OVERLAPS Part 1

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If the two words PANT and TRY are merged so that the two letter Ts overlap we obtain the word PANTRY. In other words, the parent word PANTRY will split into the offspring PANT and TRY by duplicating the T.

Overlaps may be of any length and can occur anywhere in a word except for the first and last letters. In these lists of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-letter overlap(s), the parent word and the first of its offspring do not have the same basic root as clinger and cling do in...clinger = cling + linger. Such a relationship becomes more difficult to avoid as parent words become longer.

Some words exhibit a single overlap whilst others exhibit multiple overlaps (two or more overlaps).

SINGLE OVERLAPS

A. OFFSPRING ARE NOT MEANINGFULLY RELATED TO EACH OTHER

1-letter overlaps (A-Z)

spam = spa + am
combust = comb + bust
machine = mac + chine
address = add + dress

caveat = cave + eat
muffin = muff + fin
coherent = cog + ent
archer = arch + her

skin = ski + in
hijack = hij (high) + jack
monkey = monk + key
million = mill + lion

plume = plum + me
hornet = horn + net
dour = do + our
lamprey + lamp + prey

sequin = seq. + quin
tarot = tar + rot
astern = as + stern
suitable = suit + able

flutter = flu + utter
reverse = rev + verse
towell = tow + welled
axel = ax + xel (shall)

Transposal Offspring:
bye = by + ye
fezen (diial. pheasant) = fez + Zen

2-letter overlaps (A-Z)

mangle = man + angle
Alban = alba + ban
discover = disco + cover
rodent = rode + dent

yeast = yea + east
define = defi (defy) + fine
agent = age + gent
lather = lathe + her

ration = ratio + ion
ajar = aja (It. nurse) + jar
skin = ski + kin
flog = Flo (name) + log

comet = come + met
sinew = sine + new
brown = brow + own
expose = Expo + pose

Bigat (Israel) = Biga (Jordan) + qat (a narcotic drug)
operate = opera + rate
ashy = ash + shy

rectory = recto + tory
funder = fun + under
diyan = diva + van

stowed = Stowe (in Buckinghamshire, UK) + wed
taxeme = taxe (tax) + xeme (a fork-tailed gull)

Transposal Offspring:
ryot (an Indian peasant) = ryo (former Japanese coin) + yot (yet)
dozent = doze + Zen

3-letter overlaps (A-Z)

fallow = fall + allow
urbane = urban + bane
incase = Incas + case

Andrew = Andre + drew
yearn = year + earn
baffled (puzzled) = baffle + fled

Hugh = hug? + ugh!
regale = regal + gale
majoram (old 'marjoram') = major + oram (a large drinking bowl)
plane = plan + lane
plane
clover = clove + over
grind = grin + rind
founder = found + under
loxian = loxia (crossbill genus) + Xian (surname)
pying (the alphabetical index to rolls and records) = pyin (a substance found in pus) + ying (drug-craving)
bazoom (bosom) = bazoo (slang; mouth) + zoom

Transposral Offspring:
regale
shunt = shun + hunt
clinker (type of brick) = clink + inker
jerking = jerkin + king
finest = fines + nest
squad = squa (old 'squaw') + quad
sating = satin + ting
twine = twin + wine
sages = sage (herb) + ages
diced (vegetables) = dice (roll) + iced
plump = plum + lump
Rover (the dog!) = rove + over
stubs (cigarette) = stub (toe) + tubs

4-letters overlap
Marian = Maria + Arian
slinger = sling (for arm) + linger
asteroid = aster + steroid

Transposral Offspring:
hedged (one's bets) = hedge + edged
Oliver = olive + liver
ethane = Ethan (name) + Thane
tablet = table + ablet (Bleak fish)
scores (with a knife) = score + cores
scrap = scrap + scraps
hearth = heart + earth
shades (of colour) = shade (from the sun) + Hades
rosier = Rosie + osier

5-letters overlap
Shambles (a street in York) = shamble + ambles

Transposral Offspring:
rambler (can't get to the point) = ramble + ambler
gasking (gasket) = Gaskin (name; native of Gascony) + asking
grating = gratin + rating

B. OFFSPRING FORM A PHRASE-LIKE CONFIGURATION OR ARE RELATED WORDS

1-letter overlaps
thorgxes = Thora axes
redress = red dress
Hungary = hung Gary
masking = mask king
canine = can nine?
Herod = her rod
you = you, us
rayon = Ray yon

2-letters overlap
Hadrian = had Adrian?
tenter = ten enter
composes = Compo poses (for UK TV viewers)
gutters = gut utters!

3-letters overlap
grants = gran rants
pusher (drug) = push usher
founder = found under

Bombay = bomb bay (in plane)
heats = he eats
wither = with her
allies = all lies
gout = go out
history = his story
revile = Rev. vile
ozone = Oz zone

vacant = vac can’t
refined = ref. fined
ski = ski it
theme = them, me
impair = imp pair
nothing = not ‘thing’
owner = now where

drawl = draw awl
thought = thou ought
operated = opera rated

Gwent (in Wales) = Gwen went
4-letters overlap
olives = Olive lives  orange = orang range  graced = Grace raced
Broads (Norfolk) = broad roads  borates = Borat orates

In spite of the first of these offspring having the same root as the parent word, my favourites include:
shopping = shop hopping  lover = love over  tripper = trip ripper (dodgy travel agent)
caddies = caddie dies (the golf ball hit him!)

MULTIPLE OVERLAPS

Some parent words, by means of multiple overlaps, produce more than 2 offspring. These parent words can
be divided into two categories:
A. those which provide the maximum number of overlaps possible.
B. those which provide less than the maximum number of overlaps

The number of letters involved in successive overlaps is given in brackets.

A. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OVERLAPS

The maximum number of overlaps for a word of n letters is n - 2. This only occurs under 2 conditions -
when each overlap involves only one letter and each offspring consists of 2 letters.
1 overlap: mat = ma + at (1)
2 overlaps: sofa = so + of + fa (1 1)
3 overlaps: mason = ma + as + so + on (1 1 1)
4 overlaps: masher = ma + as + sh + he + er (1 1 1 1)

B. LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OVERLAPS

(a) 3 offspring
mother = moth + the + er (2 1)  postage = post + stag + age (2 2)  limerick = lime + Eric + rick (1 3)
towelling = tow + well + ling (1 1)  bramble = bra + ram + amble (2 2)  hither = hit + the + her (1 2)
upright = up + prig + right (1 3)  rotundo = rot + tun + undo (1 2)  heart = he + ear + art (1 2)
amuse = am + mu + use (1 1)  pulpit = pulp + pi + it (1 1)  grandish = gran + and + dish (2 1)
Offspring make a phrase: rated = rat ate Ted (2 2)

(b) 4 offspring
teacher = tea + each + ache + her (2 3 2)  buttered = but + utter + ere + red (2 2 2)
anthem = ant + nth + the + hem (2 2 2)  therein = the + her + ere + rein (2 2 2)
collapsing = coll + laps + psi + sing (1 2 2)  plantable = plan + ant + tab + able (2 1 2)

(c) 5 offspring
tintometry = tin + into + tome + met + try (2 2 2 1)

(d) 6 offspring
southeastern = sou + out + the + east + aster + stern (2 1 1 3 4)

(e) 12 offspring
antheridiophore = an + nth + the + her + eri (errie) + rid + Idi + Io + oph (oaf) + ho + or + re
(1 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1)

Other types of overlap will be offered in Overlaps Part 2.