

ENLARGING ENGLISH TAUTONYMS

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In a companion article, Hugo Brandt Corstius exhibits a set of Dutch words consisting of tautonyms to which have been added an additional letter of the alphabet in the beginning, in the middle, or at the end. This article exhibits corresponding English words drawn from Webster's Second or Third (except when noted). When the extra letter is in the middle, these words were christened by John Ferguson as Heads 'n' Tails Words, and a type collection was presented by Murray Pearce in the August 1971 Word Ways (with some better examples in February 1972). Susan Thorpe revisited the problem in February 2000, christening them Miami words but restricting herself to five-letter examples from a wide variety of sources. She was able to find examples for all central letters but Q and X. Words in italics can appear in either the first or third columns.

A	<i>alfalfa</i>	muckamuck	<i>alfalfa</i>
B	binging	beriberic	brere
C	ceded	outscouts	mimic
D	dinging	okeydokey	bebed
E	<i>entente</i>	sereser	<i>entente</i>
F	fierier	Kafka	
G	gnana	magma	tinting
H	halal	outshouts	tutuh
I	ifafa	trinitrin	babai
J	jnana	anjan	
K	Kansans	arkar	shashak
L	linin	overlover	tetel
M	moriori	pampa	cocom
N	neses	tarantara	Miamian
O	opepe	ingoing	cacao
P	pinging	outspouts	dadap
Q	queue		
R	ringing	verve	thether
S	singing	hotshot	murmurs
T	tinging	ictic	pipit
U	<i>ululu</i>	shush	<i>ululu</i>
V	versers	shavsha	Popov
W	winging	abwab	papaw
X	xylyl	Manxman	
Y	yeses	tookytook	Barbary
Z	zinging		Susuz

Susuz is a town in Turkey listed in the Times Atlas of the World, and Markian M. Popov was a Russian general during World War II. Kafka is not in Webster's Second or Third, but is a well-known name.