

TRANSDELETED AND TRANSADDED PRESIDENTS

DARRYL FRANCIS

Frosterley, Bishop Auckland, Durham, England

darrylfrancis@yahoo.co.uk

Take the surnames of the US presidents. For each one, what is the longest transdeletion and what is the shortest transaddition? Jim Puder posed and answered these problems in the August 1998 Word Ways. The November 1998 Colloquy contained a healthy response to Puder's article, improving on several of the words offered.

Suppose now the problem is restated, using not the presidents' surnames but their first names and surnames together. Instead of NIXON, we have RICHARD NIXON. And just to make things a tad more challenging, let's include multiple first names where these exist (such as RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON) and familiar names (thus, JIMMY CARTER as well as JAMES CARTER).

Transdeletions

Let's look at the longest transdeletions first. In several cases, other words of the same transdeletion length could have been offered, but we have chosen to offer just one for each presidential name. For example, Andrew Jackson can be transdeleted to OCEANWARDS and SNECKDRAWN, as well as SNECKDRAWS. Note that there are three single-letter transdeletions in the list: DAHOMANS, NUT-GRASSES, MACERATERS.

Presidential Name	Longest Transdeletion (number of letters deleted)
George Washington	news-gathering (3) Concise Oxford, 9th edition, 1995
John Adams	Dahomans (1) Web 3
Thomas Jefferson	freemasons (5) Web 3
James Madison	seminomads (2) Web 3
James Monroe	monomers (3) Web 3
John Quincy Adams	daunomycins (4) Web 3
Andrew Jackson	sneckdraws (3) Web 3
Martin Van Buren	unnarrative (3) Random House, 1965
William Harrison	Williamsonia (3) Web 3
William Henry Harrison	millionnaires (7) Web 2
John Tyler	helotry (2) Web 3
James Knox Polk	kakemonos (4) Web 3
James Polk	plasome (2) Web 3
Zachary Taylor	catarrhal (4) Web 3
Millard Fillmore	lamelliform (4) Web 3
Franklin Pierce	pincerlike (4) Web 3
James Buchanan	macahubas (4) Chambers, 1998
Abraham Lincoln	harmoniacal (3) Web 3
Andrew Johnson	wanderoos (4) Web 3
Ulysses Grant	nut-grasses (1) Chambers, 1998
Ulysses Simpson Grant	sportsmanliness (4) Web 2
Rutherford Birchard Hayes	carbohydrates (10) Web 3

Rutherford Hayes	sorryhearted (3) Web 2
James Abram Garfield	marriageable (6) Web 3
James Garfield	federalism (3) Web 3
Chester Alan Arthur	transurethral (4) Web 3
Chester Arthur	chatterers (3) Web 3
Grover Cleveland	overlearned (4) Web 3
Stephen Grover Cleveland	telencephalons (8) Web 3
Benjamin Harrison	mesorrhinian (4) Web 2
William McKinley	inimically (5) Web 3
Theodore Roosevelt	overlettered (5) Web 2
William Howard Taft	midlittoral (6) OED
William Taft	milliwatt (2) Web 3
Thomas Woodrow Wilson	swordswoman (8) Web 3
Woodrow Wilson	ironwoods (4) Web 3
Warren Gamaliel Harding	remaindering (9) Web 3
Warren Harding	handwringer (2) Webster's 10th Collegiate, 1998
Calvin Coolidge	ideological (3) Web 3
John Calvin Coolidge	nonideological (4) Random House, 1965
Herbert Clark Hoover	reverberator (6) Web 3
Herbert Hoover	thereover (4) Web 3
Franklin Delano Roosevelt	noradrenalines (9) Web 3
Franklin Roosevelt	lateroversion (4) Web 2
Harry S Truman	unmartyrs (2) Web 3
Harry Truman	unmartyr (2) Web 3
Dwight David Eisenhower	disinvigorated (7) Web 2
Dwight Eisenhower	Wigtownshire (4) Web 3
Jack Kennedy	cayenned (3) Web 2
John Fitzgerald Kennedy	nondeferential (7) Web 2
John Kennedy	enjoyed (4) Web 3
Lyndon Baines Johnson	nonadhesion (8) Web 2
Lyndon Johnson	donjons (6) Web 3
Richard Milhous Nixon	harmonichords (6) Web 3
Richard Nixon	hadronic (4) Web 3
Gerald Ford	foraged (3) Web 3
Gerald Rudolph Ford	flapdoodle (7) Web 3
James Carter	maceraters (1) Web 2
James Earl Carter	telecameras (4) Web 3
Jimmy Carter	retiracy (3) Web 3
Ronald Reagan	rangeland (3) Web 3
Ronald Wilson Reagan	noradrenalins (5) OED
George Bush	subrogee (2) Web 3
George Herbert Walker Bush	leatherworkers (9) Web 3
Bill Clinton	billion (4) Web 3
William Clinton	caimitillo (4) Web 3
William Jefferson Clinton	inconformities (9) Web 3
George Walker Bush	housebreaker (4) Web 3

If you object to the WILLIAMSONIA transdeletion because of the common William element, substitute the slightly shorter RHINOLALIAS (Web 3). A particularly noteworthy transdeletion of DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER is WEST VIRGINIA. Note the longest transdeletion of WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON is the 2-N variant spelling MILLIONNAIRES.

Transadditions

What about transadditions of the presidential names? At the outset, this seemed like an impossible task. Could we realistically expect to find a transaddition of WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, say? A more achievable target was to find a transaddition for one of the shorter name forms for a president. Furthermore, we widened our sights for acceptable words and terms, deciding to allow multi-word phrases, catchphrases, proverbs, song titles, quotations and lines from literary works, as long as they could be supported by reference sources.

George Washington There's a long, long trail awinding
The first line of a song written in 1913 by a British songwriter, Stoddard King (1889-1933), in Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, 1996

John Adams Johnadreams
A dreamy, idle fellow, in Web 2

Thomas Jefferson snatch from the jaws of death
A familiar-sounding phrase, meaning to save just in time, in Roget's International Thesaurus (1922) Section 662

James Madison social maladjustment
This term appears twice in OED illustrative quotations; see the 1909 quote at *maladjustment* and the 1912 quote at *deviate*

James Monroe company sergeant-major
The senior warrant officer of a company, a term listed at *company* in the OED

Martin Van Buren I am not a Virginian, but an American
A statement attributed to President John Adams, made in a debate in the Continental Congress in 1774, and recorded by Patrick Henry (1736-1799), in Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, 1996

William Harrison An ill-favoured thing, sir, but mine own
A line spoken in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (Act 5, Scene 4, line 60), in Oxford Dictionary of Quotations

John Tyler orthogonal trajectory
A type of mathematical curve, in Web 3.

James Polk Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskij
A seaport town on the Kamchatka Peninsula, usually spelled without the final J (Webster's Geographical Dictionary) or with a final IY (Times Index Gazetteer), but spelled as above on various websites

Franklin Pierce rocket-firing plane
Difficult to track down. There is a website devoted to the US B-29 Superfortress which uses this term.

Abraham Lincoln Un ballo in Maschera
The title of an opera by Verdi, first produced in Rome in 1859, in The New Penguin Dictionary of Music, Arthur Jacobs, 4th edition, 1978

Andrew Johnson But headlong joy is ever on the wing
A line from "The Passion", a poem by John Milton (1608-1674), in Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, 1996

Ulysses Grant suspensory ligament
An anatomical term of various specific meanings, in Web 3

- Rutherford Hayes The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
The title of a novel by Mark Twain, in *The Readers Encyclopedia*, W. R. Benet, 2nd edition, 1965
- Chester Alan Arthur The Walrus and the Carpenter
The title of a poem occurring in *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), in *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, 1996
- Chester Arthur Charterhouse Street
The name of a street in the city of London (directly opposite the office of the author!), in *Geographica Greater London Atlas*, 11th edition, undated
- Grover Cleveland every cloud has a silver lining
A familiar proverb, in an illustrative quotation dated 1965 at *ice* in the OED
- Theodore Roosevelt never let the sun go down on your anger
A homily, a plain practical piece of advice offered to couples, which can be found on Internet websites
- William Taft water-plantain family
A family of aquatic and marsh herbs, Alismataceae, in *Web 3*
- Woodrow Wilson within two whoops and a holler
A phrase meaning "close, nearby". Though this precise form could not be found in a reference source or on the Internet, the shorter form "two whoops and a holler" can be found on a website
- Warren Harding the straight and narrow
The way of propriety and rectitude, listed at *straight and narrow* in *Web 3*
- Calvin Coolidge Vocalic or strong declension
A phrase appearing in A.S. Cook's translation of *Sievers' Old English Grammar*, published in 1887, in an illustrative quotation at *vocalic* in the OED
- Herbert Hoover Somewhere over the rainbow
A line from the song "Over The Rainbow", by Yip Harburg (1898-1981), in *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, 1996
- Harry S Truman Chinese restaurant syndrome
A group of adverse physical symptoms, in *Web 3*
- Harry Truman four-part harmony
A musical term used in the definition of *compressed score* (at the main entry *compressed*) in the OED
- Dwight Eisenhower Braehead, Wigtownshire
Braehead is a village lying about 2 miles south of the town of Wigtown, in the Scots country of Wigtownshire, in *Great Britain Road Atlas, Geographica*, 1972
- John Kennedy The Golden Journey to Samarkand
The title of a novel by James Elroy Flecker (1884-1915), listed on a website
- Lyndon Johnson A Long Day's Journey into Night
The title of a play by Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953), in *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, 1996
- Richard Nixon Oxford English Dictionary
A familiar reference to *Word Ways* readers!

- Gerald Ford Artful Dodger; large-froned
The Artful Dodger is the name of a dexterous thief in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, in Web 2. Large-froned is an undefined adjective appearing under *large*, in Web 2
- James Carter American Judas tree
Another name for the redbud, a tree of eastern North America, in Web 3
- James Earl Carter Patriarchate of Jerusalem
A one-time independent church in the Orthodox Church, in Web 2
- Jimmy Carter Uniform Code of Military Justice
The code of justice which governs the lives of all members of the US military, commonly found on websites (33,000 hits for this term)
- Ronald Reagan intergradational; Gregorian calendar
Intergradational is an adjective, meaning "pertaining to an intermediate or transitional form", in Web 3. The Gregorian calendar is the one used in the USA and Great Britain, in Web 3
- Ronald Wilson Reagan There's a long, long trail awinding
See the reference for George Washington, above
- Bill Clinton noncallability
This noun is listed but not defined in Web 2 (a bond is noncallable if it cannot be redeemed by its issuer before its stated date)
- George Bush South Greensburg
The name of a borough in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 26 miles east-southeast of Pittsburgh, in Webster's Geographical Dictionary
- George Walker Bush My library was dukedom large enough
A line appearing in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (Act 1, Scene 2, line 109), Oxford Dictionary of Quotations
- Presidents for which no transadditions were found include Andrew Jackson, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, James Buchanan, James Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley and Franklin Roosevelt.
- Can Word Ways readers find transadditions for any of the unconquered US presidents' names? Or find printed references for the Internet items? Or offer improvements on any of the transadditions offered here?