

## NEW ELEMENT NAMES REVISITED

Jeff Grant  
Hastings, New Zealand

In the February 2017 *Word Ways* Darryl Francis exhibited some particular types of wordplay based on the new chemical element names NIHONIUM, MOSCOVIUM, TENNESSINE and OGANESSION. Going outside standard dictionaries, I scanned the Internet (Net, Google search program), like Darryl, looking for transposals, transdeletions, transadditions and substitute-letter transposals. Some of these are a little dubious, and improvements would be welcome.

**NIHONIUM** transposes to the portmanteau word HUMINION, which describes either a ‘humanized *Minion*’, the character from ‘Despicable Me’ film franchise, or a ‘human *minion*’ (underling), from a pet’s perspective.

‘When I do allow the **huminion** to pet me, I prefer to be above her.’ [[www.catster.com](http://www.catster.com), 18 aug 2010]

Transdeletion: MOHINUI, a hill in New Zealand. [[geonames.usgs.gov](http://geonames.usgs.gov)]

Transaddition: MINIHOUND, a small (or ‘miniature’) dog.

‘Harry, the finest **minihound** in Argyll.’ [[matthewboyle.net](http://matthewboyle.net), 13 Dec 2012]

Substitute-Letter Transposals: UNHOMING, depriving of a home. [Webster’s 2nd]

**MOSCOVIUM** has the transposals MOOV MUSIC, a record company based in Liverpool, England.

Interestingly, MOSCOVIUM shares seven letters with COMMUNISM.

Transdeletion: MOVICOMS are enterprises named MOVICOM, of which there are many throughout the world. Argentina’s first cellular network was CRM MOVICOM, and apparently the locals called all cellular phones MOVICOMS.

‘All cellular phones in Argentina are known as “**movicoms**”’ [[adage.com](http://adage.com), 15 Jan 1996]

Transaddition: COSMIC OVUM is a concept in various creation beliefs.

‘The Scriptures speak of the goddess Gayatri, who is responsible for the creation of the universe from the first **Cosmic Ovum**.’

[*The Three Verbs of Being*, R Sadana, 1999, p183]

COSMIC OVUM is also the name of a song by JAH Sunny [[soundcloud.com](http://soundcloud.com)], and an ‘illuminated’ picture by Leigh McCloskey.

Substitute-Letter Transposals: COMOVIRUS is a genus of viruses in the subfamily Comovirinae, including the Cowpea mosaic virus. [Wikipedia] The terms MOSCOVISM and MUSCOVISM have been used in literature.

**TENNESSINE** transposes to three plural surnames. There were 6 NEENSTEINS living in New York according to the 1920 US Census, and 4 NEENSTEINS in Montreal in the 1921 Canada census. The SENNETINES, Edward and Mary, lived in Los Angeles during the 1940 US Census. [[ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)] ENNESTEINS are also known. Justin ENNESTEIN is a family lawyer in *A Twist of Fate*, by Joanna Rees (2012), and Joseph ENNESTEIN is recorded on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

Transdeletion: TEENINESS is the noun derived from ‘teeny’ (tiny).

‘Sorry about the **teeniness** of the room.’ [*The Xander Years*, K R A DeCandido, 1999, p103]

Transaddition: EMINENTNESS, the state of being eminent. [OED]

Substitute-Letter Transposals: TEENSINESS, smallness, tininess (from ‘teensy’)

'Kit was tickled by the **teensiness** of the diaper.' [*Hush Little Baby*, C B Cooney, 2012]

**OGANESSON** transposes to **EOGANSONS**. Muiredach **EOGANSON** is mentioned in an Irish chronicle from the Middle ages. The old Irish name Eogan survives as a surname and male given name, but any **EOGANSONS** seem to have vanished.

Transdeletion: **NONSAGES**; in philosophy, those who are not sages, ones who never attain wisdom.

'The **nonsages** fear their own deaths.' [*Mortality in Traditional Chinese Thought*, A Olberding, 2012, p238]

Transadditions: **NON-DOSAGES** are very dry champagnes with no added sweetness.

'The ultimate in dry champagnes are the **non-dosages**.' [*Caterer and Hotelkeeper*, Vol 179, 1988, p86]

**NOSE ORGANS** are not as popular as mouth organs or even nose flutes, but there are video clips of them being played on the Net.

These are not a patch on Darryl's **NONGASEOUS** or the lovely **OCEANSONGS**.

Substitute-Letter Transposal: **GOONINESS**, silliness or awkwardness (from 'goony')

'John succeeded in combining offbeat charm with exactly the right amount of **gooniness**.' [*Threads*, B Bruestle, 2009, p182]

