el-Hantscia, Libya, 31° 52', 12° 59'
Kingansana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, -4° 24', 15° 24'
*www.linz.govt.nz/databases/

OED

Apedinella laetevirens amphora, ITISp
OED suppowell b, 1430q
Tristoma adintegrum ophiocephali, ITISa
OED disterr, Italian precursor
OED
OED
Ile Rarapai, French Polynesia, -27° 34', -144° 21'
Stedman
l'Armentier, France, 45° 3', 6° 3'

Passage-bed, OED passage V 16 b
Ankalotany, Madagascar, -13° 3', 49° 53'
OED skinflint
Rourea is preferred genus name of this dicotyledon*
www.exoticanimal.net/drugbook/BookInformation/DrugName.html
Golla Konda, India, 17° 39', 83° 11'
OED etiology
Chambers bandoneon
OED reject, 1432q; or ENTENDENTE, Cerro El Entendente†
OED disease
*www.anet.com/~manytimes
†Chile, -25° 12', -70° 3'
Qala’-i-Namak, Afghanistan, 34° 18', 62° 33'
Ano Drosini, Greece, 41° 12', 25° 35'
Locarnists, OED Locarno
Adaletatabat, Turkey, 38° 58', 42° 42'
Mont Irreberene, Mali, 19° 49', -1° 52'
Web2 non
Asiarchate
"Ain't Misbehavin" song, eg OED mess 1e 1966q
Alan Antanetivy, Madagascar, -16° 37', 49° 28'
Kisterenyev Vasutallomas, Hungary, 48° 0', 19° 50'

RESISTLESS
EVENTUALLY
Seltat Peak, Canada, 59° 36', -136° 21'
OED Christianlike B, intertayned in 1593q
OED stareblind, Old Norse
Tuttlingen, Germany, 47° 59', 8° 49'
La Painiere, France, 48° 6', -1° 21'
La Painiere, Old Norse
OED suspicion 1b, 1398q
OED slanderer
OED sickerness, 1483q

S P A S M O D I S M
P I T H A R A N T A
Atlantides, Web2
Mangaorapa Stream, New Zealand, -40° 17', 176° 34'
OED ortho- 1 (no hyphen); or ORTHOTONIC
OED shanghai, verb, also OED shanghaied
Comuna Daia Romina, Romania, 46° 01', 23° 40'
Web2 indianize (below line); or -ISE?

S E E P I N E S S
Massacasse, Mozambique, -15° 17', 33° 3'

T A N A M A L A L A
Adare Manor House, Ireland, 52° 33', -8° 46'
Nakelegama, Sri Lanka, 7° 42', 80° 5'
OED

M E L A N O D E R A
Melanodera melanodera wolcotti, ITISa

A R A R A C A N G A
Web2, below line
UNTUNNELED NYANGALALA
“the tantarara of trumpets”, Kincaid*
TANTARARAS UNTONALITY
NGANOYAKHA
NARAYANHAT
ELALANGALI
LARIKHARAN
ELATHALAWA
DASYATINAEE

UNTUNNELED NYANGALALA
Web2 below line
Nyangalala, Tanzania, -3° 5', 33° 11'
“the tantarara of trumpets”, Kincaid*
TANTARARAS UNTONALITY
NGANOYAKHA
NARAYANHAT
ELALANGALI
LARIKHARAN
ELATHALAWA
DASYATINAEE

NYANGALALA
Nyangalala, Tanzania, -3° 5', 33° 11'

TANTARARAS
“the tantarara of trumpets”, Kincaid*

UNGANOYAKHA
Nganoyakha, Russia, 72° 6', 72° 38'

NARAYANHAT
Narayan Hat, Bangladesh, 22° 49', 91° 40'

ELALANGALI
Elalangali, Namibia, -17° 36', 15° 25'

LARIKHARAN
Larikhan, Afghanistan, 35° 39', 65° 40'

ELATHALAWA
Elathalawa Pahala, Sri Lanka, 7° 32', 80° 3'

DASYATINAEE
Dasyatinae ornata idahoensis, ITISa

*Adventures in the Rifle Brigade, Chapter XX, also Caius Marius Act III, etc

VALEAHOGEA
Valea Hogeia, Romania, 46° 43', 27° 16'

ARANGURING
Aranguring, Philippines, 15° 21', 120° 34'

LAUTARANTA
Mys Lautaranta, Russia, 60° 11', 29° 32'

ENTHRONGED
OED enthrong

AGARANGERA
Agaranger, Mali, 16° 32', 3° 13'

HURONIELLA
Nomenclatus Zoologicus

ORANGE-SLIP
orange-slip, OED orange 2c

GINGELLINE
OED gingel(l)ine

ENTERLINES
OED enterline

AGADAAPESI
Agada Apesi, Nigeria, 7° 21', 3° 0'

WADI ELEISH
Wadi el 'Eish, West Bank, 32° 1', 35° 11'

ABUNDANCIA
OED plenty, 1483q also Abundancia, Brazil, -4° 9', -44° 39'

DUFFERTANK
Duffer Tank, Australia, -17° 29', 124° 25'

INFANGENNE
OED outfangthief

EDENBERGENNE
Edenbergen, Germany, 48° 25', 10° 49'

LARGEMOUTH
Web2 under largemouthed below line

ENTEROCELE
OED entero- (no hyphen)

ICANGUERAI
Arroio Icanguerai, Brazil, -23° 01', -55° 23'

SINNET-LAID
sinnet-laid, OED sinnet, 1856q

HAKENHEIDE
Hakenheide, Germany, 52° 1', 8° 43'

WADIGHABAT
Wadi Ghabat, Yemen, 15° 2', 47° 39'

AVENUELIKE
avenue-like, OED ambulacral

DERDAMERAU
Der Damerau, Poland, 53° 37', 20° 59'

INDIRECTOF
in direct of, OED direct 1c

GUARILIHUE
Guarilihue, Chile, -36° 32', -72° 43'

HEMELYTRAL
Web2 hemelytron

ALECITHALS
Stedman alecithal

BIRTHRATES
OED ultra-high, 1977q (or hyphenated in OED headword)

AKAOUALENE
Ti-n-Akaoualene, Mali, 15° 35', 0° 0'

TEUFELSEE
Teufelssee, Austria, 47° 37', 14° 58'