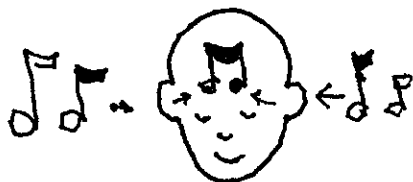


THE NAUTONYM STORY CONTINUES

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Nautonyms are words pronounced but not spelt tautologically, like RETREAT (14-106). Susan Thorpe (14-172, 15-169) cited Oxford [OED] to support her candidates KICKY, LILY, NINNY, PIPPY, SISSY and TITTY to be pronounced with two short i's ("i/i") and declared as 'wrong' our independent impressions (Anil 14-265; Jeff 15-107) they're pronounced short i, long e ("i/e"). Darryl Francis (p. comm.) and Brits Jeff knows from different parts of England also say i/e and haven't heard i/i for any of these. Still, the old OED does give them as i/i, and Chambers [ChD] and Webster's 2nd [W2] agree. But Webster's 3rd [W3] revises to i/e, with i/i a second option. Others give *only* the i/e option (Random House [RH], Macquarie Australian [Mq], Wiktionary [Wikt.], Oxford American [OAD] and Oxford's online British & World English [BWE]). So we are not wrong! See "Varieties of English" in the ChD introduction. Furthermore, OED itself in its latest online update (via Darryl) has revised two of these words, NINNY and PIPPY, to i/e. A single dictionary, especially an old one, can't be relied on to tell the whole story.

Susan's challenge prompted us to reexamine all 32 nautonym candidates proffered by her and us (*op. cit.*) and Dave Morice (14-106), plus two dozen new ones (marked *). We've consulted all the above dictionaries except the OED online updates for each word, with these results:

> *FAIL*: These 8 are not nautonyms anywhere listed, the halves sounded differently:
ANNAN (surname), EXECES, HUBBUB, INCENSE, INSENSE (inform), *OHO, TEATY (fretful),
WOODWARD (toward a woods; surname).

> *PASS*: These 30 are clear nautonyms. They have the same sounds for their halves in at least one dictionary. Those without a citation are agreed on by most dictionaries.

BEEBE (surname: RH; var. of bebe, a cake: Wikt.)

* BIBBY (surname and eponymous ship's passageway stateroom: ChD)

* BUBBA (redneck [cap.]: *Webster's Collegiate*, 11th ed.)

* BUBBER (tippler: W2 word, W3 pronunciation of parts; also bubbler and var. of bubba, brother)

COCOA

CUCKER (punisher by cucking stool: *Urban Dict.*, not pronounced; + W3, cuck and -er = schwa)

* CUCKOO (OAD, W3, Wikt.)

CUSCUSS (var. of cuscus, the edible root: OED)

* DADAH (illicit recreational drugs: BWE)

* DADDAH (surname: RH)

DEEDY (busy, industrious: BWE)

DIDDY (titty)

EASIES (step-in garments: Mq)

ENTENTE (international agreement)

* ISES (plural of is, that which is; in W3 unpronounced, but in BWE is = -es)

LEALLY (loyally: W3 option)

* LILLY (lovely, charming: *English Dialect Dictionary*)

LULLER (one who quietens, eg by lullaby: W3 option)
 * MAMMA (mother [but not the milk organ]: ChD, W3 option)
 MEEMIE (hysterical person: BWE)
 MUMMER (pantomime actor: W3 option)
 NINE-EYE (lamprey: singular in *Encycl. Londinensis* 1825 and elsewhere, but in no dictionary)
 * PAPAW (papaya)
 PEEPY (sleepy)
 * PRE-PRIX (before the Grand Prix: Net use, no pronunciation, but pre- = prix in ChD, BWE)
 RETREAT (W3 option) This, the first nautonym (14-106), was also declared wrong in 15-169.
 * RE-TREAT (treat again: RH, W3)
 * TARTARE (of fish or steak served raw; seafood sauce: ChD, BWE)
 TIGHT-EYE (sleep; shrub, thicket: *Dict. American Regional English*; thanks again to Darryl)
 TUTTER (fuss; stutter: *English Dialect Dict.*; also verb, to say tut-tut, -ER inferred: OAD)

These 6, tho unlisted and -ER inferred, pass because the base words *and* -ER (silent R option) are schwa in W3, and *any* verb can add -er says Fowler's *Modern English Usage* (Oxford, 1926).

* ERRER	* FUFFER (one who puffs)
* JUDGER	* NUNNER (confiner to a nunnery)
* PUPPER (bearer of pups)	SUSSER (one who susses out: W3 1986 Addenda)

Similarly, these 2 are unlisted but pass since the verbs and the prefixes are each long e (ChD, W3) and OED says re- can be added to any verb. (So can God reCreate the world?) (Please!)

* RECREAK (creak again)	* REREE (sift again: W3)
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> *INFERRED PASS*: For these 10 probables no dictionary gives a pronunciation:

DUDDER (more ineffective, comparative inferred; DUD and -ER = schwa: W3)
 ENDENNED (placed into a den: OED, past tense inferred)
 ENSENSE (insense, inform: OED)
 * GIGGY (anus: two slang dictionaries [Cassell, Partridge]; same as the LILY group?)
 (Luksika) KUMKHUM (Thai tennis player; a pass based on net chat and umpire calls)
 LEALEY and LEELEY (surnames)
 * NUNNA (new slang for "none of" as in "Nunna your biz": *Urban D.*)
 TINTON (place name)
 * WEARWARE (software worn on the body, eg, smart watches, Google glasses: *Urban D.*)

Can readers source a full pronunciation for any of the 10? Or suggest other words or names that qualify? Or find a source wherein any of the above 8 Fails pass?

However, despite all the above, if a nautonym must have exactly the same pronunciation in its two halves then probably *every word above FAILS* due to stress differences in the halves (true wherever accents are given, inferred where not). One probable exception is KUMKHUM. Or is strict, rhythmic nautonyms an empty set? Let's try harder, brains! (Or forget it.)

Back to Susan's 15-169 article, her 'tautophones' as an alternative to 'nautonyms' fails because it also encompasses most true (letteral) tautonyms and doesn't indicate that nautonyms are not. But it is a good term for the broader group, aural tautonyms whether spelt the same or not. Her clever inversions at the end of the article (ISIS, etc) are the exceptions—letteral but not phonic. But the name 'fake tautonyms' would be better as 'fake tautophones' since they are true tautonyms.