

SELFISH, SELFLESS, AND EQUABLE WORDS

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Selfish words (from 1,200 examples)

I have often been taught that I would be rude to readers if I continually used the pronoun I in sentences I wrote: I would be accused of solipsism as well as a publishing solecism. Indeed, people who are enthusiastic about political correctness might say, without even thinking (too difficult for them anyway), that one ought to avoid words with too many of the letter i. So here is a modern Index of prohibited words, mainly selected for concentration of the letter i (ie a high percentage of the letters), and with a bias against proper nouns. A few interesting exceptions are given.

5 x i [the 6-letter *iiiiii* and the 7-letter *XIIIIII* are in the OED]. There are six place names like *Aimiliiki* (9, Palau, 7° 26', 134° 29', NIMA). Length 10 has numerous place names like *Girigiriri* (Nigeria, 11° 41', 12° 18', NIMA), but also *inimicicia* (OED hatred 1483q), and *inimicitia* (OED inimicitious, Latin). Length 11: [*Anochetus*] *chirichinii* [*furvus*] (ITIS animal), *inimicial* (OED), and *divisibilis* (Chambers divisible, Latin), as well as *diuisibilis*, *inciuiltie*, *inciviltie*, *indiuisibil*, *infidiltie*, *inifinitive*, *inimicitiae*, *inimicitias*, *inimitbilis*, *insipiditie*, *inuiriltie*, *inuisibilis*, *iusticiarii*, *risibilitie*, *stillicidii*, *vigintiviri*, and *visibilitie* (all to be found in the OED text). By length 12, there are many recognisable words: *dirigibility*, *divisibility*, *ignitibility*, *incivilities*, *inimicitious*, *initialising*, *insipidities*, *invisibility*, *libidinizing*, *minimifidian*, *penicillin-II*, *risibilities*, *veni vidi vici*, and *visibilities*.

6 x i 12 letters: *indivisibili* (OED *graveller* 1674q, Latin), *nimini-pimini* (OED), *Hiwikirikiri* (-41° 49', 175° 53', www.linz.govt.nz/databases/geographic), and *Iiritimirim* (Brazil, -20° 32', -40° 48', NIMA). 13 letters: *divisibilit * (OED *divisibility*, French), *indiuisibilis* (OED *undepartable*, presumably Latin), *inuisibilitie* (OED *invisibility* 1361q), and *nimini-primini* (OED *nimini-pimini*). Length 14 brings recognisable words: *divisibilities*, *ignitibilities*, *indivisibility*. Length 15 includes *immiscibilities*, *ineligibilities*, *inimitabilities*, *invincibilities*, *minimifidianism*, *nimini-piminyism*.

7 x i Apart from Roman numerals, there is *indivisibilitie* (15, OED *indivisibilty*), *indistinguishabilities* (22, OED *indistinguishable*, inferred plural), *honorificabiliadinitatibus* (25, OED text); *Mikhail Moiseivich Botvinnik* (26, chess grandmaster); and *honorificabilitudinitatibus* (27, Chambers).

8 x i *exhibitionististicicity* (23, OED *human*, 1922q James Joyce: *Ulysses*), *Baconian-pyramidological-cryptographic-spiritualist-theosophical* (60, OED *pyramidology*, 1964 Aldous Huxley q)

9 x i *nimini-pimini-imini* (17, OED *nimini-pimini*, first 1786q), *floccinaucinihilipilification* (29, OED, also different spelling in text)

10 x i *iki-iki-iki-iki-iki* (15, *Palindromicon*)

11 x i *Krungthepmahanakornamornratanakosinmahintarayutthayamahadilokphopnopparatrajat-haniburiromudomrajaniwesmahasatharnamornphimarnavatarnsathitsakkattiyavisanukamprasit* (163, full name of Bangkok, hyphen inserted only for layout purposes. The great city of angels, the supreme unconquerable land of the great immortal divinity (Indra), the royal capital of nine noble gems, the pleasant city, with plenty of grand royal palaces, and divine paradises for the reincarnated deity (Vishnu), given by Indra and created by the god of crafting (Visnukarma)).

Selfless words (from 2,500 examples)

Instead of the forbidden pronoun, you should use "you" frequently, so you appear to be friendly to your esteemed reader. You will obviously, conclude, dear reader, that your hunt for praiseworthy words will please you if you find words with many of the letter u.

4 x u *muu-muu* (6, OED), and many words of the same form, mainly in the *Palindromicon*: *ucuucu*, *uduudu*, *ufu-ufu*, *uguugu*, *uhuuu*, *ukuuku*, *Uruuru* (Solomon Islands, -8° 19', 160° 44',

NIMA), usuusu, utuutu, and uzu-uzu. nukupu'u (ITIS animal), and udududu (Palindromicon) make a change from the many places of length 7. All the very many words up to length 10 are a little odd in appearance, eg sucuruju (8, Web2). At 10, we find the more recognisable tumultuous (OED, and tumultueux, OED text), umbunculus (OED unbo, 1753q), unusurious (Web2), usufructus (Chambers, Latin). Length 11 in the OED has: furunculous, unfructuous, unluxurious.

- 5 x u** All short words are places (from NIMA), eg Uburu-uku (Nigeria, 6° 14'N, 6° 27'E, Times Index-Gazeteer), Uvuuvunu [Island] (8, Solomon Islands, -6° 56', 156° 02'), Rukunuunu (9, Kenya, 0° 11', 37° 46'), Ufugusuku (9, Japan, 26° 09', 127° 45'). The shortest words are Augustudunum (12, OED like 5, 1609q), and untumultuous (12, OED), followed by ususfructuarius (15, OED use 10, 1565q)
- 6 x u** Many places like Wuruduwurudu (12, Ghana, 5° 53', -0° 33', NIMA), Curumusunsuyu (13, Turkey, 38° 41', 36° 02', NIMA), but not forgetting Rudolf Julius Emanuel Clausius (27, 1822-28, German theoretical physicist).
- 7 x u** BUBUBUBUBUBUBU (14, Dict of Jamaican English), and places like Tullukuddikududiyiruppu (23, Sri Lanka, 9° 05', 79° 48', NIMA)
- 8 x u** Taumatawhakatangihangakoauotamateaaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanataha (83, in New Zealand, -40° 21', 176° 33', NIMA)
- 9 x u** humuhumunukunukuapuaa (21, Web3)
- 10 x u** Tetaumatawhakatangihangakoauaotamateaurehaeaturipukapihimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuaakitanaarahu (92, in New Zealand, hyphen inserted for layout only, from Egg magazine, UK. The place where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, who slid, climbed, and swallowed mountains, known as 'land eater', played his flute to his loved one).

Equable words (from 14000 examples)

There is always a middle course, and this dictates that you and I use words with the same number of the letter i as of the letter u.

- 2 pairs:** Length 4: [Serra do] Iuiu (Brazil, -14° 25', -43° 36', NIMA), and iuui (OED yew, Old High German). Length 5: cuiui (American Heritage, or cui-ui, ITIS animal), Iiruu (Finland, 63° 03', 24° 03', NIMA), iuiub (OED jujube, 1578q), niuui (OED new, Old High German), and place names Puiui, Tuiui, Uifui, Uiqui, Uiuia, Uliui. Length 6: Iulius [Cæsar] (who invaded Britain before the J was invented), Iunius (another Roman name), oui-oui (OED wi-wi), piupiu (OED), plus very many place names. Passing over many animals, places, personal names etc to find something recognisable (from the OED except where noted), there is ubiquit with 7 letters, then auxilium (Web2), biunique, diluvium, funiculi (OSPD), indusium, iniquous, jiu-jitsu, liquidus, Lucilius (centurion in Shakespeare), piou-piou, rubidium, simulum, ubiquism (or -ist), ubiquity, unliquid, and uvulitis, all with 8 letters. The recognisable 9-letter words are too numerous to list: they include aluminium, bulimious, incurious, injurious, judicious, subsidium, uliginous, umbilicus, unpitiful, unpitious (Web1), and unsuiting.
- 3 pairs:** [Valea] Ciuciului (9, Romania, 46° 27', 24° 02', NIMA), Huiduizui (9, China, 31° 34', 117° 52', NIMA), indiuiduum (10, OED, and -duus), priuiignus (11, OED stepson 1150q), Quisquilius [americanus merrilli] (11, ITIS animal, also OED text). Now headwords only: quisquilius (12, OED), uniniquitous (12, Web2). Some a little longer: hirudinicultur (14, OED hirudinal), multisiliquous (14, OED multi), nullibiquitous (14, OED nullibicity), pinguitudinous (14, OED pinguitude), quasi-ridiculous (15, Web2), deuterium-tritium (16, OED laser, 1971q), multitudinarius (16, OED), cultural-linguistic (18, OED Pangasinan, 1974q), spirituous-tincture (18, Web2), stimulus-situations (18, OED stimulus 1977q), and suffix-substitution (18, OED).
- 4 pairs:** Tzu-lai-shui Chu-shui-ch'ih (21, Taiwan, 23° 28', 120° 28', NIMA), and many other longer place names, and Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali (28, Bloomsbury Thesaurus)
- 5 pairs:** Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus (29, Bloomsbury Thesaurus), Hsiang-hsi-t'u-chia-tsu-miao-tsu Tzu-chih-chou (36, China, 28° 19', 109° 43', NIMA)
- 6 pairs:** Hui-shui-pu-i-tsu-miao-tsu-tzu-chih-hsien (32, China, 26° 08', 106° 36', NIMA)

Previous references to 4 or more Is or Us include: WW69-053, 70-252, 87-110, 97-086, and 98-113.