

METALLEGES CONTAINING ALL POSSIBLE LETTER PAIRS

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In *The Dictionary of Wordplay* (Teachers and Writers Conference, 2001), Dave Morice defines a **metallege** as a “word made by shifting two letters in a base word”. In *Language on Vacation* (Scribners, 1965), Dmitri Borgmann defines it as a “form of cross-compensation of two letters, e.g. *padoga* and *pagoda*”. In contrast, the National Puzzlers’ League calls this a **metathesis**.

There are 325 different possibilities, from *able-bale* to *hazy-hayz*, the latter mysteriously defined in Webster’s Second Unabridged as “an accidental dignity as of a feminine planet in a feminine sign”. The words in the table below are all found as boldface entries from Webster’s Second or Third Editions, or inferred past tenses or plurals, but excluding reformed spellings, hyphenated fragments, and abbreviations. There are many blanks (no entries involve Q); on the other hand there is a “sweet spot” in the center of the alphabet (from K through P) in which all 15 pairs are mostly represented by common words.

	A	B	C	D	E
B	able-bale				
C	acme-came	Baca-caba			
D	add-dad	abode-adobe	cade-dace		
E	taxes-Texas	beano-ebano	cetene-ectene	code-doce	
F	aft-fat	bifer-fiber	café-face	delf-feld	fief-fife
G	agla-gala	brag-grab		dog-God	ego-goe
H	ahte-hate	boho-hobo			teeth-thete
I	dairy-diary	biri-Ibri	Musci-music	soldi-solid	serin-siren
J		bojo-jobo	caja-jaca		
K	akin-kain	bike-kibe		dink-kind	Seker-esker
L	Alps-pals	bole-lobe	calm-clam	dole-lode	élan-lean
M	amid-maid	bom-mob	came-mace	dam-mad	seem-seme
N	sang-snag	ban-nab	cane-nace	dune-nude	lien-line
O	carol-coral	bool-ebol	coker-ocker	doe-ode	veto-vote
P	apt-pat	bop-pob	cape-pace	drop-prod	epris-prise
Q					
R	arid-raid	bore-robe	care-race	dire-ride	tier-tire
S	asp-sap	bus-sub	cest-sect	dais-said	hoses-hose
T	satin-stain	but-tub	cite-tice	diet-tied	minuet-minute
U	about-Uboat		scure-sucure	duo-udo	rebus-rubes
V			cive-vice	dive-vide	ever-veer
W	sawn-swan	bow-wob	cawky-wacky	dew-wed	sewer-sweer
X	coax-coxa		codex-coxed		
Y	many-myna	boy-yob	scye-syce	dairy-yaird	deny-dyne
Z	azin-zain	bizet-zibet			Ezel-zeel

	F	G	H	I	J
G	flig-glif				
H		Gahar-Hagar			
I		regin-reign	Hiram-ihram		
J		gunj-Jung	Hoja-joha		
K	ferk-kerf	gink-king	husk-Kush	irks-kris	
L	file-life	bugle-bulge	heal-Leah	silt-slit	
M		gum-mug	homa-moha	iman-mian	jama-maja
N	fine-nife	sign-sing	mahan-Haman	rain-rani	
O	foo-Ofo	gore-ogre	Hugo-ough	lion-loin	
P		gape-page	hasp-pash		
Q					
R	fire-rife	gare-rage	haram-Marah	gird-grid	jar-raj
S	fist-sift	gas-sag	hops-soph	basis-nassi	
T	fret-tref	gut-tug	host-tosh	marital-martial	
U		guly-ugly		fingu-fungi	
V		gave-vage			
W		gaw-wag			
X					
Y		gony-yong			
Z	furz-zurf	Gozan-zogan		izba-Ziba	
	K	L	M	N	O
L	kale-lake				
M	kame-make	lame-male			
N	kine-Nike	line-Nile	mane-name		
O	kora-okra	clod-cold	moit-omit	no-on	
P	keep-peek	leap-peal	mope-pome	nap-pan	opt-pot
Q					
R	kore-roke	leer-reel	mire-rime	nark-rank	form-from
S	kasa-Saka	lose-sole	muse-sume	nose-sone	Oslo-solo
T	kate-take	loot-tool	mate-tame	note-tone	oint-Tino
U	Baku-bauk	pluses-pulses	muset-umset	snug-sung	flour-fluor
V		live-vile	mover-vomer	nave-vane	ovile-voile
W	kawa-waka		smaw-swam	now-won	own-won
X		alix-axil		anoxic-axonic	
Y	Skye-syke	lily-yill	may-yam	nary-yarn	gory-gyro
Z				Namaz-zaman	ozonic-zoonic

	P	Q	R	S	T
Q					
R	pare-rape				
S	posh-soph		rise-sire		
T	pat-tap		rite-tire	pest-pets	
U	purid-uprid		brut-burt	sue-use	lotus-louts
V	pavid-vapid		rove-vore	save-vase	tove-vote
W	spew-swep		rawn-warn	saw-was	thaw-what
X				six-xis	tax-xat
Y	pay-yap		drey-dyer	selly-yells	tachy-yacht
Z					

Tachy is part of the phrase *tachy case*, an attaché case.

	U	V	W	X	Y
V					
W					
X					
Y	buoys-byous		way-yaw	xylic-cylix	
Z					hayz-hazy

