

WORD WEAVES

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When the letters in the odd positions of a word appear alphabetized, we say that the word is *odd-ascending*; when these letters appear reverse alphabetized, we call the word *odd-descending*. Similarly, we refer to words as *even-ascending* or *even-descending* when the letters that occupy their even positions are alphabetized or reverse alphabetized, respectively.

A word in which both the odd letters and the even letters are either ascendant or descendent is called a *word weave*. For instance, HANDSETS is an odd-ascending (H,N,S,T), even-ascending (A,D,E,S) word weave. Other examples of word weaves include BUCKLING (odd-ascending, even-descending), WATCHMAN (odd-descending, even-ascending), and SYRINGED (odd-descending, even-descending).

In each of the 24 eight-letter word weaves below, the fourth and fifth letters are given, along with a clue to the word's meaning. The specific category of word weave is not indicated, but there are exactly six of each type in the list. How many can you find? For extra credit, try to discover a ten-letter word weave—at least one common example exists. No doubt longer word weaves, including ones based on words of odd length, exist.

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|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. sport for the birds | --- C O --- | 13. literary postscript | --- L O --- |
| 2. they're found in oilcans | --- D I --- | 14. waterproof garment | --- N C --- |
| 3. why a man might wear a hat | --- D N --- | 15. imbibing | --- N K --- |
| 4. levels | --- E L --- | 16. toll road | --- N P --- |
| 5. navigable channel | --- E R --- | 17. meandered | --- O L --- |
| 6. repeat offender | --- F F --- | 18. botanical tree gardens | --- O R --- |
| 7. college graduate | --- H E --- | 19. across from | --- O S --- |
| 8. type of instrument | --- I N --- | 20. British coin | --- P E --- |
| 9. chopper pad | --- I P --- | 21. bloodsuckers | --- P I --- |
| 10. July's flower | --- K S --- | 22. made available | --- P L --- |
| 11. bathtub toy | --- L B --- | 23. loose-fitting gown | --- P L --- |
| 12. abode | --- L L --- | 24. raising the dead | --- U M --- |

Extra Credit - - - - E L - - - -