

MEANINGFUL OFFSPRING

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Rearranged, the letters of a *parent* word may give rise to two perfectly legitimate *offspring*. Some parent words produce pairs of offspring which are related in meaning to each other and also, in some cases, to the parent word. MUSLINETTE hides the synonyms SILENT and MUTE; BAPTISE hides the antonyms TIP and BASE; WORTHILY hides the phrase HOLY WRIT, and so on. A selection of these cleverly-disguised parents, together with their significant pairs of offspring, is given below. Only solid, non-capitalised words are admitted. Arrow heads indicate that both the offspring appear in order (>) or in reverse order (<) in the parent. The offspring are taken from *Chambers Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms* (ChDSA) edited by Martin H. Manser, and *Chambers Phrase File* by Roger Prebble. The parent words can be found in the *Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition* unless specified otherwise.

SYNONYMIC OFFSPRING

loveage (lovage) GO - LEAVE	charades RACE - DASH	defrayed DARE - DEFY
capture CUT - PARE	spikenel (spignel, a plant) PEEL - SKIN	prestation SPIN - ROTATE
chainless SHIN - SCALE	batterings START - BEGIN	cultist CUT - SLIT
superates REST - PAUSE	threnodial RETAIN - HOLD	bootstrap ABORT - STOP
delimitate ITEM - DETAIL	treescape PEACE - REST	calchedonie (chalcedony) HIDE - CONCEAL
paltriest SPLIT - TEAR	wycari (vicary n. = vicar) < ICY - < RAW	regratiate GEAR - ATTIRE
literal AIR - TELL	searching SINGE - CHAR	pounced CON - DUPE
parents NAP - REST	milometers REMOTE - SLIM	whirlicote (a coach, carriage) COIL - WRITHE
cameralists CLAIM - ASSERT	reconsale (recounsel) NEAR - CLOSE	flocoon (a tuft of wool, flake of snow etc) FOOL - CON
readvise AID - SERVE	recasting TRACE - SIGN	parachutes ACUTE > - < SHARP

You could say that 'defeated' is a FEAT in DEED!

Some words have several synonyms, or near synonyms. Here is CLOSE with 3 of its synonyms.

scorable CLOSE - BAR	enclosed CLOSE - END	touchless CLOSE - SHUT
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Note that, in 'enclosed', CLOSE is enclosed in END.

ANTONYMIC OFFSPRING

Previous attempts at merging and rearranging the letters of pairs of antonyms have resulted largely in coined phrases (*Hidden Opposites* by Mary Youngquist 73012; *More Hidden Opposites* by R. Robinson Rowe 73120). *Harmonious Opposites* (74217) by Dmitri Borgmann, however, included the letter rearrangement of 16 good antonyms to make single, solid words: daze A - ZED; nosey NO - YES; radon AND - OR; Albert LET - BAR; germal ARM - LEG; Lowden OLD - NEW; lewison WIN - LOSE; overmen MORN - EVE; befriend BIND - FREE; doweling LONG - WIDE; foldouts LOUD - SOFT; genderer RED - GREEN; oversaid SOAR - DIVE; Parkdale PALE - DARK; wardlike WALK - RIDE; counterseals EARL - COUNTESS.

Here are further examples:

estoures (wars) STORE - USE	bulleys < SELL - BUY >	idromancers (hydromancers) SCORN - ADMIRE
dewtry (the thorn apple) WET - DRY	benigned BEGIN - END	faillers (failures) RISE - FALL
facinerose (facinorous) COARSE - FINE	ungoodly OLD - YOUNG	lowned (calmed) OLD - NEW
anadems (garlands) SANE - MAD	onwarde RAW - DONE	gassier SAG - RISE
morseles MORE - LESS	contrepese SECRET - OPEN	savonettes (soap balls) VETO - ASSENT
afterpieces STRIFE - PEACE	poplared LEAP - DROP	trampolines STAPLE - MINOR
proposure SUPER - POOR	regerminate TEEMING - RARE	panderesses (female procurers) SPARSE - DENSE
arbusterol (<i>Webster's Second Ed.</i>) LABOUR - REST	palaverist SPARE - VITAL	persuades SPARE - USED
teleplayers SLEEPY - ALERT	trouping POUT - GRIN	plumosite (a mineral) POUT - SMILE
araise SEA - AIR	sandale (sandal) SEA - LAND	crowlings (a nonce word in OED) SCOWL - GRIN
enterviews (interviews) SEVER - UNITE	prenational (<i>Webster's Second Ed.</i>) ORNATE - PLAIN	gimbals SMALL - BIG
destructible SUBTLE - DIRECT	stoutened OUTSET - END	multilayers SILLY - MATURE
procreatress SCRAP - RESTORE	unsewed USED > - NEW >	harlotts (harlots) SHORT - TALL
dioramist MOIST - ARID	modistry MOIST > - DRY >	

In ChDSA, CALM is listed as an antonym for 70+ words including anxious, boisterous, cross, distraught, excitable, frenetic, gusty, hysterical, incense, jittery, livid, madden, nervous, obstreperous, pandemonium, restless, storm, tense, uptight, vex and wild. Here are 3 more.

crotalum (ancient Greek castanet) ROUT - CALM	marlaceous (resembling marl) AROUSE - CALM	caulomers (<i>Webster's Second Ed.</i>) ROUSE - CALM
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To add to the confusion HOT and COLD, 2 of the antonyms of TEPID, are themselves antonyms!

OFFSPRING LINKED BY 'AND'

Many pairs of words are linked by 'and' to make a familiar phrase. Some of the word pairs are synonymic: HOT and SPICY, DEAD and GONE, OVER and ABOVE, BITS and PIECES. Some are antonymic: HOME and AWAY, HEEL and TOE, TOING and FROING, NOW and THEN. Some do not fall into either of these categories: TOUCH and GO, BLOOD and THUNDER, WINE and CHEESE. The following include examples of all three types.

skillets KISS and TELL	inshore SON and HEIR	greably (agreeably) BY and LARGE
sweatie (sweaty) WAIT and SEE	garagistes (garage owners) GAS and GAITERS	humest (uppermost) THEM and US
orchestra HORSE and CART	prouve (prove) UP and OVER	nigit (= nidget, an idiot, a fool) < GIN and IT >
pinken PEN > and INK >	imagine TIME and AGAIN	noticing GIN and TONIC
pilotships SPIT and POLISH	cropon (= croupon, the croup or rump of an animal) PRO and CON	sermonettino (a diminutive sermon) MORTISE and TENON (<i>Cham. Dic.</i>)

The second of a pair of offspring linked by 'and' can be a repetition of the first offspring plus extra letters: OUT and ABOUT, YOU and YOURS, DOS and DONTs. In other cases the two offspring are identical as in AGAIN and AGAIN. This tautology is sometimes used as a means of emphasis.

noon < ON and ON >	toutou (a nursery name for a lap-dog) OUT and OUT	soos (dialectic call to pigs) SO > and < SO
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As in 'enclosed', some parents hide their offspring one inside the other.

douping (a term in weaving - *Webster's Second Ed.*)
UP and DOING

HAPPY FAMILIES

These offspring are 2-word phrases. As a phrase, each can be linked, albeit sometimes tenuously, to the parent. For example, we all know that 'modeling' is a GOLD MINE.

engroove GONE OVER	terminal TRAM LINE	bordello DOOR BELL
measured (Enavlicm, <i>Newark Puzzler</i> MADE SURE June 1908)	steamer SEA TERM	waterers SEWER RAT
testable SEAT BELT	lineated DATE LINE	tunicked TUCKED > < IN
divorcee ICED OVER	avengers NERVE GAS	cloudier CRUDE OIL
conifer FIR CONE	macerate CREAM TEA	stampedes (BeauNed, <i>Enigma</i> Feb. 1937) MADE STEPS

The reader might like to look for parent words which hide names. Here are 3 to start you off.

costumier TOM CRUISE	railophones SOPHIA LOREN	narcoleptic ERIC CLAPTON
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