VICINAL AND NONVICINAL HETEROGRAMS

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A vicinal, as defined in Dave Morice’s *The Dictionary of Wordplay*, is a word in which each letter has an alphabetic neighbor; that is, each letter in the word occupies a position in the alphabet next to another letter that appears in the word. (The term was created by Eugene Ulrich in the August 1983 Kickshaws.) Let us write the alphabet in a circle, regarding A and Z as alphabetic neighbors as well. Here is a collection of heterograms (words with no repeated letters) that are vicinals:

2 pairs
abed abut adze azon bade balk balm bars bast bats beat bona bras chid daze done dope duct duets faze fest fets hide hied hist hits hong hopi join lamb meld mend nihm node nots onyx oped opts polk post pots pout pros reds ref's rust ruts serf shit shri sith snot som spot stab stop Styx tabs tabu teds this thug tons tops tuba unto vugh xyst

1 pair, 1 triple
abuts bacon banco block brats chide coden coned coped crabs demon drest ducts duets duveteduct fetus frets girsh monde morns mount norms notum ohing plank poms ports pouts prost punt punton shirt sight snort snout sport spout stoup strop tabus thugs tonus tsuba tubas upton

3 pairs
ambled aplumb ardebs badmen balked bardes barons basted batons beards bedamn bedlam beldam blamed bredas broncs cobnut debars depots despot dopers drones fetish fisher flambé Fresno habit habitu habut hiders histed hognut hoiden honied jerids joined joints jurist kblah klutzy lambed nought pedros phobia phobic posted pouted prosed quartz rhinos sabred serdab shedir sheriff Shinto snored soften sonder sorned spored stoned stoped tabued thongs tonish updove
2 triples
bracts educts girts griths homing hoping jutish mounts puntos putons rights sacbut unstop
1 pair, 1 quadruple
abduct dolmen duster fights Proust rudest rusted sprout stupor

2 pairs, 1 triple
abdomen bedfast bighead bingham carbons chiders clomped clonked cobnuts corbans counted dabster depots demount disject ditches dithers docents dustmen endmost foment s fondest frontes gabfest gunshot habitus hagnuts hedonic herdics hognuts holking horsing hosting Jacobin moderns mounted mulcted noughts plonked ponders redfish redtops respond rodents rodmen scoring shifted shifter shoring shotgun snorted snouted sported spouted thousing throngs unmoved
1 triple, 1 quadruple
abducts compend crudest crusted frights nostrum
1 pair, 1 quintuple
blackened menfolk
4 pairs
bandores banjoist Brahmins broadens confuted habitue halutzim hedonist hoatzins hordeins
joinders pibrochs spheroid
1 pair, 2 triples
contused demijohn demounts ditchers document forspent gunsmith mordents mouthing mudstone
outspend portends shorting shouting
1 triple, 1 quintuple
fighters freights refights

3 triples
documents
1 pair, 1 triple, 1 quadruple
undermost
2 pairs, 1 quintuple
absconder bedchairs scrambled
3 pairs, 1 triple
adsorbent basketful bismuthal blacktops construed Dobermans eastbound habitudes obscurant
outshined thumbnail thyroxins

5 pairs
rhapsodize
2 pairs, 2 triples
blackshirt blacksmith chondrites hindernost thumbnails

1 pair, 3 triples
Christendom

2 pairs, 2 quadruples
flourishment

In a nonvicinal, no letter has an alphabetic neighbor. Here is a small collection of heterograms of
nine or more letters that are nonvicinals. (The maximum possible length is thirteen.)

9 Letters
Berkowitz capsuling carpeting certainly clavering coxalgies cravingly expulsing flowchart
frantically interplay lacewings lawyering neuralgic overmatch packeting paltering panegyric
parceling parleying pecuniary picyayunes preacting prelaunch privately puckering racketing
repacking replacing replating replaying sluiceway Spaulding squawking squeaking squealing
traveling unshapely vectorial

10 Letters
caperingly lacqueying taperingly