

## SHIFTY NUMBERS

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While probing endless logologico-mathematical esoterica for an article on Extreme Number Names we explored shiftgrams of number names cardinal, ordinal and Roman on Dave's lettershift calculator (described in *Alphabet Avenue*, p.111). Shiftgrams move all the letters of a word the same number of spaces forward in the alphabet, wrapping as needed so that A = 1 *and* 27, etc. The best (known) example shifts 'cheer' seven letters forward to 'jolly'.

The best one we found was for THREE, which 4-shifts to XLVII, which Anil punctuated without rearrangement to either (X/L)(V)+I+I or X/(L/V)+I+I, both of which = III.

Here are some other self-referential results: (number of shifts in parentheses)

ONE (13) = bar & NONE (13) = a-bar, its infinitely perfect opposite. (one/none =  $\infty$ )

NONE (10) = xyxo > X/Y x 0 = 0 = none. (a common cheat calling 0 O, as in reciting phone nrs.)

TEN (10) = dox > "Do X." — a recipe for generating *ten*. (by a *ten* shift)

FIRST (9) = orabc > or ABC — *first* principles.

TENTH (10) = doxdr > "Do X, Dr." — a "professorial" extension of the *ten* ten-shift above.

NTH? (11) = Yes! (an inside joke for whoever knows what is nth)

No Arabic number word shifts to a five-letter Web3 word, and only two shift to four-letter words:

NONE (4) = divs (demons); NINE (13) = Avar (a people and language). As well,

FIVE (19) = y box (a Web3 electricity phrase) and SEVEN (10) = co-fox, a possible nonce word.

Far more Roman than Arabic numbers gave words, but only three yielded (forced) cognates:

XII (3) = all > a L=L — ie, all L's are the same and = 12 alphanumerically. (groan)

Or all > *al. L* — an *other* way of saying XII. (Therefore 12 = 50? — a \$38 mark-up!)

CI (21) = XD. Doubling it > (X)(D)(X/D) = C/I, a punc lib charade of CI. (10x500x1/50 = 100/1)

XXI (15) = MMX. Although 21  $\neq$  2010, they have the same digit sum, 3. 2010 also resembles 21

and becomes 21 if the zeroes are removed, being mere nothings. Similarly, XXII = MMXX (22=2020) and XXIII = MMXXX (23=2030).

Of the many non-cognate words from Romans, these four-letter W3 words were found:

XLII (22) = Thee! (*Thee* art 42, the meaning of life, the universe & everything, because...)

XVII (22) = *Tree* (the root of it all).

LXXI, CXXI, DXXI (7) = seep, jeep, keep.

MXXI + XX (7) = teepee. (a teepee-made-for-two Romans)

LMXXI (7) = steep—although 971 is more properly CMLXXI.

XCVI (22) = tyre. This is the only Roman example without double letters, four different letters, one for each corner of the vehicle.

CXII, DXII, MXII (3) = fall, gall, pall.

DCCX (1) = eddy.

MDCC (23) = jazz.

Again, no legitimate single number gave a five letter word or longer.

Allowing letter rearrangement after a shift gave some longer words, selfies and other fun results:

ZERO (9) = inax> a nix (a *zero*).

THREE (10) = drboo> Dr. Boo brood; (7) = aoyll> alloy; (22) = pdnaa> panda. (*three* fivers)

FOUR (12) = ragd> Drag darg, Gard grad. — *four* anagrams in a polyanagram sentence.

(Gard is a place in France but not in Web3, where it wouldn't fit.)

FIVE (13) = svir> V, sir. (*Five*, Mister.)

EIGHT (22) = aecdp> caped paced. (Superman?)

EIGHT (7) = lpnoa> plano.

NINE (10) = xsxo > (X - X<sup>0</sup>)'s = *nine* 's: (10 - 1)'s.

TWELVE (4) = xaipzi> XII - zap! (*Twelve* - take that!)

TWELVE (22) = psahra> A-sharp harpas (off-key molluscs).

FORTY (18) = xgjlq> XL gjq. (*Forty* gjq might be dangerous if only we knew what a gjq was!)

FIFTY-FIVE (9) = orochoren> re Orochon (a people, W3; or Orochi). Is one called an Orochoner?

If so this is by far the largest single word shiftgram-anagram result found for any number word, possibly for any word (?). And it's a 9-shift of a nine letter word.

HUNDRED (11) = sfyocpo> posy of C (a *hundred* flowers).

THREE THOUSAND lzjuu lzGMKsfy: while no anagram is possible this one is notable for having G, M and K together, the *three* different one letter equivalents of *thousand*: Grand (\$), Roman M and Kilo-, totaling *three thousand*. (3000 metric Roman dollars?)

FIRST (21) = admno> monad (= *one*).

SECOND (16) = iusedt> Used, it. (*second* hand).

FOURTH (14) = tcifhv> cf. IVth (see *fourth*).

FIFTH (19) = ybyma> By May! (Pay by the *fifth* month or else!) (For a fifth of whiskey?)

SIXTH (11) = dties> I'd set diets, sited ID-set edit's tides. (*six* anagram sentence)

SEVENTH (19) = lxoxgma. Doubling > Go! Am LXX/X, log max. (LXX/X = *seven*.)

Anil couldn't resist cheating here by zipping two numbers together in a polyanagram.

TENTH (11) = epyes> Spy E+E. (Letters five + five = *ten*. But no, that's upside down. It's two *tenths* make a fifth! Yet two fives make a *ten*. Isn't life strange.)

TENTH (4) = xirxl, a near miss: xirxl, by replacing r with m, rearranges to MLXXI, which

22-shifts to ihtte > tithe (a *tenth*). Tithe also trans-substitutes to *tenth* by replacing i with n.

MDCLXVI (18) = evudpna> unpaved dupe van. (Pun, Dave!) – *pun on 666, rough road/ride to hell*.

For good measure, we throw in three apt non-number shiftgrams. The first two are direct hits, no rearrangements. The third use a half reversal for a > < implosion structure.

DOXY (3+23+6) = Grab a luv, Jude. (loose woman)

USA (12) = Gem. (*Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean*)

Eckler (16) = usabuh> USA hub! (logology hub)