

ALL-DIAGONAL SIX-SQUARES WITH FAMILIAR WORDS

REX GOOCH

Letchworth Garden City, Herts, England

rexgooch@ntlworld.com

I have previously attempted to find word squares with words as diagonals for squares of order 9, 8, and 7. As the order of the square decreases, it becomes possible to use more familiar words. The six rows and three diagonals of six-squares make nine words: in all the examples in this article, the majority of the nine words are in the most-used 87,000 words (British National Corpus): in the best square, just two words do not appear in the top 87,000. It is then no surprise to find that all but relatively few words are in the OED as headwords. Given the stringent criteria, I found just 1965 squares, dependent upon 374 reversible words and 319 palindromes. Unfortunately, the squares with the largest number of most-used words tend to have boring palindromes, so I have given a selection of palindromes, even though the squares contain less popular words. Following each square are the diagonals, as read from NE or SW, NW, and SE. The notation '4:' after a square gives an alternative for the fourth row.

In the following square, all except ETERNE and EEEEE are in the top 87,000 words

(slieve is the Irish for mountain)

S L I E V E	Macquarie, or OED piper
L E N T E N	[1b 1884]
I N V E N T	
E T E R N E	
V E N N E R	Web2, a family name
E N T E R S	
EEEEEE	EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEVRES	Sèvres, the porcelain
SERVES	

The following squares have 6 of their 9 words in the top 87,000

S T I F L E	
T E N U E S	
I N V E S T	
F U E R S E	
L E S S E R	
E S T E R S	plural
	diagonals as above
or 4: FUERTE (Web2, below line), 5: LESTER	
(see lestercock)	

S K O P J E	
K E R R E Y	
O R I E N T	
P R E N S A	
J E N S E N	
E Y T A N D	
EEEEEE	EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEINED	seine
DENIES	

S C H A P E	
C E A S E S	
H A V E N T	
A S E R V E	
P E N V E R	
E S T E R S	
EEEEEE	EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEVRES	Sèvres, the porcelain
SERVES	

S T E E L E	
T E R M E N	Web2
E R V E S T	
E M E R S E	
L E S S E R	
E N T E R S	
	diagonals as above
or 2: TERMES, 6: ESTERS	

SWIETE
WENGEN
INVENT
EGERNE
TENNER
ENTERS

diagonals as above

SYBASE
YEAVEN
BAVENT
AVERSE
SENSER
ENTERS

diagonals as above

STABLE
TIPLER
APNEAL
BLENDE
LEADEN

ERLEND Erlend Øye, pop star
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

STAPLE
TIERED
AENEID
PRENSA
LEISER

La Prensa is widely quoted
see leisure
EDDARD EDD, form of edder
diagonals as above

These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

ACTORS
CRESSET
TEOTHE
OSTMEN
REHEAT
STENTS
SETTES
AROMAS
SAMORA

cresset, 1730q, or Web3
[cresset
Ostmen
stent
plural of sette
President Machel, Mozambique

DRYADS
REALIA
YANCEY
ALCINE
DIENER
SAYERS
SICCIS
DENIES
SEINED

county, North Carolina
Web2
plural
Pcon, or OED Caorsin
seine

DASSEL
AIOUEA
SOAPED
SUPPED
EEEEEE
LADDER
LEPPEL
DIAPER
REPAID

dassel(l
Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
[plant
EE-EE-EE, EDD
EDD

LEBOWA
EARROT
BRIANT
ORANGE
WONGEN
ATTEND
AOAAOA
LAINED
DENIAL

Lebowa, Maquarie
ear rot, Web2
family name, warehouseman
[2 1677q
Pcon
lain, verb

REGARD
EEEEEE
GENRES
AERNDE
REEDER
DESERT
DERRED
RENNET
TENNER

EE-EE-EE, EDD
plural
ærnde
=dared, Pa

R A P I D S
 A E O N I C æonic
 P O P L A R
 I N L I N E *see in-line*
 D I A N N E forename and place
 S C R E E S scree
 S I L L I S sill 1a 1536q
 R E P I N S repin
 S N I P E R

S M E G M A
 M E D I A L
 E D V A R D forename, Orrefors, 1929q
 G I A R R E town, Catania Province, Italy
 M A R R E R
 A L D E R S
 A A A A A Pcon, shoe-width
 S E V R E S Sèvres, the china
 S E R V E S

or 2: MEDIAN, 5: ANDERS (lunar crater)

All the following have the same diagonals, viz:

EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
 SEVRES Sèvres, the china
 SERVES

S P H Y R E
 P E A H E N
 H A V E N T haven't
 Y H E R D E
 R E N D E R
 E N T E R S

or 4: YHERNE, 5: RENNER

S P L A K E
 P E A H E N
 L A V E R D
 A H E R N E eg Bertie Aherne, PM of
 K E R N E R [Ireland
 E N D E R S ender

S T I E D E
 T E N N E S
 I N V E N T
 E N E R V E
 D E N V E R in Colorado
 E S T E R S

S T I F L E
 T E N U E S
 I N V E C T
 F U E R T E Web2, below line
 L E C T E R *see lectern*
 E S T E R S

S T R A L E
 T E E H E E teehee, *see tee-hee C*
 R E V E A L
 A H E R N E eg Bertie Aherne, PM of
 L E A N E R [Ireland
 E E L E R S

S T R A T E
 T E E V E E
 R E V E A L
 A V E R S E
 T E A S E R
 E E L E R S

S T R E D E
 T E E M E D
 R E V E N D
 E M E R S E Web2 below line
 D E N S E R
 E D D E R S

S T R O B E
 T E E V E E
 R E V E A L
 O V E R T E
 B E A T E R
 E E L E R S eeler
or 4: REVELL, 5: BELTER

S A C H E T
 A I O U E A Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
 C O N N E R [plant
 H U N N E R
 E E E E E E EE-EE-EE, EDD
 T A R R E D

T E N N E T
 S I N N E D
 D E N N I S my brother, a make of truck
or 1: SACRET (sacreng, sacret), 4: RUNNER

S A C K E D
 A I O U E A Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
 C O N N E R [plant
 K U N N E N
 E E E E E E EE-EE-EE, EDD
 D A R N E D
 D E N N E D den 3
 S I N N E D
 D E N N I S my brother, a make of truck
or 1: SACRED, 4: RUNNET, 6: DARTED

S A S S E R
 A I O U E A Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
 S O N N E T [plant
 S U N N E T *see* Sunna
 E E E E E E EE-EE-EE, EDD
 R A T T E D
 R E N N E R
 S I N N E D
 D E N N I S my brother, a make of truck

The following squares have these diagonals:

EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
 SINNED
 DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

S P E A L E
 P I N G E D ping, verb
 E N N E A D
 A G E N D A
 L E A D E R
 E D D A R D EDD, form of edder
or 1: SPEARE, 5: READER

S T A P P E
 T I E R E D
 A E N E I D
 P R E N S A La Prensa is widely quoted
 P E I S E R
 E D D A R D EDD, form of edder
or 1: STAPTE, 5: TEISER

S W A I D E
 W I N T E R
 A N N E A L
 I T E N D E i-tende
 D E A D E N
 E R L E N D Erlend Øye, pop singer

S E E K E R
 E L M O R E Gloucestershire
 E M E R G E
 K O R E A S Koreas
 E R G A T E
 R E E S E S reese, verb
 R R R R R R Ulysses, p. 373
 S L E E T S sleet, verb
 S T E E L S steel

S A F E S T
 A T O R A I Atorai, Web2
 F O R M I N Web2, or uro-, 1900q
 E R M A N I Ermani, Latvia
 S A I N T E eg Sainte Chapelle
 T I N I E S plural of noun

T A M M A T EDD or place
 S T R A T S Fender Stratocasters
 S T A R T S

T A S S E R Web2, below line
 A I O U E A Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
 S O N N E T [plant
 S U N K E N
 E E E E E E EE-EE-EE, EDD
 R A T N E R 'Doing a Gerald Ratner'*
 R E N N E R
 T I N K E R
 R E K N I T

* now describes any business gaffe. He notoriously described a sherry decanter as 'total crap' in a speech: he ran the chain of jewellery shops selling it.

In the following squares, 8 of the 9 words are OED headwords

F R A C H E
 R I D L E Y
 A D R E A D
 C L E R T E
 H E A T E N
 E Y D E N T
 E E E E E E EE-EE-EE, EDD
 F I R R E T ferret
 T E R R I F

S P R E T E
P E E V E D
R E V E N D
E V E R S E
T E N S E R
E D D E R S

EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEVRES Sèvres, the porcelain
SERVES

S P R O T E
P E E V E D
R E V E N D
O V E R T E
T E N T E R
E D D E R S

diagonal as above

S L E Y R E
L I N S E Y
E N N E A D
Y S E N D E
R E A D E N
E Y D E N T

EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SINNET
TENNIS

or 1: STEYLE, 2: TINSEY

or 1: STEYRE, 2: TINSEY

T W I C H E
W A N R E D
I N L E A D
C R E L L E
H E A L E R
E D D E R S

EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
TALLES
SELLAT

T R E S L E
R E N T E D
E N N E A D
S T E N K E
L E A K E R
E D D E R S

EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
TENNES
SENNET

T A S T L E
A I T H E R
S T R E E N
T H E R N E
L E E N E S
E R N E S T

strain

EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
TIRRET
TERRIT

T R U S S E
R I P I E R
U P R E I N
S I E R S E
S E I S E S
E R N E S T

diagonal as above

or 2: RIPPER, 4: SPERSE

T R A S S E
R I G H T Y
A G R E E D
S H E R V E
S T E V E N
E Y D E N T

ETEETE Pcon (or places)

TIRRET
TERRIT

T A B E R T
A R R E A R
B R A L L E
E E L S E T
R A L E S T
T R E T T E

eel-set

rale, adj.

TALLAT
TRASSE
ESSART

A six-square with its top row equal to its NW diagonal is to be found in W83-26. All words are in the OED as headwords, or are in the most used 87,000 words, except where noted. EDD = English Dialect Dictionary. Pcon = Palindromicon. ITIS = database of US Dept. of Agriculture.