ZIPWORDS – AKA ALTERNADES

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In *Language on Vacation*, Dmitri Borgmann introduced the subject of “alternades”. He gave four 9-letter examples: CALLIOPEG, CHAINLETS, FLEETNESS and TRUANCIES. What makes these four words alternades is that their letters can be read in a zigzag fashion, with alternate letters spelling out genuine words or names. Thus:

CLIPS
ALOE
CANES
HILT
FETES
LENS
TUNIS
RACE

Borgmann also provided another name for alternades – “drop-letter charades”. He pointed out that there are very few first-rate 9-letter examples, and still fewer ones of greater length. He offered these 10- and 11-letter examples – SPEARHEADS, COURTLEST and TRIENNIALY:

S E R E D
P A H A S
C U T I S
O R L E T
T I N I L Y
R E N A L

Borgmann went on to explain that instead of reading each second letter of a word, there is the option of reading each third one, to create what is called a “trinate”. Some of Borgmann’s 9-letter examples are: ABOMINATE (AMA, BIT, ONE), DECORATED (DOT, ERE, CAD), SEPARATED (SAT, ERE, PAD) and SIMILARLY (SIR, ILL, MAY). He said that 12-letter specimens are much harder to find, and offered MANIPULATORS (MILO, APAR, NUTS) and PUTATIVENESS (PAVE, UTES, TINS).

According to the National Puzzlers League, the alternade was introduced by L’Allegro just over 100 years ago in the June 1917 edition of *The Eastern Puzzler*. L’Allegro was the nom (puzzling name) used by Joseph McClintock Garrison, from Pittsburgh. His very first alternade was the relatively modest 8-letter SCHOOLED (SHOE, COLD).

Wikipedia has an entry for “alternade”, and offers some additional 11-letter examples: CARPETWEEDS (CREWES, APTED), CURTAINLESS (CRANES, UTILS) and SPALLATIONS (SALTOS, PLAIN) – as obscure as some of the words may be, they are all in *Webster’s Third*.

In this article, I am going to improve substantially on the alternades offered by Borgmann and Wikipedia. Recently, I have been investigating alternades further, with considerable input from my good Scrabble friends David Sutton (of Woodcote, Oxfordshire, England) and Chris Hawkins (of Eye, Cambridgeshire, England). Chris posted a query on Facebook asking for examples of words where alternate letters spelled out shorter words; Chris was unaware of the century-long history of alternades. As my other Scrabble friend David Sutton and I became involved, we started to use a different terminology with which to discuss alternades. We have replaced “alternades” with “zippable words” (shortened to “zipwords”) where a zipword is defined as a word from which one can take letters at prescribed intervals, for a given interval, and concatenate them to produce a set of valid component words. We have called the interval the
“ply”. Thus, referring back to the very first alternate, SCHOOLED is a 2-ply zippable word. This updated terminology will make it easier to refer to improved examples of alternades.

David Sutton’s role in our zipwords project was to carry out computerised searches of Collins Official Scrabble Words (2015 edition). As a result, he managed to find over 3500 2-ply zipwords having 4 to 11 letters. The majority of these 3500+ are of lengths 4 to 7 letters. But the longer ones, 8 and more letters, are those of most interest to the logologist. Here are 25 examples from his collection of 230 2-ply 8-letter zipwords:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bluelets</th>
<th>butt</th>
<th>leis</th>
<th>pleonasm</th>
<th>pens</th>
<th>loam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>countess</td>
<td>cuts</td>
<td>ones</td>
<td>psalmist</td>
<td>pams</td>
<td>slit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>encarpus</td>
<td>ecru</td>
<td>naps</td>
<td>rainouts</td>
<td>riot</td>
<td>anus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fiascoes</td>
<td>face</td>
<td>isos</td>
<td>shoalier</td>
<td>sole</td>
<td>hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>furrings</td>
<td>frig</td>
<td>urns</td>
<td>soybeans</td>
<td>syen</td>
<td>obas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grounded</td>
<td>gone</td>
<td>rudd</td>
<td>stewpots</td>
<td>sept</td>
<td>twos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guardees</td>
<td>gade</td>
<td>ures</td>
<td>teosinte</td>
<td>toit</td>
<td>esne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hairnets</td>
<td>hint</td>
<td>ares</td>
<td>theorems</td>
<td>term</td>
<td>hoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isleless</td>
<td>ills</td>
<td>sees</td>
<td>triadist</td>
<td>tids</td>
<td>rait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mounseer</td>
<td>muse</td>
<td>oner</td>
<td>triolets</td>
<td>tilt</td>
<td>roes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>obviable</td>
<td>oval</td>
<td>bibe</td>
<td>tiveness</td>
<td>tens</td>
<td>wees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oghamist</td>
<td>ohms</td>
<td>gait</td>
<td>weirdoes</td>
<td>wide</td>
<td>eros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>personae</td>
<td>proa</td>
<td>esne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the length of zipwords increases, the number of 2-ply zipwords decreases substantially. David has unearthed 40 2-ply 9-letter zipwords. Here are all 40:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>agrarians</th>
<th>arras</th>
<th>gain</th>
<th>peartness</th>
<th>pates</th>
<th>erns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ambiances</td>
<td>abacs</td>
<td>mine</td>
<td>plainness</td>
<td>panes</td>
<td>lins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ampassies</td>
<td>apsi</td>
<td>mase</td>
<td>priestess</td>
<td>pises</td>
<td>rets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arrestees</td>
<td>arses</td>
<td>rete</td>
<td>rheumiest</td>
<td>remet</td>
<td>huis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ballooned</td>
<td>blond</td>
<td>aloe</td>
<td>sapiences</td>
<td>specs</td>
<td>aine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bluebeats</td>
<td>bubas</td>
<td>leet</td>
<td>saprobial</td>
<td>spoil</td>
<td>arba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>calliopes</td>
<td>clips</td>
<td>aloe</td>
<td>seapieces</td>
<td>saics</td>
<td>epee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chainlets</td>
<td>canes</td>
<td>hilt</td>
<td>seigneurs</td>
<td>sinus</td>
<td>eger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choosiest</td>
<td>coset</td>
<td>hois</td>
<td>sheerness</td>
<td>seres</td>
<td>hens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collapses</td>
<td>class</td>
<td>olpe</td>
<td>smoochers</td>
<td>soces</td>
<td>mohr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deergrass</td>
<td>degas</td>
<td>errs</td>
<td>speedless</td>
<td>sedes</td>
<td>pels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fleetness</td>
<td>fetes</td>
<td>lens</td>
<td>sphairees</td>
<td>shies</td>
<td>pare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>forwastes</td>
<td>frats</td>
<td>owse</td>
<td>spurnings</td>
<td>sunns</td>
<td>prig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>furriness</td>
<td>fries</td>
<td>urns</td>
<td>staidness</td>
<td>sades</td>
<td>tins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gainliest</td>
<td>gilet</td>
<td>anis</td>
<td>stainless</td>
<td>sanes</td>
<td>tils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greeniest</td>
<td>genet</td>
<td>reis</td>
<td>sternites</td>
<td>sents</td>
<td>trie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greenness</td>
<td>genes</td>
<td>rens</td>
<td>sweirmess</td>
<td>seres</td>
<td>wins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
insensate  isnae  nest  teosintes  toits  esne
maintains  mitis  anan  threeness  trees  hens
mounseers  muses  oner  weirdness  wides  erns

David has unearthed 7 2-ply 10-letter zipwords; here are all of them:

barberries  brere  abris
barretries  brere  artis
carpetweed *  crewe  apted
heartseeds  hated  eres
parrotries  prore  artis
peopleless  polls  epees
spallation *  salto  plain

Here are all 4 of the 2-ply 11-letter zipwords which David has found:

carpetweeds *  crewes  apted
spallations *  saltos  plain
stoicalness  socles  tians
triennially *  tinily  renal

Asterisked ( *) items have been mentioned earlier in this article, and aren’t new to the world of logology. Even so, the unasterisked items are remarkable additions to the very limited collection of 10- and 11-letter examples. David has found no 2-ply zipwords longer than 11 letters.

As mentioned above, Borgmann provided some 9- and 12-letter examples of trinades. Using the new technology, trinades have become 3-ply zipwords. David Sutton has managed to find a total of 695 3-ply 9-letter zipwords. Here are 20 examples:

archaisms  ahs  ram  cis
baseliner  ben  ale  sir
copulated  cut  ole  pad
esuriency  ern  sic  uey
facetimed  fem  ate  cid
garageman  gam  aga  ren
homelands  hen  old  mas
jugulates  jut  ule  gas
kawakawas  kaw  aka  was
lunitidal  lid  uta  nil
majorette  mot  art  jee
nanoworld  nor  awl  nod
offloaded  old  foe  fad
peasantry  pst  ear  any
David has managed to unearth 171 3-ply 10-letter words. Each of these breaks down to one 4-letter word and two 3-letter words. Here are 20 examples:

arabicized  abid  riz  ace
benevolent  belt  eve  non
catamarans  cars  ama  tan
denaturant  dart  eta  nun
ejaculated  ecad  jut  ale
forebodies  feds  obi  roe
gelatinate  gane  eta  lit
halogenate  hone  aga  let
isomerized  imid  sez  ore
legitimate  lime  eta  git
memorisers  moss  ere  mir
notepapers  neps  ope  tar
overeaters  orts  vee  ear
philosophy  ploy  hop  ish
rereleased  read  els  ree
saccharify  scry  ahi  caf
temulently  tuny  elt  mel
titanesses  tass  ins  tee
uraninites  unis  rit  ane
wateriness  wens  are  tis

David has discovered 58 3-ply 11-letter words. Each breaks down to two 4-letter words and one 3-letter word. Here are 20 examples:

amobarbital  abba  mail  ort
baronetical  bota  anil  rec
cinematised  cete  imid  nas
deregulated  dele  egad  rut
fumatoriums  farm  utis  mou
gamogeneses  gone  ages  mes
hamamelises  hale  amis  mes
imprisoning  iron  ming  psi
laminarises  lire  anis  mas
meganeutons  mawn  ents  geo
mineralists  melt  iris  nas
paroxetines  pote  axis  ren
popularised  pure  olid  pas
radicalised  rile  acid  das
reticulated  rile  ecad  tut
revegetated  rete  egad  vet
seriousness  siss  eons  rue
telekinises  tene  ekes  lis
vitaminised  vane  imid  tis
vomeronasal  vena  oral  mos

David has identified 17 3-ply 12-letter words. Each breaks down to three 4-letter words. That all three constituent words are the same length is more aesthetically pleasing than the 3-ply 10- and 11-letter words. Here are all 17 examples:

agamogeneses  ames  gone  ages
amobarbitals  abba  mail  orts
curativeness  cave  utes  rins
definiteness  dite  enes  fins
derisiveness  dive  eses  rins
disinherison  dies  inro  shin
facilenesses  fins  alee  cess
fugitiveness  five  utes  gins
literariness  lere  iris  tans
locomobility  lobi  omit  coly
malapertness  mare  apts  lens
manageresses  mars  agee  ness
metapolitics  mali  epic  tots
moderateness  mete  ores  dans
nugatoriness  nare  utis  gons
reiringness  rine  ergs  tins
separateness  sate  eres  pans

Onwards and upwards. David has found four 3-ply 13-letter words, each consisting of one 5-letter word and two 4-letter words. They are:

melanogeneses  mages  enes  lone
novocentenary  nonny  octa  veer
tumorigeneses  toges  ures  mine
tumorigenesis  toges  ures  mini
David has found a solitary 3-ply 14-letter word, consisting of two 5-letter words and one 4-letter word. It is:

\[ \text{benevolence} \quad \text{belts} \quad \text{evens} \quad \text{none} \]

David was unable to find any 3-ply 15-letter words, which is a shame, as any such words would be composed of three 5-letter words, which has an appealing aesthetic to it.

How about 4-ply zipwords? *Language on Vacation* calls these “quadades” or “quaternades”, and offers just two of these: PANTALOONERY (PAN, ALE, NOR, TOY) and SUBTERRANEAN (SEN, URE, BRA, TAN). However, David Sutton has found 39 4-ply 12-letter words. The full set is:

\[
\begin{align*}
adulterating & \quad \text{att} & \quad \text{dei} & \quad \text{urn} & \quad \text{lag} & \quad \text{overdeviated} & \quad \text{oda} & \quad \text{vet} & \quad \text{eve} & \quad \text{rid} \\
adulterising & \quad \text{ats} & \quad \text{dei} & \quad \text{urn} & \quad \text{lig} & \quad \text{pantalooney}\* & \quad \text{pan} & \quad \text{ale} & \quad \text{nor} & \quad \text{toy} \\
ameliorating & \quad \text{aist} & \quad \text{moi} & \quad \text{ern} & \quad \text{lag} & \quad \text{paraldehydes} & \quad \text{ply} & \quad \text{add} & \quad \text{ree} & \quad \text{ahs} \\
ameliorators & \quad \text{aist} & \quad \text{moo} & \quad \text{err} & \quad \text{las} & \quad \text{passim} & \quad \text{mes} & \quad \text{aun} & \quad \text{ser} & \quad \text{sae} \\
amelioratory & \quad \text{aist} & \quad \text{moo} & \quad \text{err} & \quad \text{lay} & \quad \text{pathobiology} & \quad \text{pol} & \quad \text{abo} & \quad \text{tig} & \quad \text{hoy} \\
carrageenans & \quad \text{can} & \quad \text{aga} & \quad \text{ren} & \quad \text{res} & \quad \text{reflationary} & \quad \text{ran} & \quad \text{eta} & \quad \text{fir} & \quad \text{loy} \\
continuators & \quad \text{cit} & \quad \text{ono} & \quad \text{nur} & \quad \text{tas} & \quad \text{rootednesses} & \quad \text{res} & \quad \text{ods} & \quad \text{one} & \quad \text{tes} \\
defaecations & \quad \text{dei} & \quad \text{eco} & \quad \text{fan} & \quad \text{ats} & \quad \text{smitherened} & \quad \text{she} & \quad \text{men} & \quad \text{ire} & \quad \text{ted} \\
defeudalised & \quad \text{dui} & \quad \text{eds} & \quad \text{fae} & \quad \text{eld} & \quad \text{speleologist} & \quad \text{seg} & \quad \text{poi} & \quad \text{els} & \quad \text{lot} \\
defeudalises & \quad \text{dui} & \quad \text{eds} & \quad \text{fae} & \quad \text{els} & \quad \text{spheroidises} & \quad \text{sri} & \quad \text{pos} & \quad \text{hie} & \quad \text{eds} \\
deflationary & \quad \text{dan} & \quad \text{eta} & \quad \text{fir} & \quad \text{loy} & \quad \text{spheroidizes} & \quad \text{sri} & \quad \text{poz} & \quad \text{hie} & \quad \text{eds} \\
etherealness & \quad \text{ern} & \quad \text{tee} & \quad \text{has} & \quad \text{els} & \quad \text{subauditions} & \quad \text{sui} & \quad \text{udo} & \quad \text{bin} & \quad \text{ats} \\
gradualities & \quad \text{gut} & \quad \text{rai} & \quad \text{ale} & \quad \text{dis} & \quad \text{subterranean}\* & \quad \text{sen} & \quad \text{ure} & \quad \text{bra} & \quad \text{tan} \\
heatednesses & \quad \text{hes} & \quad \text{eds} & \quad \text{ane} & \quad \text{tes} & \quad \text{superfusions} & \quad \text{sri} & \quad \text{ufo} & \quad \text{pun} & \quad \text{ess} \\
heavenliness & \quad \text{hen} & \quad \text{ene} & \quad \text{als} & \quad \text{vis} & \quad \text{superprieses} & \quad \text{sri} & \quad \text{ups} & \quad \text{pre} & \quad \text{eas} \\
labouredness & \quad \text{lun} & \quad \text{are} & \quad \text{bes} & \quad \text{ods} & \quad \text{superrefines} & \quad \text{sri} & \quad \text{urn} & \quad \text{pee} & \quad \text{efs} \\
leopardesses & \quad \text{las} & \quad \text{ers} & \quad \text{ode} & \quad \text{pes} & \quad \text{trophobiotic} & \quad \text{tho} & \quad \text{rot} & \quad \text{obi} & \quad \text{pic} \\
longicaudate & \quad \text{lid} & \quad \text{oca} & \quad \text{nat} & \quad \text{gue} & \quad \text{unadmonished} & \quad \text{ums} & \quad \text{noh} & \quad \text{ane} & \quad \text{did} \\
lophophorare & \quad \text{lor} & \quad \text{opa} & \quad \text{pht} & \quad \text{hoe} & \quad \text{uninterested} & \quad \text{uts} & \quad \text{net} & \quad \text{ire} & \quad \text{ned} \\
motherhouses & \quad \text{meu} & \quad \text{ors} & \quad \text{the} & \quad \text{hos} & \quad & & & & \\
\end{align*}
\]

Longer 4-ply examples exist. At the 13-letter level, the constituent words would be one 4-letter word and three 3-letter words. David managed to locate just eight of these:

\[
\begin{align*}
baccalaureate & \quad \text{bare} & \quad \text{ale} & \quad \text{ca} & \quad \text{cut} \\
bacteriolyse & \quad \text{bels} & \quad \text{ary} & \quad \text{cis} & \quad \text{toe} \\
emotionalis & \quad \text{eild} & \quad \text{moi} & \quad \text{ons} & \quad \text{tae} \\
perditionable & \quad \text{pine} & \quad \text{eta} & \quad \text{rib} & \quad \text{dol} \\
savouriness & \quad \text{sues} & \quad \text{ars} & \quad \text{vis} & \quad \text{one} \\
speleologists & \quad \text{segs} & \quad \text{poi} & \quad \text{els} & \quad \text{lot} \\
subterraneans & \quad \text{ens} & \quad \text{ure} & \quad \text{bra} & \quad \text{tan} \\
subterraneous & \quad \text{ens} & \quad \text{ure} & \quad \text{bro} & \quad \text{tau} \\
\end{align*}
\]

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And 4-ply 14-letter words can also be found. David found just 5 of these:

- baccalaureates
- etherealnesses
- labourednesses
- pansexualities
- pathobiologies

David didn’t manage to find any 4-ply zipwords longer than 14 letters.

Even 5-ply words are possible. David found 155 5-ply 10-letter zipwords, each composed of five 2-letter words. Here are some of them:

- aborigines
- aluminised
- apostrophe
- balneation
- bituminate
- deliberate
- elaborator
- expatriate
- harpooneer
- kinetosome
- lepidolite
- mazarinade
- metafemale
- outpassion
- piperidine
- remunerate
- seminomata
- taxability
- telomerase
- urinometer

5-ply words with 11 letters also exist in profusion. These are built up from one 3-letter word and four 2-letter words. David found 211 of these, including the following:

- aluminosity
- apostleship
- camerawomen
- dehumanised
- elaborating
- featherhead
And then there are 85 5-ply 12-letter zipwords which David found. Composed of two 3-letter words and three 2-letter words, here are some examples:

arpeggiation  ago  rin  pa  et  gi
bituminating  bin  ing  ta  ut  mi
canalicular  cit  ace  nu  al  la
deliberating  den  erg  la  it  bi
evaporations  ern  vas  at  pi  oo
foolhardiest  fas  ort  od  li  he
gelatinating  gin  eng  la  at  ti
hematologist  hos  elt  mo  ag  ti
isoperimeter  ire  sir  om  pe  et
jealoushoods  jud  ess  ah  lo  oo
keratometers  kor  ems  re  at  te
literateness  las  its  te  en  re
metagalaxies  mae  els  ta  ax  gi
nematologist  nos  elt  mo  ag  ti
octaploidies  ole  cos  ti  ad  pi
preachership  phi  rep  er  as  ch
rehabilitant  rin  elt  hi  at  ba
semiparasite  sat  ere  ma  is  pi
solidarities  sae  ors  li  it  di
weatherwomen  wee  ern  aw  to  hm
leatherleaves  lev  ere  als  te  ha
legitimatised  lis  eme  gad  it  ti
metabolisable  mob  ell  tie  as  ba
metasomatoses  mos  eme  tas  at  so
parameterised  pes  ate  red  ar  mi
spelaeologist  sei  pos  elt  lo  ag
thermoelement  toe  hen  elt  re  mm
unpasteurised  uts  nee  pud  ar  si
volumenometer  vet  one  lor  um  me

At the 14-letter level, it’s still possible to find 5-ply zipwords, these having four 3-letter words and one 2-letter word. Here are the full 9 such words which David discovered:

cohesibilities  cit  obi  hie  els  si
deliberateness  den  ere  las  its  be
legitimatedness  lin  eme  gas  its  te
literatenesses  las  its  tee  ens  re
percussionists  psi  ess  rit  cos  un
spelaeologists  sei  pos  elt  los  ag
thermoelements  toe  hen  elt  res  mm
volumenometers  vet  one  lor  ums  me
waterishnesses  wis  ass  the  ens  re

We like the aesthetic appeal of 5-ply 15-letter zipwords as each will be composed solely of 3-letter words. The only two such words which David found are:

elaboratenesses  ere  las  ats  bee  ons
undernourishing  uns  noh  dui  ern  rig

And now finally at the 6-ply level .... Starting with 12-letter zipwords, these will comprise six 2-letter words. David discovered 40 of these, including:

adulteration  ar  da  ut  li  to  en
amalgamation  am  ma  at  li  go  an
antiheroines  ar  no  ti  in  he  es
demutualises  da  el  mi  us  te  us
deuterostome  do  es  ut  to  em  re
diazomethane  de  it  ah  za  on  me
elementarily  et  la  er  mi  el  ny
equabilities  el  qi  ut  ai  be  is
exopeptidase  et  xi  od  pa  es  pe
hemodialysis  ha  el  my  os  di  is
italianating  in  ta  at  li  in  ag
materialised ma al ti es re id
motoneuronal mu or to on na el
ophatherapies or pa op ti he es
salutational st ai lo un ta al
testamentary te en st ta ar my
unhabituated ut nu ha at be id
unionisation us na it oi no in
unsaturation ur na st ai to un
utopianising un ti os pi in ag

6-ply 13-letter zipwords are comprised of one 3-letter word and five 2-letter words. David discovered 34 of these, including:

damageability day ab mi al gi et
demutualising dag el mi us ti un
denationalise doe en na al ti is
desexualising dag el si es xi un
familiarising fag ar mi is li in
fetishisation fin es ta it si ho
haemodialysis his aa el my os di
immaterialise ire mi ma al ti es
labialisation lin as ba it ai lo
monoaminergic mic on ne or ag mi
monotherapies mes or na op ti he
multinational mal ut li to in na
penetranation pan en na et pi lo
podsolisation pin os da st oi lo
radicalisation rin as da it ai lo
renationalise roe en na al ti is
ritualisation rin is ta ut ai lo
semasiologist sot el mo ag si is
solemnisations sin os la et mi no
subsaturation sun ur ba st ai to

6-ply 14-letter zipwords are comprised of two 3-letter words and four 2-letter words. David discovered 17 of these, including:

annexationists att nis no en xi as
cautiousnesses cue ass un te is os
fetishisations fin ess ta it si ho
immaterialised ire mid ma al ti es
labialisations lin ass ba it ai lo
multinationals mal uts li to in na
peneplanations    pan ens na et pi lo
radialisations    rin ass da it ai lo
renationalised    roe end na al ti is
semasiologists     sot els mo ag si is

6-ply 15-letter zipwords are comprised of three 3-letter words and three 2-letter words. David discovered just 1 of these:

opinionatedness one pas its ne id on

And now finally, 7-ply zipwords. David found three 7-ply 14-letter zipwords, comprised simply of seven 2-letter words:

admeasurements    ar de mm ee an st us
onomatopoieses     op no oi me as te os
onomatopoiesis     op no oi me as ti os

David found no 7-ply 15-letter words.

David’s searches ended at the 15-letter level, as Collins Official Scrabble Words (2015 edition) only contains words up to 15 letters. Of course, there may be many zipwords of lengths 16 or more letters among the words listed in mainstream dictionaries. Can readers offer any zipwords with more than 15 letters, and of any ply (although 2-ply words seem highly unlikely, given that the best so far discovered have only 11 letters).

Footnote 1: All of the words in this article, except one, both zipwords and the shorter words making up the zipwords, can be found in either Collins Official Scrabble Words (2015 edition) or Webster’s Third. Indeed, most of the words can be found in both these sources. The exception not listed by either of these sources is PUTATIVENESS, the 3-ply 12-letter zipword offered by Borgmann – nor is it listed in other major dictionaries. PUTATIVENESS will be the subject of a separate article.

Footnote 2: A full listing of David’s zipwords finds, from 2-ply to 7-ply for all word lengths from 4 to 15 letters can be requested from the author of this article.