

ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

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“I couldn’t believe that I could actually understand what I was reading. The phenomenal power of the human mind. According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn’t matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be in the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole. Amazing huh? Yeah and I always thought spelling was important.”

I now use the method of that paragraph, with one difference, to ease you into reading alphomes. I’ve kept the correct first and last letters, but I put the internal letters in alphabetical order rather than scramble them allegedly at random. I call this style an ‘alphome sandwich’. But I sense that that paragraph is easier to read than this one. If so it’s not completely true. The nature of the internal scramble matters. To test that suspicion on you I shall now repeat the above paragraph using the alphome sandwich method. [repeat of the first paragraph]

What that harder? I’d say yes for the longer words but probably not for the others. Do you agree? If you’re not sure, have someone else read the two versions but read the second one (mine) first. Still, it would take a much larger project to tell for sure.

Now I’ll come to the point and switch to alphabetizing each word fully to see how readable it is. It’s hard at first, isn’t it? But after a while it begins to be decipherable if not actually speed-readable. I’m surprised I can make it out at all. If I used only short words I think it would be almost easy to read. I’ll now repeat the i-net report in alphomes—now that you have practically memorized it! [repeat of the first paragraph]

Finally, to be totally extreme, I’ll now scramble a sentence in a way calculated to mislead you by deliberately choosing letter orders I judge to be least likely readable. Can you read this?

Punk Whiz 2 Anil

1 double standard 2 wild goose chase 3 chronic fatigue syndrome 4 high and dry 5 milestone
6 classified ads 7 third-degree burns 8 counterclockwise 9 days on end 10 dope fiend
11 brainwashing 12 coffee grinds 13 brownie points 14 encyclopedia 15 English Channel
16 never mind 17 cocksucker 18 abominable snowman 19 artificial intelligence 20 down pat
21 autoimmune 22 done up 23 give someone a hard time 24 bloodcurdling 25 little wonder
26 fair weather friend 27 as fast as all get out 28 drawers 29 goes without saying
30 goes all the way 31 autumn leaves 32 broadband 33 bandwagon 34 digital watch
35 domineering 36 smart as a whip

Palindromic Triads: Not Quite Agamemnon Steven Kahan

1 elegists 2 cyclists 3 lollipop 4 titlists 5 analysis 6 lollygag 7 papooses 8 eyepiece 9 anapests
10 academe 11 paperer 12 sashimi 13 oboists 14 ukulele 15 emended 16 mimosas 17 awarded
18 amasses 19 abases 20 cicada 21 gigolo 22 ibises 23 irises 24 papaya 25 sasses 26 sestet
27 usurer