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 + cat muffin = muff + fin cogent = cog + gent 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 + table

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

bye = by + ye fezen (dia. pheasant) = fez + Zen onion = Oni (a Nigerian title) + ion

Transpositional Offspring:

mam = ma + am shamash = sham + mash stearates = steel (old 'stare') + rates

2-letters overlap (A?-Z?)
mangle = man + angle Albion = 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 flop = Flo (name) + log

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

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

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

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

ryot (an Indian peasant) = ryo (former Japanese coin) + yot (yet) dozen = doze + Zen

Transpositional Offspring:
palp = pal + alp tart = tar + art eraser = eras + aser (old dozen = doze + Zen

chic = chi + hic chinch (bedbug) = chin + inch 1/azure'

Romero (surname) = Rome + mero (sea perch)
Masham (town in Yorkshire) = mash + sham Hugh = hug? + ugh!

setose = Seto (city in Japan) + tose (old ‘toes’) Hugh = hug? + ugh!

3-letters overlap (A??-Z??)
fallow = fall + allow urbane = urban + bane incase = Incas + case

Andrew = Andre + drew yearn = year + earn baffled (puzzled) = baffle + fled
regale = regal + gale
majoram (old 'marjoram') = major + joram (a large drinking bowl)
plane = plan + lane
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

Transpossal Offspring:
shunt = shun + hunt
amen = amen + mend
lupine = lupin + pine
Ruskin = Ruski + skin
even = even + vent
sages = sage (herb) + ages
plump = plum + lump
stubs (cigarette) = stub (toe) + tubs
diced (vegetables) = dice (roll) + iced
Rover (the dog!) = rove + over

4-letters overlap
Marian = Maria + Arian
slinger = sling (for arm) + linger
asteroid = aster + steroid
Transpossal Offspring:
hedged (one's bets) = hedge + edged
slight = slight + eight
ethane = Ethan (name) + Thane
tablet = table + ablet (Bleak fish)
scores (with a knife) = score + cores
scraps (left overs) = scrap(tight)+craps
hearth = heart + earth
shades (of colour) = shade (from the sun) + Hades
rosier = Rosie + osier

5-letters overlap
Shambles (a street in York) = shamble + ambles
Transpossal 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?
Hered = her rod
yous = you, us
rayon = Ray yon
Bombay = bomb bay (in plane)
heats = he eats
wither = with her
alllies = all lies
out = go out
history = his story
revile = Rev. vile
ozone = Oz zone
vacant = vac can't
refined = ref. fined
shut = ski it
them = them, me
impair = imp pair
nothing = not 'thing'
nowhere = now where

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

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

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

Gwent (in Wales) = Gwen went
**4-letters overlap**

olives = Olive lives  
o = 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)
towell = 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 = rate 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 + rea (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 (eerie) + rid + Idi + Io + oph (oaf) + ho + or + re

(1 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1)

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