

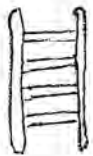
## COINCIDENTAL SYNONYM CHAINS

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Coincidental self(ish) synonymy was defined in 04-45 (& 129) as words spelled the same (& nearly the same) that mean approximately the same but, surprisingly, are unrelated etymologically.

04-129 lists three alphabetical order WORD LADDERS of unrelated synonyms.



**flush plush slush** All three mean both luxuriant *and* drunk—a double triple, except that flush and plush may be related. Authorities differ.

**gush hush lush rush** All mean profuse or pour forth rapidly, all unrelated.

**scatter shatter smatter spatter sputter stutter** These are not all synonyms but a chain of synonyms, mostly unrelated (at least four different roots).

Here's a new five synonym word ladder—if you'll count the contraction of (i)s **one**. They're partly related, comprising two unrelated groups. Only[,] the last step[,] involves a transposition.

<b>solo</b>	<sole
<b>sole</b>	<OF <i>soule</i> <Latin <i>sōlus</i> , alone, <i>sōlum</i> , only
<b>'s one</b>	one <OE <i>ān</i> , an, <G <i>ein</i> [etc] <I-E <i>oinos</i> , root of OL <i>oinos</i> and L. <i>ūnus</i> , one
<b>lone</b>	<ME <i>alone</i> < <i>all one</i> (<all <G <i>al</i> [etc] <I-E <i>alnos</i> . + <one)
<b>only</b>	<one

Also in 04-129 is a coincidental synonymy SERIAL BEHEADMENT:

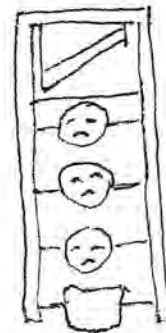
**stroll troll roll**. All mean walk leisurely, all unrelated.

This new mixed one is three synonyms for wrinkle or scrunch up, the first two related, the third not:

<b>scrumple</b>	< crumple
<b>crumple</b>	<OE <i>crump</i> <G <i>krumm</i> , crooked
<b>rumple</b>	<rimple <OE <i>hrympel</i> , rel. to MD <i>rompel</i> , wrinkle.

As an aside, here's another serial beheadment, but this time it's sentential rather than all synonyms.

**Ha, score**  
**as core,**  
**score**  
**core**  
**ore**  
**re**  
**E.**



The triangle has repeated words but makes up for it by being a coherent sentence, a tale about fuel prospecting. *E* = energy (*Cassell Dict. of Abbrv*). The first 'core' means drill or dig out as with a fruit. The second core means: 1) buried; 2) "crucial to the economy" (read: company profits).

Next, a pair of coincidental synonymy HOURGLASSES made of seven near synonyms for push, step or hit down on. The two structures differ by a single letter in the fifth line. Trap once meant step on and still suggests clamp down on sharply. Ramp, use force against (*Cassell Dict. Slang*), is a weaker synonym but also fits.

stamp  
tamp  
tap  
rap  
trap  
tramp

stamp  
tamp  
tap  
rap  
ramp  
tramp



Note the absence of transpositions in either version. The seven words are unrelated except possibly trap/tramp and perhaps secondarily stamp/tamp by later influence on spelling. The etymologies:

stamp <OE *stempan*, <D<G *stempen*, stamp, pound, stomp; ?<I-E *stemb* to abuse  
tamp <tampion <MF *tampon* <OF *tapon*, a bung or plug, ?<OE or G *tap*<sup>2</sup>, faucet  
tap<sup>1</sup> <OE *tepen*; ?<OF *taper*, strike, or of imitative origin; unrelated to tap<sup>2</sup>, faucet  
rap ?<Sw *rappa*, beat, drub, or of independent imitative origin  
trap <IE *dreβ*, to tread, step (on)  
ramp <OF *ramper*, creep or crawl, ?<G *rampf*, wrinkle, or of unknown origin  
tramp <ME, probably <G *trampen* to stamp [*not* stomp] (possibly related to trap)

I can, with trepidation, enlarge it into this very forced but aesthetically justified(?) hourglass by inserting three mere cognates from *Cassell Dict. of Abbreviations* (\*96) right at the heart of things. Let AP#1 mean angina pectoris, #2 atomic power, both cognates of hit. Or, in Jeff Grant's 2-letter Dictionary, ap means place a cover down on, tuck in, for another cognate. P (or *p*) means strike down softly on a piano key or musical note.

STAMP  
TAMP  
TAP  
AP  
P  
AP  
RAP  
TRAP (or RAMP)  
TRAMP



Other coincidental (unrelated) selfish synonym hourglasses are implicit in 04-129:

flush	hover	boil
lush	over	broil
plush	cover	roil

First example is from above. In the third the hourglass figure sadly has sagged into obesity.

Another, mixed hourglass arises from sax/ax (op. cit.) by adding zax:

**sax ax zax**

Sax = zax is not related to ax despite both being chipper-choppers.

zax < sax < OE *seax*, knife, akin to OE *sagu*, saw < L. *securis*, axe < *secare*, to cut, akin to L. *saxum*, rock [dating back to stone tool days?]

ax < OE *aeces*, *aex*, axe ?< proto-G *akus* ?<I-E *agwesī*, (axe?) — or ?<L. *ascis* < *acsia*, axe <Gk *axīnē* <I-E *aksī*, axe.