

WHAT'S SO KEY ABOUT THESE 8-LETTER WORDS?

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The main list below contains 80 words and names, mostly taken from familiar reference works (such as Webster's Second and Third Editions, and the Oxford English Dictionary), although there are some US placenames sourced from the internet. The supplementary list has a further 145 names – these are foreign placenames, foreign surnames, and the like, mainly to be found on the internet – all pretty obscure and unfamiliar. I believe the full set of 225 words and names is probably the (almost) complete set of words and names with a particular property. What is the key property? The property is not shared by words of less than eight letters or more than eight letters.

The Main List – 80 words & names		
Word / Name	Dictionary	Definition
adroitly	W3	In an adroit manner
Aldworth	Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain, 3 rd edition, 1992	Place in Berkshire, England
anesthyl	W3	A mixture of ethyl and methyl chlorides used for the production of local anaesthesia by spraying
blintzes	W3	Thin rolled pancakes
blowiest	W3	Windiest
bungerly	W2 & OED	Unworkmanlike, clumsily
chumleys	W2	Dialect or old form of 'chimneys'
clientry	W3	Clientele
cryolite	W3	A mineral consisting of sodium-aluminum fluoride found in Greenland
dicotyls	W3	Plants with two cotyledons
dilatory	W3	Tending or having the intent to cause delay
enthalpy	W3	A thermodynamic quantity
Enyalios	W2	A god of war
epicotyl	W3	A portion of the axis of a plant embryo or seedling
filatory	OED	A machine for forming or spinning threads
foxtails	W3	Foxes' tails
galewort	W2	A shrub, also called the 'sweet gale'

gealousy	OED	15 th century form of 'jealousy'
geolatory	OED	Worship of the earth
Grantley	Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain, 3 rd edition, 1992	Place in North Yorkshire, England
Grünwald	Times Index Gazetteer, 1965	Place in Austria
gunlayer	W3	A sailor who aims a ship's guns
gunwales	W3	Parts of a nautical vessel where topsides and deck meet
haylofts	W3	Lofts where hay is stored
hectorly	W2 & OED	Of the nature of a hector, blustering, insolent
ialousye	OED	15 th century form of 'jealousy'
idolatry	W3	Worship of a physical object as a god
interlay	W3	Something placed between a printing plate and its base to make the plate a suitable height for proper impression
jarovize	W3	To give freshness to
keypunch	W3	A machine actuated by a keyboard and used to cut holes or notches in punch cards
knitwear	W3	Knitted clothing
kyanites	W3	Minerals consisting of an aluminum silicate occurring commonly in blue thin-bladed triclinic crystals and crystalline aggregates
lauwines	OED	Avalanches
lawniest	Collins Official Scrabble Words, 2015	Most like a lawn
laytimes	Collins English Dictionary, 12 th edition, 2014	Periods of time allowed by a ship-owner to offload cargo
legatory	OED	15 th century form of 'legatary', a person to whom a bequest left
legotary	OED	17 th century form of 'legatary', a person to whom a bequest left
Lenzburg	Times Index Gazetteer, 1965	Place in Switzerland
liftboys	Collins English Dictionary, 12 th edition, 2014	Persons who operate lifts
lipocyte	Collins English Dictionary, 12 th	A fat-storing cell found in the liver

	edition, 2014	
lopheavy	W2	So heavy as to lop or hang down
lymphate	OED	Diluted with water
lynchets	W3	Ridges or strips of unplowed land forming boundaries between fields
lyterian	W2 & OED	Indicating the end of a disease
mawkiest	Collins English Dictionary, 12 th edition, 2014	Most nauseating
naythles	Chambers Dictionary, 12 th edition, 2011	An archaic word meaning 'notwithstanding'
neuralgy	W3	Acute paroxysmal pain radiating along the course of one or more nerves
Olivarez	Wikipedia	Town in Hidalgo county, Texas
ovalwise	W2	In the characteristic manner of an oval
ozarkite	W2 & OED	A mineral, also called 'thomsonite'
Palmview	Wikipedia	Town in Hidalgo county, Texas
penality	W3	Liability to punishment
pentylic	W2 & OED	Relating to the pentyl radical in chemistry, C ₅ H ₁₁
playtime	W3	Time for playing
plowgate	W3	A unit of land area once used in Scotland and northern England
Polzeath	Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain, 3 rd edition, 1992	A place in Cornwall, England
quakynge	OED	Early form of 'quaking', appearing in several quotes – eg the 1555 quote at the verb 'quake'
reculyng	OED	Early form of 'recoiling', appearing in two quotes – eg the 1566 quote at the adjective 'recoiling'
scolytid	W3	A beetle
sodality	W3	Brotherhood, community
steamily	W3	In a steamy manner
Stickney	Random House Dictionary, 1965	A town in Cook county, Illinois
taleysim	Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 8 th edition (1973) & 9 th edition (1983)	A shawl worn by Jewish men during morning prayers
tankwise	W2	In the characteristic manner of a tank

tensibly	W3	In a tensible manner
triazole	W3	Any of various compounds C ₂ H ₃ N ₃ containing a ring composed of two carbon atoms and three nitrogen atoms
twangler	W2 & OED	One who twangles, or twangs
twangles	W3	Twanging sounds
twankies	OED	Plural of 'twanky', a variant form of 'twankay', a variety of green tea
unbirdly	W2 & OED	Unlike a bird
unclergy	W2 & OED	To deprive a person of their status as member of the clergy
uneasily	W3	In an uneasy manner
unfairly	W3	Unjustly
unflashy	OED	Not flashy
unsagely	OED	Not sagely
valorize	W3	To determine or set the price of
wankiest	W3	Weakest, feeblest
waterlog	W3	To saturate with water
whetrock	W3	A natural or artificial stone for whetting edge tools
wrentail	W2	An artificial fly used for trout fishing

The Supplementary List – 145 names						
Alexinus	Andzulis	Aulopyge	Beowulph	Bertilow	Bouwerij	Budzisko
Cetinsky	Chelstow	Chertkow	Chwostek	Clergoux	Clocherty	Cumiskey
Dovyalis	Dzukians	Epitaxol	EuroHawk	Expolita	Eyrivank	Fakhoury
Gantzler	Genryaku	Goldbury	Gwapotel	Gyaltzen	Halestyn	Heatwork
Hubworld	Hureczko	Hyloecus	Hypenula	Intkawes	Jentzsch	Jewtopia
Juazeiro	Kamfiruz	Kartezio	Katheryn	Kathryne	Kathoeyes	Katygord
Katzerin	Kazeruni	Kenyusha	Kerugoya	Khoudary	Kiamusze	Kierzbun
Kozusice	Krizovec	Kunshady	Kurowice	Kushaney	Kwarteng	Lexaurin
Libertow	Liestany	Limeyrat	Lucmierz	Lyhundra	Lyngstad	Lysivane
Lysovice	Malyshev	Marlieux	Matherly	Mazeptil	Melathys	Melpathy
Mephytal	Niekurza	Njarthey	Oleyuria	Ovarhely	Pfinztal	Pilocyte
Platinex	Playdium	Plentzia	Ploetzia	Podjuchy	Polytech	Recknitz
Rozbitek	Rudnicky	Rzucidlo	Schmeltz	Schotkey	Seaholtz	Sotileza
Stainley	Sukowice	Sulechów	Sulfazin	Sulowiec	Sylivena	Sylviane
Syntelia	Syntelic	Szentgal	Szinfalu	Targowek	Tariflox	Telschow
Terxanli	Theryola	Thorwald	Trazodil	Trycheln	Trzebnik	Tsjechow
Unieslaw	Unzicker	Urzelina	Vermilya	Verxijan	Veysanli	Vilareyo
Virazole	Viroflay	Walhstod	Walstein	Walthose	Weitkamp	Wirtland
Wohlfart	Wolfarth	Wunschel	Yaquimel	Yerukhan	Yesilova	Yetimlar
Yumesaki	Zahourek	Zastinje	Zavodski	Zdralovi	Zeitlarn	Zekistan
	Zerjavin	Zharkent	Ziskovec	Zupanije	Zurkaneh	

Solution to

WHAT'S SO KEY ABOUT THESE 8-LETTER WORDS?

Each of the words and names can be spelled out using each of the 2-9 keys of a standard telephone keypad. As only eight of the keys have corresponding letters, the property is only possessed by 8-letter words.

1	2 ABC	3 DEF
4 GHI	5 JKL	6 MNO
7 PQRS	8 TUV	9 WXYZ
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