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Haiku Palindromes

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Love's Return
Red Rose does revere
Volatile babe lit a love,
Reverse ode's order.

Pleasurable palindromes
The moment of elation when draft wordplay finally crystallises into a finished palindrome is, most likely, an experience common to all palindromists. With disorder tamed and symmetry restored, it's time for a rest and a beer.

Red Ale
Red now for a beer,
Fasting is a sign it's a
Free bar of wonder.

Or is it? The temptation often arises to extend the work by insertion in the middle, or addition to the ends. So when is it time to stop? This is just another way of asking what makes a good palindrome. With palindromes, there is of course only one unbreakable rule: it has to be reversible; no almost or nearly, and no grey areas. Beyond this rule, the criteria are subjective, but some commonly reported guidance includes:

- good grammar and spelling;
- avoiding excessive use of:
  - acronyms and abbreviations
  - apostrophes for unusually omitted letters
  - given names; and
- maintaining a constant theme or themes and, conversely, avoiding random or meaningless hopping from one topic to another.

Inspection of the list shows that what should be pursued is simply high-quality natural writing that happens to have an added symmetry feature. However, anyone who attempts such a pursuit soon becomes aware that maintaining a constant theme in a palindrome is in itself an arduous task, and it takes on an
added level of difficulty when the first two criteria are imposed. The competing constraints of symmetry, theme and grammar come into ever greater conflict the longer the palindrome. Consequently, and despite their skilful construction, lengthy palindromes can require so many sacrifices that they often become almost impenetrable.

Those who, by experience, find the essence of this analysis familiar may well agree that shorter palindromes are more satisfying in both their construction and their reading. The conflicting requirements are not fully removed, but sharp edges are blunted by brevity. So, short palindromes may be a sensible aim, but why attempt haiku? Doesn’t this just add to the constraints?

**Haiku**

*Changing Seasons*

Liven mutual  
Like summer, a harem muse  
Kill autumn evil.

Formal haiku comprise three lines containing a total of seventeen syllables in a 5-7-5 pattern. They commonly have a turning point in tone or meaning, usually at the end of the first or second line, and traditionally have a reference to nature or the seasons. In modern haiku the constraints are often relaxed. (The Wikipedia entries for “haiku” and “haiku in English” provide a good introduction to the form.)

**Haiku palindromes**

The formal haiku structure does indeed add further constraints, which add to the challenge. But it also enforces the selected preference for brevity. In addition, there is a fortuitous synergy arising from the imposed line breaks of poetic forms. This helps to separate the juxtaposed, staccato-sounding phrases and clauses that often arise in palindromes. The haiku form also relaxes the constraint of having full sentences.

I have found few previous examples of whole-haiku, letter-unit palindromes with a 5-7-5 structure. One by Dmitri Borgmann and reported by Howard Bergerson was previously published in Word Ways [18(3), 171-178, 1985):

Smart Nora, alert  
Saws goldenrod-adorned logs.  
Wastrel Aaron trams.

The haiku palindromes presented in this article generally conform to the 5-7-5 syllable structure. A title is given to each palindrome, following the approach described by Saltveit [Word Ways 46(2), 131-133, 2013] for palindromes arising in first annual SymmyS awards. This may be unusual for haiku, but is useful in the case of palindromes, because it establishes the theme or helps to unite disparate themes. Except for BORGann’s example above, all palindromes here are original, so far as could be determined by checking common sources and performing web searches. Some further examples are given below.

**Decomposition**

Saga’s reviled tips,  
Secret Exeter cesspit  
Delivers a gas.

**Brexit Dilemma**

“No” in unison?  
No, it’s EU question  
No sin – union.

**Poetic Licence**

Toil estimate met,  
A loss, so late-met, am I  
T.S. Eliot.

**Munich Olympics**

Red now for a tsar,  
Eve aglow, Olga ever  
A star of wonder.

**Ivory Towers**

Aimed a casual cat  
Nastily lit Santa Claus,  
Academia.

**Silent Noir**

Demi-monde trap miss  
I kill, agog, all I kiss  
Imparted? No mimed.

**Denigration**

Reviled if I live,  
Mistress asserts I'm evil  
If I deliver.

**Valleys Romance**

Wonder erases  
Or I adore hero Dai,  
Roses are red now.

Some of the listed criteria for good palindromes are not fully adhered to in the above examples, and the sharp-eyed may have noticed that Brexit Dilemma has only six syllables in the second line. But that’s OK, palindromists don’t mind having their words thrown back at them.
BIGRAM SENTENCES

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The words of a particular sentence all contain the same bigram.

The bigrams are made respectively of A, E, I, O and U, plus another letter – starting with N.

AN  EN  IN  ON  UN

ORANG UTANGS CAN MANAGE FANTASTIC ANTICS, HANGING, STANDING AND BALANCING ANYWHERE

BEN MENDED DENNIS’S BROKEN WOODEN FENCE ENCLOSING SEVEN DOZEN CONTENTED CHICKENS

IN LINCOLN’S INN KEVIN, GRINNING INSANELY, INDULGED IN DRINKING NINE PINTS WITHIN MINUTES!

ON MONDAY, SIMON’S SECOND SON LEON ONLY AUCTIONED ONE UNCOMMON AMMONITE

JUNE’S HUNGRY AUNT FOUND CRUNCHY BUNS UNDERNEATH CHUNKY PRUNES

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

NA  NE  NI  NO  NU

NATTY CANADIAN TEENAGER NAMED JONATHAN NASH IMPERSONATED NAPOLEAN BONAPARTE

WEDNESDAY’S NEW WINNER, JANET, NEVER LOANED SPINELESS KENNETH MONEY

RONNIE KNIGHT, DEFINITIVE CORNISH NIGHTINGALE ORNITHOLOGIST, VANISHED SINISTERLY

SNOOZING, NORMAN’S ANNOYINGLY NOISY MONOTONOUS SNORING, DENOTED ADENOIDAL ABNORMALITY

NURSE KEANU NUGENT RENUMBERED EMANUEL McMANUS’ MANUSCRIPT
PAT’S FATHER, JONATHAN, SAT IMPATIENTLY AT GATESHEAD STATION

SHETLAND’S BARONET GARETH FLETCHER UPSET HARRIET’S PET CHEETAH!

KEITH’S AMBITIOUS ITALIAN EXPEDITION EXCITED SOLICITOR MITCH SMITH

DERMOT’S MOTHER PROMOTED SCOTCH BROTH SMOTHERING HOT POTATOES

UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN BUTTERFLIES FLUTTERED OUTSIDE SOUTHPORT’S COMPUTER INSTITUTE

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

GRETA’S UNFORGETTABLE GUITAR RECITAL CERTAINLY ENTERTAINED STAN INTERNATIONAL TENNIS CONTESTANT, TEDDY, INTERRUPTED SISTER KATE’S AFTERNOON TEA

ARTICULATING EMOTIONALLY, CHRISTINE CRITICISED JUSTIN’S GENETICS ARTICLE

TO ANTON’S ASTONISHMENT, TOBY TOOK TOMMY’S MOTOR TO BRIGHTON

STUART, ADVENTUROUS STUDENT TURNED TUTOR, ACTUALLY STUDIED TUTANKHAMOUN

MARTIN’S LARGE WARM APARTMENT NEAR CANARY WHARF CHARMED CAROLINE

SEVERAL UNDERWEAR LAYERS LATER, EVEREST CLIMBER RUPERT OVERCAME VERY SEVERE WINTER WEATHER

BIRMINGHAM CIRCUS’S PIROUETTIST MOIRA ADMIRE KIRK SINCLAIR’S THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY ATTIRE

SENIOR DOCTOR GREGORY RECORDS JUNIOR DOCTOR NORMA’S ORTHOPAEDIC WORK THOROUGHLY

MURIEL REASSURINLY NURSED KURT’S HURTFUL BURN INJURY DURING SATURDAY
The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

RA RE RI RO RU

LITERATURE GRADUATE LAURA’S CARAVAN TRAILER CRASHED, TRAGICALLY

BRENDA GREEN’S THREE CHILDREN WORE RED BERETS

PARISIAN CLARINETIST ADRIAN MARRIED NOTORIOUS BRIGHTON ARISTOCRAT HARRIET

CAROLINE FROBISHER’S EXTROVERT BROTHER, PROFESSOR RONALD CROWther, BORROWED FROGS FROM RONNIE CAMERON

DRUNK, RUPERT, GRUMBLING TRUCULENTLY, CRUNCHED GERTRUDE’S SCRUMPTIOUS STRUDEL

AL EL IL OL UL

ALERT ARSENAL FOOTBALLERS, ESPECIALLY TALL INFALLIBLE WALTER, TOTALLED SEVERAL GOALS

ELEVEN DELIGHTED SHEFFIELD RELATIVES HELPED ELISABETH CELEBRATE MICHAELMAS

WHILE HILDA’S CHILD SMILED BEGUILINGLY, JILL’S SPOILT CHILDREN PILFERED PENCILS

WOOLWICH POLICE COLLECTED STOLEN ROLEXES, GAOLING HAROLD OLIVIER

PAULINE’S TRULY SPECTACULAR ULTRAMARINE DULUX EMULSION EMULATED JULIA’S CHEERFUL SCULLERY

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

LA LE LI LO LU

GLAMOROUS LADY STELLA’S VANILLA FLAVOURED BLANCMANGE COLLAPSED!

HANDLER GLEN FLETCHER LED, FILEWISE, ELEVEN JUNGLE ELEPHANTS

ELISABETH ALLISON, LIMERICK SPECIALIST, RELISHED STYLISH LINER HOLIDAYS

GLORIA FOLLOWED FELLOW LONDON LODGER BELLOWING ‘CARLOS’

LUNATIC LUKE’S HALLUCINATIONS INCLUDED LURID ILLUSTRATIONS PLUS LUMINOUS COLUMBINES!
DONCASTER BASED, JASON’S CHRISTMAS ROAST PHEASANT FEAST TASTED SMASHING

COLCHESTER RESIDENT, NURSE JESSICA, ARRANGED ESPECIALLY IMPRESSIVE HARVEST FESTIVALS

BARRISTER FRANCIS CHISHOLM’S IRISH SISTER, MISS PRISCILLA, VISITED PARIS

JOSEPHINE’S BOSS, OSCAR, PURPOSEFULLY CHOSE THOSE MOST HOSTILE CROSSWORDS

USUALLY, HUSBAND RUSSELL EXCUSED SUSANNA’S IMPETUOUS MALICIOUS JEALOUSY

The letters of the above bigrams are reversed:

SATISFIED, SALLY SAT SAMPLING SANDRA’S SAVOURY SALMON SANDWICHES

MUSEUM SECRETARY, LOUISE, AMUSED HERSELF RAISING SEVEN TORTOISES

SIMON’S COUSIN, MISSISSIPPI RESIDENT ELSIE, COMMISSIONED TELEVISION MUSICALS

SOMETIMES SOLOMON, ALISON’S SON, SOLD GRUSOME SOGGY SEASONED RISSOLES

SUSAN, SURNAME SULLIVAN, CASUALTY’S CONSULTANT SURGEON, SUSTAINED SUITABLY REASSURING RESULTS
A Sam Loyd Puzzle Solution?

LORI WIKE
Salt Lake City, Utah

I have a proposed solution for the “Sam Loyd Puzzle?” query posed by Will Shortz in the February 2016 issue of Word Ways. I think that the four “C”s can be interpreted as “forces.” This leads to a possible rebus solution of “The forces overtake and surround the enemy.”
CONSTRAINED STINKY PINKIES

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Hastings, New Zealand

A stinky pinky* is defined in Dave Morice’s Dictionary of Wordplay (2001) as a two-word rhyming phrase such as flower power. Web3 and Random House give it a more narrow definition as a game or puzzle in which a phrase is redefined by another made up of words that rhyme, e.g., foolish horse = silly filly. Dave (ibid.), and more extensively Ross Eckler (WW, August 2011 p. 166), give examples of stinky pinky “buzzwords” where a person redefines a term from his or her occupation by a stinky pinky. For example, a coroner defines dying of lung cancer as choke on the smoke. (Ross extended the definition to include connecting words in the rhyming phrase.)

We wondered what is the longest stinky pinky with no connecting words and no letters shared by the two words. We offer a dictionary phrase and a coinage:

busy Lizzie (10 letters), the impatiens plant;
choo-choo queue (13), a child’s description of a line of people waiting to board a train.

We then sought a further constraint, no repeat letters anywhere in the stinky pinky. We found ‘Bok’ Jacques (10), athlete’s nickname, especially a high-jumper. A bok is any S.African antelope. By realising Jacques can sometimes be spelt Jacque, we improved it to Springbok Jacque (15 letters), a redefinition of “jumping jack”, the calisthenic exercise. The springbok is the jumping (pronking) antelope.

[Anagram: Springbok pronks big! — Anil, Definitive Anagrams, in prep.]

Both of these, as well as busy Lizzie, rely on proper names. Our next quest was for the longest stinky pinky with no repeat letters and containing no proper names? Our best was a coinage, sleigh foray (11), sled journey or raid.

Some consider stinky pinkies should only join two words with the same number of syllables, thus rejecting choo-choo queue, Springbok Jacque, sleigh foray, and one of Ross’s (ibid.). Out best in this narrowest of definitions is again a coinage, sleigh tray (10), Santa’s food holder or serving platter.

Can readers better us in any of the above categories?

*“Stinky pinky” is also the name of an obscene game (Urban Dict.), which we don’t offer to play.
DEFLATIONARY LANGUAGE

ROGER E. RONDEAU
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In 1963, Victor Borge, the Danish-American humorist (1909–2000), introduced one of his two most famous language routines, inflationary language. (The other was phonetic punctuation.) At that time, he observed that anything that had to do with money was going up — except language. Because the English language has so many numbers hidden in words like wonderful, before, and create; he inflated all these numbers to meet the economy — "to rise to the occasion." And so, to be prepared for the rising inflation, he suggested that we add one to each of the embedded numbers so that before became "befive," wonderful was promoted to "twoderful," and create to "crenine." He renamed California "Califivenia."

Now, fifty-five years later, the language still mirrors the devaluation of the dollar; still echoes the sad fact that we now get less for our money; still prepares us "to stoop to the occasion." In the following recessionary story, numbers and letters deflate instead of inflate, and any word that has a comparative element is changed to its lower or lesser counterpart. Embedded numerical homonyms are not affected. Here's a story of a day at the beach that illustrates how my recessionary language would sound.

I hopped into my souped down 3 x 3 Ford V-7 RTU (SUV, in better days), picked up my better girlfriend, and drove to a 4 & 9 cents store to buy a bathing suit for me and a monokini for her. We then single-timed it to a 6-10, grabbed some 6-Up for our fourth of whiskey, and headed for a picnic at the beach. After cooking a juicy S-bone steak over an open fire, we settled back, turned on my h-pod, and watched the minitude of humanity pass by. There was the usual parade of sun-baked monokinis and bulging monoceps strutting their stuff. After the sun went down and the crowd went home, we became engaged in some serious threeplay. Things were looking down. I was in sixth heaven.

To our surprise, her quarter-brain w-boyfriend showed up, started spewing 3-letter words at us, and kicked sand in my face. He was wearing a San Francisco 48'er shirt and was accompanied by a nasty looking J-8 who raised his hind leg and o'd on our blanket. Judging from the beast's size, it had to be a Good Dane. It took but a split first to realize that the guy was already two sheets to the wind and packing a five-shooter. Putting one and one together, I realized that this one-bit jerk meant to put me 5 feet under. It also didn't take a fifth sense to clue me that I was behind the seven ball and had to do something on the single. Lucky for me, a 5-pack of Colt-44 beer was within reach. I grabbed a bottle and let it fly toward his tooth. This caused him to do a 179 and, with both inches, I kicked him in his gluteus minimus, forcing him to do a 2-point landing head second into the sand. This was our better chance to get away. I gave his three-legged friend our steaks and we low-tailed it out of there. As soon as we were off the beach, we called 8-0-0 to report him to the police and we sicced the dog ounce on his canine accomplice.
A word ladder is a link between two given words in which each rung is obtained from its predecessor by altering exactly one letter in it. As an illustration, one way in which APE can evolve into MAN is via the chain APE → APT → OPT → OAT → MAT → MAN.

The fifteen common phrases offered below require similar constructions. The first dozen ladders connect pairs of four-letter words, while the final trio asks for a bridge between two five-letter words. Answers are not unique.

1. AMEN to THAT
2. CALL to DUTY
3. CASH to BURN
4. DUSK to DAWN
5. HEAD to TOES
6. HERE to STAY
7. MADE to LAST
8. RICH to POOR
9. SHOT to HELL
10. SLIM to NONE
11. SOUP to NUTS
12. WILL to LIVE
13. DRIVE to DRINK
14. SCARE to DEATH
15. TAKES to HEART
WORD LADDERS – Answers

1. AMEN → OME → VEN → EYES → DYES → DOES → TOES → TOSS → LOSS → LOST → COST → COAT → CHAT → THAT
2. CALL → CULL → DULL → DULY → DUTY
3. CASH → BASH → BUSY → BURY → BURN
4. DUSK → MUSK → MASK → MASS → MAWS → LAWS → LAWN → DAWN
5. HEAD → HEED → TEED → TEES → TOES
6. HERE → HERD → HEAD → HEAR → SEAR → STAR → STAY
7. MADE → MALE → MALT → MAST → LAST
8. RICH → RICE → MICE → MILE → PILE → POLE → POLL → POOL → POOR
9. SHOT → SLOT → SLAT → SEAT → SEAL → SELL → HELL
10. SLIM → SLID → SAID → SAND → BAND → BOND → BONE → NONE
11. SOUP → SOUR → SOAR → BOAR → BEAR → BEER → BEES → BETS → NETS → NUTS
12. WILL → FILL → FILE → FIVE → LIVE
13. DRIVE → DROVE → GROVE → GRAVE → GRACE → TRACE → TRUCE → TRUCK → TRUNK → DRUNK → DRINK
14. SCARE → SCARS → SEARS → HEARS → HEATS → HEATH → DEATH
15. TAKES → CAKES → CASES → CASTS → COSTS → COATS → BOATS → BEATS → BEARS → HEARS → HEART
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word / Name</th>
<th>Dictionary</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adroitly</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>In an adroit manner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anesthyl</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A mixture of ethyl and methyl chlorides used for the production of local anaesthesia by spraying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blintzes</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Thin rolled pancakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blowiest</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Windiest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bungerly</td>
<td>W2 &amp; OED</td>
<td>Unworkmanlike, clumsily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chumleys</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>Dialect or old form of 'chimneys'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clientry</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Clientele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cryolite</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A mineral consisting of sodium-aluminum fluoride found in Greenland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dicotyls</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Plants with two cotyledons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dilatory</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Tending or having the intent to cause delay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enthalpy</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A thermodynamic quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enyalius</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>A god of war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>epicotyl</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A portion of the axis of a plant embryo or seedling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filatory</td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>A machine for forming or spinning threads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foxtails</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Foxes’ tails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>galewort</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>A shrub, also called the 'sweet gale'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>gealousy</strong></td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>15th century form of ‘jealousy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>geolatry</strong></td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>Worship of the earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grantley</strong></td>
<td>Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain, 3rd edition, 1992</td>
<td>Place in North Yorkshire, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grünwald</strong></td>
<td>Times Index Gazetteer, 1965</td>
<td>Place in Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>gunlayer</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A sailor who aims a ship's guns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>gunwales</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Parts of a nautical vessel where topsides and deck meet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>haylofts</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Lofts where hay is stored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>hectorly</strong></td>
<td>W2 &amp; OED</td>
<td>Of the nature of a hector, blustering, insolent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ialousye</strong></td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>15th century form of ‘jealousy’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>idolatry</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Worship of a physical object as a god</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>interlay</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Something placed between a printing plate and its base to make the plate a suitable height for proper impression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>jarovize</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>To give freshness to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>keypunch</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A machine actuated by a keyboard and used to cut holes or notches in punch cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>knitwear</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Knitted clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>kyanites</strong></td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Minerals consisting of an aluminum silicate occurring commonly in blue thin-bladed triclinic crystals and crystalline aggregates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>lauwines</strong></td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>Avalanches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>lawniest</strong></td>
<td>Collins Official Scrabble Words, 2015</td>
<td>Most like a lawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>laytimes</strong></td>
<td>Collins English Dictionary, 12th edition, 2014</td>
<td>Periods of time allowed by a ship-owner to offload cargo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>legatory</strong></td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>15th century form of ‘legatary’, a person to whom a bequest left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>legotary</strong></td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>17th century form of ‘legatary’, a person to whom a bequest left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lenzburg</strong></td>
<td>Times Index Gazetteer, 1965</td>
<td>Place in Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>liftboys</strong></td>
<td>Collins English Dictionary, 12th edition, 2014</td>
<td>Persons who operate lifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>lipocyte</strong></td>
<td>Collins English Dictionary, 12th</td>
<td>A fat-storing cell found in the liver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>lopheavy</td>
<td>W2, edition, 2014</td>
<td>So heavy as to lop or hang down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lymphate</td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>Diluted with water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lynchets</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Ridges or strips of unplowed land forming boundaries between fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lyterian</td>
<td>W2 &amp; OED</td>
<td>Indicating the end of a disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mawkiest</td>
<td>Collins English Dictionary, 12th edition, 2014</td>
<td>Most nauseating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>naythles</td>
<td>Chambers Dictionary, 12th edition, 2011</td>
<td>An archaic word meaning 'notwithstanding'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neuralgy</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Acute paroxysmal pain radiating along the course of one or more nerves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivarez</td>
<td>Wikipedia</td>
<td>Town in Hidalgo county, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ovalwise</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>In the characteristic manner of an oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ozarkite</td>
<td>W2 &amp; OED</td>
<td>A mineral, also called 'thomsonite'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmview</td>
<td>Wikipedia</td>
<td>Town in Hidalgo county, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>penalty</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Liability to punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pentylic</td>
<td>W2 &amp; OED</td>
<td>Relating to the pentyl radical in chemistry, C$<em>5$H$</em>{11}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>playtime</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Time for playing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plowgate</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A unit of land area once used in Scotland and northern England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quakynge</td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>Early form of ‘quaking’, appearing in several quotes – e.g. the 1555 quote at the verb ‘quake’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reculyng</td>
<td>OED</td>
<td>Early form of ‘recoiling’, appearing in two quotes – e.g. the 1566 quote at the adjective ‘recoiling’</td>
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<tr>
<td>scolytid</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>A beetle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sodality</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>Brotherhood, community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steamily</td>
<td>W3</td>
<td>In a steamy manner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tankwise</td>
<td>W2</td>
<td>In the characteristic manner of a tank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### tensibly
In a tensible manner

### triazole
Any of various compounds $C_2H_3N_3$ containing a ring composed of two carbon atoms and three nitrogen atoms

### twangler
One who twangles, or twangs

### twangles
Twangling sounds

### twankies
Plural of 'twanky', a variant form of 'twankay', a variety of green tea

### unbirdly
Unlike a bird

### unclegy
To deprive a person of their status as member of the clergy

### uneasily
In an uneasy manner

### unfairly
Unjustly

### unflashy
Not flashy

### unsagely
Not sagely

### valorize
To determine or set the price of

### wankiest
Weakest, feeblest

### waterlog
To saturate with water

### whetrock
A natural or artificial stone for whetting edge tools

### wrentail
An artificial fly used for trout fishing

### The Supplementary List – 145 names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alexinus</th>
<th>Andzulis</th>
<th>Aulopyge</th>
<th>Beowulph</th>
<th>Bertilow</th>
<th>Bouwerij</th>
<th>Budzisko</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cetinsky</td>
<td>Chelstow</td>
<td>Chertkow</td>
<td>Chwostek</td>
<td>Clergoux</td>
<td>Cloherty</td>
<td>Cumiskey</td>
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<td>Dovyalis</td>
<td>Dzukians</td>
<td>Epitaxol</td>
<td>EuroHawk</td>
<td>Expolita</td>
<td>Eyrivank</td>
<td>Fakhoury</td>
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<td>Genryaku</td>
<td>Goldbury</td>
<td>Gwapotel</td>
<td>Gyaltsen</td>
<td>Halestyn</td>
<td>Heatwork</td>
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<td>Hureczko</td>
<td>Hyloecus</td>
<td>Hypenula</td>
<td>Intkawes</td>
<td>Jentzsch</td>
<td>Jewtopia</td>
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<td>Kamfiruz</td>
<td>Kartezio</td>
<td>Katheryn</td>
<td>Kathryne</td>
<td>Katheos</td>
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<td>Kazeruni</td>
<td>Kenyusha</td>
<td>Kerugoya</td>
<td>Khoudary</td>
<td>Kiamus</td>
<td>Kierzbn</td>
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<td>Krizovec</td>
<td>Kunshady</td>
<td>Kurowice</td>
<td>Kushaney</td>
<td>Kwarteng</td>
<td>Lexaurin</td>
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<td>Liestany</td>
<td>Limyurat</td>
<td>Lucmierz</td>
<td>Lyhundra</td>
<td>Lyngstad</td>
<td>Lysivane</td>
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<td>Malyshev</td>
<td>Marlieux</td>
<td>Matherly</td>
<td>Mazeptil</td>
<td>Melathys</td>
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<td>Niekurza</td>
<td>Njarthey</td>
<td>Oleyuria</td>
<td>Ovarhely</td>
<td>Pfinztal</td>
<td>Pilocyte</td>
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<td>Playdium</td>
<td>Plentzia</td>
<td>Ploeizia</td>
<td>Podjuchy</td>
<td>Polytech</td>
<td>Reckritz</td>
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<td>Syntelic</td>
<td>Szentgal</td>
<td>Szinfalu</td>
<td>Targowe</td>
<td>Tariflox</td>
<td>Telschow</td>
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<td>Terxanli</td>
<td>Theroyla</td>
<td>Thorwald</td>
<td>Trazodil</td>
<td>Trychelr</td>
<td>Trzebnik</td>
<td>Tsjechow</td>
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<td>Unzicker</td>
<td>Urzelina</td>
<td>Vermilya</td>
<td>Verxijan</td>
<td>Veyxlan</td>
<td>Vilareyo</td>
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<td>Virolay</td>
<td>Walhstod</td>
<td>Walstein</td>
<td>Walthose</td>
<td>Weitkamp</td>
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<td>Wolfarth</td>
<td>Wunschel</td>
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<td>Yerukhan</td>
<td>Yesilova</td>
<td>Yetimlar</td>
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<td>Zahourek</td>
<td>Zastinije</td>
<td>Zavodski</td>
<td>Zdralovi</td>
<td>Zeitlarn</td>
<td>Zekistan</td>
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<td>Zharkent</td>
<td>Ziskovec</td>
<td>Zupanije</td>
<td>Zurkanen</td>
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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.

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<th>3</th>
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<tr>
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<td>DEF</td>
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<td>GHI</td>
<td>JKL</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>MNO</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>PQR</td>
<td>TUV</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>WXYZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Adjectives often come in positive/negative pairs, or antonyms, such as well/unwell, correct/incorrect similar/dissimilar. But there are some notable gaps in this pattern. Youngsters have fun recreating the terms couth (correct but obsolete) and gruntled (incorrect: if grumd ever existed, disgruntled would not have been its opposite). There is no lack of other examples in common speech. For instance, why can’t some Chinese be scrubtable, and why can’t my appearance (still) be kempt? Much the same happens in the case of -ful/-less adjectives where the pattern of pairs like careful/careless and harmful/harmless is broken by such ‘singletons’ as peaceful, plentiful and priceless. Also, even where pairs of opposites appear to exist, the words are not always truly opposite in meaning, sometimes because of multiple meanings in one word of the pair (easy, scramble, invalid), and sometimes because of a natural divergence in usage (im/pertinent, infirm, infamou). Again, in cases like hopeful and hopeless the context plays a part: when applied to situations the words are opposite, but when applied to people they are far from it: if I am hopeful, I have hope, but if I am hopeless then others have no hope for me. Another example is the use of un/fold in its intransitive: the unfolding of a story is not the opposite of the folding of a theatre production. Also far from opposites we have the pair im/passive. Then there is the possibility of a downright dangerous misunderstanding where an apparent opposite is nothing of the kind – in/flammable.

The notion of ‘opposite’ is itself a bit vague, ranging from logical contradiction to attaching a prefix or suffix to an existing word to denote a significant difference. Just how involved things can get is illustrated by words derived from sense. To start with, there are several meanings of the word: we have the physical senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch: then it can mean meaning: and in matters of thought and expression it denotes good sense and also awareness and feeling. Take the word sensible: its common meaning is having good sense. So - is its antonym insensible? No: that usually means rendered unconscious. Senseless is more of an antonym, though that too can mean unconscious (even if senseful does not exist to pair with it). Sensible, as in ‘I am sensible of your concerns’, leads to sensibility, whose opposite is – of course - not insensibility, which means unconsciousness. A closer antonym is insensitivity: but sensitive and insensitive as a pair are not perfect, because if I am sensitive I get upset easily, while if I am insensitive I am likely to upset others. At the physical level there is insensate, which leads to sensation and un/sensational! Finally (?) there is nonsense which is the opposite of good sense and also the opposite of what is meaningful. Is that clear now?
Apart from *nonsense*, the prefix *non* yields *nonentity, nonchalant, nondescript, nonplussed*. When hyphenated, the prefix is readily attached to nouns, adjectives and participles: examples are *non-fiction, non-compliant, non-aligned*. One more negating prefix is *a-/an-* with words from the Greek: here too there are ill-matched pairs, such as *a/pathetic, an/aesthetic, a/gnostic*.

With the *-un* words the prefix is predominantly equivalent to just using the word *not*. But there are good reasons, of course, for creating a one-word negative. One is that it would be clumsy to say ‘*I am in a not happy mood*’, or ‘*Such things are not not usual*’. Also, an adjective can be turned into an adverb: could one say ‘*not doubtedly*’ or ‘*not waveringly*’? The *–un* prefix generally produces well-behaved pairs, though with a few oddities: *undue* is opposite to one meaning of *due* but only in the sense of being too much, not too little: *unearth* and *unearthly* lack real opposites: and to *unpick* is not the opposite of to pick. Many of the negatives are formed from the past participle passive, such as *unbroken, unpaid*, but ambiguity still exists when *un-* is applied to the verb itself: a verb of action when so negated means to reverse the action of the positive verb: we have to *undo, unfold, unload, unlock* and so on. If I am told ‘*That door has been unlocked*’ I assume someone has come and unlocked it, but if I am told ‘*That door has been unlocked for years*’ then I think that it has been in a not-locked state for years, or even could have been like that from when the place was built.

Where ‘singleton’ adjectives don’t have an opposite half, there is often good reason: if I am not legless (in either sense of the word), would I describe myself as *legful*? And if an event is not fateful, would one call it *fateless*? The suffix *–less* often means ‘totally without’, but in other cases it just points towards one end of a sliding scale (like we can say ‘*not unhappy*’ to indicate neither extreme). However, sometimes the missing opposites could in principle exist or be revived, as in the following anecdote: -

As a rather trepid person I have tried to be clueful in matters of home security. But the other day I looked down and saw an intruder coming up the stairs. His expression was fathomable nocuous and nocent – here was a man determined to go away full-handed. He grasped my arm and said ‘*You are pecunious. Where are the valuables?”* I felt resourceless rather than defenceful, but then something toward happened. My free hand brushed against a slim glass vase on the window ledge. This made a wieldy weapon and I swung it at his head. He fell back down the stairs, still gripping my arm and I collapsed on top of him. On reaching the bottom, he was clearly scathed, whereas I was the hapful victor. I still held a broken piece of glass in my hand and, though too ruthless to do him more damage, I kept it ready in case he became senseful before the police came. The vase was not valueful, and the blood stains on the carpet would be delible, so on the whole it was a woeless experience.
State Name Limericks
Bill Brandt

Using the names of states to create word games used to be popular, for example: What did Idaho? She hoed her Maryland. I have put all the ones I could think of into limerick format. I realize that limericks may have gone the way of buggy whips, but I am always hopeful some day they may make a comeback. In any case, I hope you enjoy them.

She gardened in the sand,
Was working hard there, and
We really want to know,
Just what did Idaho?
She hoed her Maryland.

With children she had one,
A boy with siblings none.
The boy was looking wan.
So where has Oregon?
To see her Wisconsin.

At dinner she had fun,
But when the day was done.
The scale had the last say.
Just what did Iowa?
She weighed a Washington.

With an invitation to tea,
And told to arrive around three.
She didn’t have time to spare,
So what then did Delaware?
She wore her New Jersey.

She wanted to be free,
And sailed out on the sea.
Now I don’t want to pry,
But how did Florida?
She died in Missouri.
We saw her at the spa.
She went there with her ma.
A glass was in her grip.
And what did Mississipp(i)?
She sipped a Minnesota.

Brass cars cost lots of dough,
Old or new gas to make them go?
So the question I want to ask ya,
Which gas for my Nebraska?
Only the New Mexico.

Callie’s living with her ma,
Got a gift phone from her pa.
So what I want to ask ya
Is why did California?
If you don’t know, Alaska.

The scene was pretty raw,
But not against the law.
Your testimony’s key,
Just what did Tennessee?
She saw what Arkansas.

I had a coat, the color tan,
Getting it ripped was not the plan.
It won’t matter one iota,
Can anyone sew Dakota?
Probably Michigan.
Every word has a total of 2 vowels. The 2 vowels are different. They can be anywhere in the word except adjacent to each other.

In the word pairs listed, the vowels under consideration are supplemented by like consonants in the same positions in each word eg MAVIS MOVES which has a bonus because it makes sense!

In some word pairs, the same 2 different vowels occur in reverse order. These are shown in bold.

**AE EA** ARE – ERA  MANSE – MENSA

**AE EI** DANES – DENIS  SAME – SEMI  PANES – PENIS

**AE EO** CANTER – CENTOR (surname)  PASTE – PESTO  PADRE – PEDRO  NAME – NEMO

**AE EU** MANE – MENU  VANES – VENUS

**AE IA** ARE – IRA  DAVE – DIVA  LAME – LIMA  VASE – VISA  RAVEL – RIVAL


**AE IU** PANES – PINUS  LANES – LINUS (a first name)  ANDES – INDUS  TATES – TITUS  FACES – FICUS (fig tree)  MANES – MINUS


**AE OI** DARES – DORIS  ARCHED – ORCHID  BARES – BORIS

**AE OU** LACES –LOCUS  FACES – FOCUS

**AE UA** DAMES – DUMAS  RATE – RUTA (the plant ‘rue’)  

**AE UI** MANE – MUNI (Paul)  ARE – URI (Geller)

**AE UO** PLATE – PLUTO  MANGE – MUNGO  JANE – JUNO

**AI EA** RAPIST – REPAST

**AI EO** HARI (Mata) – HERO  MARTIN – MERTON (surname)
AI EU PARIS – PERU’S LAMIR (place in Turkey) – LEMUR

AI IA MALIN (a first name) – MILAN

AI IE BALI – BILE MALI – MILE DAVID – DIVED (a phrase) GAVIN – GIVEN

AI IO BAMBI – BIMBO BASIN – BISON

AI IU MANIS (peanut) – MINUS SANIS (place in France) – SINUS

AI OA MARGIN – MORGAN


AI OU BASIN – BOSUN

AI UA MALI – MULA (place in Spain) GALIG (surname) – GULAG

AI UE MALI – MULE SARI – SURE BASIS – BUSES

AI UO JADI (girl’s name) – JUDO MALI – MULO (lighthouse in Croatia)

AO EA ALSO – ELSA BRANDO – BRENDA AVON – EVAN HAROLD – HERALD

AO EI MADOC – MEDIC MARLON – MERLIN

AO EU FARGOS – FERGUS

AO IA AVON – IVAN ADO – IDA (a first name)

AO IE ADO – IDE TANGO – TINGE

AO IU SANOS (surname) – SINUS MANOR – MINUR (place in India) MANOS (surname) – MINUS

AO OA CAROL – CORAL

AO OE HALO – HOLE AVON – OVEN

AO OI MANOR – MONIR (a first name)

AO OU ANOS (place in France) – ONU S BALOS (place in Crete) – BONUS

AO UA HALO – HULA

AO UE DADO – DUDE

AO UI TALOP (surname) – TULIP
AU  EA  ANUS – ENAS (first name ENA)
AU  EI  ANNUS – ENNIS (surname)
AU  EO  LANU (place in Iran) - LENO  RANU (surname) - RENO
AU  IA  ANUS – INAS (INA is a first name)
AU  IE  MANUS (New Guinea island) – MINES
AU  IO  ARUN (river in Sussex, UK) – IRON
AU  OA  MANUS (New Guinea island) – MONAS
AU  OE  JANUS – JONES
AU  OI  CALUN (surname) – COLIN  ARUM – ORIM (place in Israel)
AU  UA  TABU (Indian film actress) – TUBA  ALUN (a first name) – ULAN (Bator)
AU  UE  MALUS (apple genus) – MULES
AU  UI  MANUS (New Guinea island) – MUNIS (surname MUNI)
AU  UO  TADUR (place in India) – TUDOR  MANRU (an opera) – MUNRO

EA  IE  CEDAR – CIDER
EA  IO  VERA – VIRO (surname)
EA  IU  SETA – SITU
EA  OE  DEGAS – DOGES
EA  OI  TEXAN – TOXIN
EA  OU  VERA – VÔRU (place in Estonia)
EA  UE  ERA – URE (UK river)
EA  UI  ERA – URI (a first name)
EA  UO  PEDAL – PUDOL (surname)

EI  IA  GENI – GINA
EI  IE  LENIN – LINEN
EI IO GENI – GINO
EI IU FERIS (surname) – FICUS
EI OA EVIL – OVAL
EI OE SEMI – SOME
EI OU ENIS (a first name) – ONUS SERIS (surname) – SORUS (botanical term)
EI UA LENIN – LUNAS (place in France)
EI UE YETI – YUTE (an American people)
EI UO YETI – YUTO (a first name) LENIN – LUNON (surname)

EO IA MELON – MILAN
EO IE MENTOR – MINTER METRO – MITRE MELLOR – MILLER LENOR – LINER
EO IU LENOS (surname LENO) – LINUS
EO OA NERO – NORA TESCO – TOSCA RENO – RONA
EO OE TENOR – TONER LENOR (a place in Colombia) – LONER
EO OI EROS – ORIS (Swiss watch brand name) RENO – RONI (both first names)
EO OU ENOS (surname) – ONUS HEROS – HORUS (Egyptian deity)
EO UA LENOR (a place in Colombia) – LUNAR LENO (surname) – LUNA (a Romanian river)
EO UE ERGO – URGE LEMON – LUMEN LEGO – LUGE
EO UI REDO – RUDI (first name)

EU IA MENU – MINA
EU IE VENUS – VINES
EU IO GENUS – GINOS (first name GINO)
EU OA MENU – MONA
EU OE PERU – PORE REBUS – ROBES FERGUS – FORGES
EU OI PERU – PORI (Finnish city)
EU UA MENU – MUNA (place in Mexico)
EU UE PERU – PURE MENU – MUNE (surname)
EU UI MENU – MUNI (surname) REDO – RUDI (a first name)
EU UO LEDU (a Chinese District) – LUDO

IA OE LISA – LOSE DIVA – DOVE PISA – POSE IVAN – OVEN IDA – ODE
IA OI LIRAS – LORIS
IA OU INGA – ONGU (place in Maldives)
IA UE LIRA – LURE SINBAD – SUNBED
IA UI IRA – URI
IA UO INGA – UNGO (place in Spain)

IE OI HIVES – HOVIS
IE OU SIRES – SORUS TIRES – TORUS (geometrical term)
IE UA RILE – RULA (a first name) LINER – LUNAR TINE – TUNA
IE UI IRE – URI MINE – MUNI
IE UO BRINE – BRUNO

IO OA BIRO – BORA (a wind in Adriatic)
IO OI IRON – ORIN (a first name)
IO OU IRON – ORUN (surname)
IO UA IRON – URAN (a place in India) GIRO – GURA (a place in Kenya)
IO UE DINO – DUNE LINGO – LUNGE
IO UI BINGO – BUNGI (a Creole language) TIRON (a chemical compound) – TURIN
Along with MAVIS - MOVES, my favourite is FERGUS - FORGES
THE NORWICH BUMSTEAD
DIVINATION

by Jeremiah Farrell

The effect: The subject secretly chooses one of the fifteen letters in the name NORWICH BUMSTEAD. The magician then asks the subject to separate the five colored cards into two piles; one that contains the words that have his chosen letter in them and the other that contains those words that do not have his letter.

Even though the magician does not know which pile is which, he is quickly able to discern that subject’s choice by a mere glance at the mystic NORWICH BUMSTEAD diagram.

The method: The mystic diagram can be thought of as a torus, or doughnut shape, by bending the half-red upper edge over to join the half-red lower edge, and then joining the half-blue ends to form the torus. This need not actually be done, of course, since it is easy to imagine that “A” is connected to the “B” via a blue edge, or that the “W” is connected through a red edge to the “S”, and so on. With this proviso, every letter (and Norwich himself in the lower right-hand corner) is connected to exactly four other letters by crossing one of the four colors Red, Blue, Yellow or Green.

When the subject separates the five colored cards, the magician simply notes the colors in either pile. He mentally traces the colors in that pile, starting from the Norwich square in the lower right. If the white card is in his chosen pile, the magician makes a (unique) diagonal jump over one square to account for it. For example, suppose Red, Green and White are in one pile. From Norwich the magician crosses Red to “R”, Green to “W” and then does the White diagonal hop to land on “U”, the chosen letter. Had he traced the other pile instead, i.e., Blue and Yellow, he could have gone Yellow to “C” and then Blue to “U” reaching the same spot. It is worth noting that the colors in any pile may be traced in any order; they will always locate the same letter.
NORWICH BUMSTEAD
DIVINES ALL!
COLLOQUY

DARRYL FRANCIS comments:

“Have just seen the February Word Ways online. Another good issue. I have already emailed Jeff Grant to point out a further alphabetic trigram .... LONGHIRST is a village in Northumberland, England. Probably just over an hour's drive from me! “

Also “Have also emailed Jeff Grant to say that ...
Rhinopomastus exists on the internet
It appears to be a genus of African birds.
That's two new items to add to Jeff's list. I wonder if there are more to be found.”

BRANDON ALDRIDGE writes:

My name is Branden Aldridge, and I have found a new world record for the shortest panalphabetic window. In the article "Panalphabetic Windows in Literature" by Michael Keith, published by Word Ways in the February 2001 edition (v. 34, No. 1, pp. 74), the author describes a computerized search of Project Gutenberg, and reports the shortest panalphabetic window he found was a 535-letter stretch of text in Honore De Balzac's "The Alkahest".

I have recently performed another search of Project Gutenberg, analyzing over 48,000 books, and have found a 408-letter panalphabetic window in the book "Thirty Years' View (Vol I of 2)." by Thomas Hart Benton. The window occurs in Chapter XCIII, Mistakes of Public Men. It is shown below, with all letters converted to lowercase, except for those forming the alphabet in the panalphabetic window, shown in triple brackets:

the politicians were to make the panic, by the alarms which they created for the safety of the laws, of the constitution, the public liberty, [[[And the public money: and most zealously did each division of the combination perform its part, and for the long period of three full months, the decision of the resolution condemning Jackson, on which all this machinery of distress and panic was hung, required no part of that time. there was the same majority to vote it the first day as the last; but the time was wanted to get up the alarm and the distress; and the vote, when taken, was not from any exhaustion of the means of terrifying and agonizing the country, but for the purpose of having the sentence of condemnation ready for the Virginia elections--ready for spreading over Virginia at the approach of the april elections.

One observation of this window is that it only contains one name, Jackson, which is a rather common name, and the windows contains no abbreviations, unusual proper names, foreign language words, or obscure words.

NOTE: The book "Thirty Years' View" can be obtained from Project Gutenberg at the following link:

http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/44851/pg44851.txt

The Word Ways article “Panalphabetic Windows in Literature” can be retrieved at the following link:

https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4542&context=wordways
THE
MAD HATTER'S
DREAM
by Jeremiah Farrell

Secretly choose any letter from the title and then place the four words into two piles, one with your letter choice on them and the other not on them. Show me either pile and I will name your letter using the Hatter’s magic cube.

Please DREAM about how this is done and tell me later.
How to use the Magic Cube

There are precisely 8 different letters in the title and can be found in "Mad Hatter's" alone. When the colors of a pile are known, the magician notes them and beginning on the "S" (for Start) traces them on the edges. If he runs into a node that does not have a color he needs to trace on it. He makes a big diagonal jump to another node and continues.

Two examples. Suppose the subject chooses the letter A and therefore forms the two piles Red-Blue and Yellow-Green. From the first pile, starting on the S we hit R then end on A. From the second pile we start on S go Yellow to M and since there is no Green at M we diagonally hop to A.

Suppose instead the subject chooses H. The two piles will be Blue and Red-Yellow-Green. Since S has no Blue edge we diagonally hop to end on H. On the other hand, tracing Red, Yellow and Green, in any order, will also end on H.

The diagonal hops are SH, MA, RT and ED.

If S is chosen then only one pile can be formed rather than two but the procedure still works. The letters of NIL are each used twice to fill out the four four-letter words but of course can never be chosen.
THE COUNTER-CLOCKWISE WAY

SCOT MORRIS
San Diego, California

A couple weeks ago I asked correspondents who were going to watch the Olympics to take note of which way the figure skaters did their spins--clockwise vs. counter-clockwise. After the first night you probably realized this was a loaded question--all 30 of the skaters spun counter-clockwise! Throughout the next two weeks of the games, I saw only two skaters who spun clockwise: Carolina Costner of Italy, and Bronze Medalist Kaetlyn Osmond of Canada.

On one day I watched which way skiers turned coming to a stop after their Giant Slalom runs. Twenty one out of 22 turned left.

The bias cannot totally be due to handedness (or "sidedness"). The portion of lefties in society is estimated to be between 7% and 10%, but the portion of clockwise skaters was only 2.8% (5 of 176 performances that I tallied).

##

The human animal, through all times and all cultures, is and has been a right-handed species. Whatever its relation, I have noticed in my studies of asymmetries that whenever humans move in a circular path they overwhelmingly do it counter-clockwise.

Consider: running tracks, auto race courses, speed skating, bicycle velodromes, baseball, roller derby, horse races, dog races, revolving doors, Whirling Dervish dancers, ballroom dancers around the dance floor, and chariot racers (as recreated in the Ben-Hur movies). The directions on a Hula Hoop were to hold the hoop against your back and push forward with the right hand, thus setting the hoop and the hips in a counter-clockwise rotation. At public ice- and roller rinks, they make you skate counter-clockwise.

In a survey of college students I found that the vast majority said that they walked or would walk counter-clockwise around a lake, an island, a supermarket or a county fair. I have been told that the rents at fairs are higher for booths to the right of the midway, to capitalize on visitors’ tendencies to turn right after entering, to start a counter-clockwise circuit.

As seen from the north, as is customary, Earth spins counter-clockwise around its axis, (as do all the planets in their orbits around the Sun). This Earthly rotation indirectly results in Northern Hemisphere tornadoes and hurricanes spinning the same way. It is often claimed that water drains counter-clockwise out of bathtubs, sinks and toilets in the Northern Hemisphere, and clockwise in the Southern. In fact, water flows out of most sinks in the same direction it flowed in. The reason is that the Coriolis "force" (really an "effect", not a "force"), which is supposed to cause this, is almost immeasurably weak and is overpowered by the slightest current. In ideally motionless water the molecules at the south side of the sink are slightly closer to the Equator than the molecules at the north side; hence they are traveling a slightly larger circle around the
Earth's axis every day; hence they are moving through space slightly faster than the molecules at the north side of the sink! That's how weak the bathtub vortex is.

When I was once preparing a paper on the counter-clockwise phenomenon, and the complete absence of clockwise counter-examples, as far as I could tell, I asked three prominent anthropologists how this came to be--Irven DeVore at Harvard, Bernard Campbell at UCLA, and Sherwood Washburn at Berkeley--and they all gave me the same answer. Not,"Oh, that can be traced back to such-and-such", as I had hoped, but, "Hmmm. You know, I have never noticed that before."

I don't know of anyone else who has ever noticed that before.
DAY ONE? WAY DONE!
More Transposition Puns and Spoonerisms, Original and Otherwise

DON HAUPTMAN
New York, New York

Each morning, two daily newspapers are delivered to my apartment door. Usually, this routine is performed efficiently. But on one occasion, they didn’t arrive. I called the service and, in late afternoon, both papers were redelivered. Then my doorman handed me the original missing papers—four days later! Most likely, they were left in the wrong place and subsequently discovered and turned in. I hate waste, but I immediately discarded the now-useless duplicates. I reported the matter to the delivery service, wryly concluding: “Better never than late!”

Soon afterward, I told the story to my pal Mardy Grothe, the authority on literary and historical quotations (see www.drmardy.com). He responded: “I’m afraid George Bernard Shaw beat you to the punch.”

Mardy appended this passage from Never Let a Fool Kiss You or a Kiss Fool You, his 1999 book of chiastic wordplay:

“Early in his career, the struggling young writer George Bernard Shaw submitted a play to a well-known London producer, who flatly rejected it. Several years later, the same producer sent a telegram to Shaw—now a successful playwright—saying he was, after all, interested in producing the work. Shaw cabled his reply: ‘Better never than late.’”

The quip has since become popular. An Internet search generates tens of thousands of matches in, among other contexts, sports reporting, titles of movies and TV shows, and admonitions deployed by business coaches.

Here are more punny reversals. As usual, where I was anticipated, I have appended notes at the end of this article.

- Favorite cocktail of Arctic explorers: Polar Sour.
- Advice for beachwear marketers: Hawk to the tanned.
- Dinner theater: Food with your play.
- Maxim of crony politicians: It is better to court the PACs than to pack the courts.
- Appropriate name for instant polenta: Soft-Pour Corn.
- Murder mystery set in a wildlife preserve: The Last Scoundrel of the Refuge.
Welcoming exclamation of card players: *All decks on hand!*

Slogan, landscaping service for duck hunters: *This will really mow your blind.*

Line of packaged meals for geeks: *Nerd’s Best.*

Distress call for oil-drilling catastrophes: *Eek! Frackcident!*

Old Testament commandment: *Layeth the sword, sayeth the Lord.*

Following are a few real-life instances of transpositional humor, drawn from recent personal experiences and news events:

- A friend requested my assistance with a wire transfer. I was charged $50 for the transaction, but the bank officer promised to credit my account as a courtesy. I was tempted to exclaim: “Fee waiver? We favor!”

- At a restaurant in Washington, D.C., the check arrived with a card reading “The Breakfast of Champions.” I proposed to the manager that it would be more persuasive to tweak the classic cereal slogan, touting the eatery’s chefs as “The Champions of Breakfast.”

- A movie playing in theaters as I write is titled *The Leisure Seeker.* One wonders if it will inspire a sequel about a hospital whistleblower: *The Seizure Leaker.*

- In an e-mail exchange with an economist about the controversial Obama-era monetary policy of “quantitative easing,” I quipped that the Age of Reason had been replaced by the Rage of Easin’.

- Last year’s widely reported kerfuffle involving an assault on Senator Rand Paul by a neighbor, following a bizarre dispute about their lawns, suggested this possible headline: “Blowing Leaves and Leaving Blows.”

Finally, a longstanding debate in the spoonerism community (if such exists) concerns the question of whether coined reversals must make sense. Of course, it’s preferable when they are meaningful. Still, for ages, people have been saying things like “One swell foop” and “Why don’t you go where you’re watching?” Such expressions are nonsensical, but that doesn’t diminish—and may even enhance—their amusement value.

While pondering this conundrum, I wondered why T-shirts and coffee mugs displaying the words “As Tarp as a Shack” abound for sale online. The phrase is meaningless, except perhaps to hillbilly architects! Then I realized that the objects thus festooned are intended as gag gifts for older people, communicating a message that humorously refutes itself.

*Credit Edit: Googling generated no matches for many of the above specimens. Re the following, I was anticipated, though the contexts usually differed. Corn: breweries. Refuge: interestingly, all from U.K. Decks: multiple previous uses, for skateboard auctions and other purposes. Champions: video games, rock groups, others. Earlier citations also found for: Play, Nerds, Blind.*
51.2.1 Doubly True – 1 by Andrzej Bartz, Fuerth, Germany
\[ \sqrt{N I N E} + \sqrt{F O U R} = S I X - O N E \]

51.2.2 Doubly True – 2 by Andrzej Bartz, Fuerth, Germany
\[ (T W O + T W O)^2 + (S I X - O N E)^2 = (O N E)^2 + (T W O)^2 + (S I X)^2 \]

51.2.3 Up In Smoke by Andrzej Bartz, Fuerth, Germany
\[ A \times L I T T L E \times P O T = I S \times S O O N \times H O T \]
(Please solve in base 12.)

51.2.4 Worldwide Cruise – 1 by Paul Boymel, Potomac, Maryland
\[ F I J I \times W A L E S = M A L A Y S I A \]

51.2.5 Worldwide Cruise – 2 by Paul Boymel, Potomac, Maryland
\[ M A L I \times O M A N = E T H I O P I A \]

51.2.6 A Capital Idea! by Frank Mrazik, Montreal, Quebec
\[ \text{THE} + \text{STATE} + \text{CAPITALS} + \text{ANnapolis} + \text{CHARLESTON} + \text{CONCORD} + \text{DES} + \text{MOINES} + \text{HARTFORD} + \text{HELENA} + \text{LANSING} + \text{LINCOLN} + \text{MADISON} + \text{PIERRE} + \text{RALEIGH} + \text{RICHMOND} + \text{SACRAMENTO} + \text{SALEM} + \text{SANTA} + \text{FE} + \text{SPRINGFIELD} + \text{TRENTON} = \text{TALLAHASSEE} \]
(Solve this one in base 16.)
51.2.1  Doubly True – 1  by Andrzej Bartz, Fuerth, Germany

$$\sqrt{2025} + \sqrt{1369} = 407 - 325$$

51.2.2  Doubly True – 2  by Andrzej Bartz, Fuerth, Germany

$$(204 + 204)^2 + (136 - 459)^2 = (459)^2 + (204)^2 + (136)^2$$

51.2.3  Up In Smoke  by Andrzej Bartz, Fuerth, Germany

$$1 \times 240023 \times A60 = 47 \times 7669 \times 860$$

51.2.4  Worldwide Cruise – 1  by Paul Boymel, Potomac, Maryland

$$6484 \times 10935 = 70902540$$

51.2.5  Worldwide Cruise – 2  by Paul Boymel, Potomac, Maryland

$$4025 \times 9406 = 37859150$$

51.2.6  A Capital Idea !  by Frank Mrazik, Montreal, Quebec

$$739 + 67879 + c8407816 + 8ee84f106 + c38a1967fe + cfecfab + b96 + 2f0e96 +$$
$$38a7dfab + 3919e8 + 18e60e5 + 10ecf1e + 28b06fe + 409aa9 + a819053 +$$
$$a0c32feb + 68ca829e7f + 68192 + 68e78 + d9 + 64a0e5d091b + 7a9e7fe =$$
$$78118386699$$
THE TEA PARTY

By Stephen Bloom and Jeremiah Farrell

Four coins are used in Tea Party magic. First of all, secretly toss one coin and it will now show up which of either heads or tails stands for Yes while the opposite side will stand for No. The magician will not know which is which.

Now choose, again secretly, one of the four characters at the tea party. The depictions are those drawn by the original artist J. Tenniel.

Trick 1. Secretly choose one of two quirks. “Convivial” and tell the truth to four questions or “Contrary” and lie to all four. Place four coins on the four colors according to your appropriate quirk answering the question “Is your chosen character here?”

Trick 2. Chose now between three quirks: “Convivial”, “Contrary” or “Confused”. If you choose “Confused” alternate answer true, false, true, false OR false, true, false, true in the order pink, blue, green and yellow.

For either Trick tell the magician on which colors the heads occur. The magician can quickly name your character even not knowing your quirk or whether heads means Yes or No.
AT THE
TEA PARTY
How to determine the character.

On the circular table regard the top and bottom colors to be either pink or green on both. The left and right colors are both either blue or yellow.

Starting at the Mad Hatter on the circle trace either Heads or Tails on the colors. You will always end at the chosen character no matter what quirk was chosen.
CONSECUTIVE DOUBLE LETTERS

JEFF GRANT
Hastings, New Zealand

An old riddle asks, “Can you name a word with three consecutive double letters?” One possible answer is WOOLLEN - ‘double U, double O, double L, …’ A more satisfying solution is BOOKKEEPER (or BOOKKEEPING), the only common words with a consecutive triple double.

In compiling this list of words with consecutive double letters we have included not only dictionary words and words found in Internet texts, but also proper nouns (mostly place names), some foreign words and a number of the best contrived terms. A selection of personal names has been listed, but only where multiple (20+) examples have been found. A more extensive search would doubtless uncover a large number of extra names, but verification is often problematic. Thanks to Dave Morice for coinages from his inspirational Kickshaws piece ‘The Moonnookkeeper and the Toollooter’ (Word Ways, May 1999), and to Anil for his recent contributions.

Excluded are hyphenated words like COOL-LOOKING, BALLOON-NET (lace) and SLEEP-POOR, two-word terms such as BARROOM MAN and CAREER ROOM, apostrophised terms, eg COFFEE’LL (coffee will), exclamations (mainly) with multiple identical letters like GRRRRRR! and AAAAAH! and website/app names, eg SCHOOLLOOP and COOKKEEPBOOK.

Also omitted are erroneous forms like BALLOONNEER (ballooner) and strained coinages such as VACCUUMMOOING, cows in space, or the sound of a worn-out vacuum cleaner?

Threes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition/Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AALLAAKH</td>
<td>town in Russia. (Geo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AANNAAKH</td>
<td>in ‘Sgag AANNAAKH’, town in Russia. (Geo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AASSAA</td>
<td>also, in dialectic Norwegian. (PDicon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALLAALLA</td>
<td>town in Indonesia. (Geo) A nice palindrome!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTIBOOKKEEPING</td>
<td>against the principles of bookkeeping, hyphenated in Net quotes. (C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAALLEE</td>
<td>surname recorded 20 times. (Names)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLOONNESS</td>
<td>the essence or quality of a balloon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘She really made you feel her <strong>balloonness</strong>.’ (Sophomores and Other Oxymorons, D Lubar, 2015, p353)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARROOMMATE</td>
<td>a drinking companion. (C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAARROON</td>
<td>surname recorded 30+ times. (Names)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASSOONNESS</td>
<td>the essence or quality of a bassoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘…they all lost an essential <strong>bassoonness</strong> that people prize.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ forum.saxontheweb.net, Who here plays taragato? 13 Apr 2016 (Net)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEEFFEED</td>
<td>feed for beef cattle. (C) Hyphenated on Net.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BEEFFOOD  beef meat for eating. (C)
BEERROOM  a bar in St Petersburg, Russia. (Net)
BOOBBOOK  a social network that publishes photos of large-breasted females. (Net)
BOOBOOKKEEPER  keeper of an Australian boobook owl. (C)
BOODDEE  surname recorded 100+ times, and given name 30+ times. (Names)
BOOKKEEP  to do bookkeeping. (Wikt)
BOOKKEEPER  one who does bookkeeping. (ChD) Derivative terms include BOOKKEEPERING, BOOKKEEPERISH, BOOKKEEPERLESS, BOOKKEEPERLIKE, BOOKKEEPERLY and BOOKKEEPERMAN. (all Net)
BOOKKEEPING  the keeping of accounts in a systematic manner. (ChD)
BOOMMEE  surname and given name recorded 20+ times each. (Names)
BOONNEE  surname and given name recorded 30+ times each. (Names)
BOONNOO  surname recorded 20+ times. (Names)
BOONNOON  surname recorded 100+ times. (Names)
BOOTTOOL  a cobbler’s tool for repairing boots. (C)
BOOTTOOTER  punning slang for a 'shoehorn'. (C)
BROOKKEEPER  gamekeeper in charge of fish in a stream. (C)
BROOMMOOR HOUSE  19th century residence in Eaglesham, Glasgow. [Scottish Post Office Directory (Net)]
BUFFOONNESS  the essence or quality of a buffoon.
BUFFOONNESS?  ‘Who ever met a buffoon who was the least bit interested in disguising his buffooness?’ [Asylum Annual', 1993, p11 (Net)]
CAANNOOLE  a stream in Somalia. (Geo)
CARROOFFUL  a packed car roof, eg ‘a carroofful of bikes.’ (C)
CASSAASSA  mountain in Angola. (Geo)
CHINOOKKEEPER  person who runs a chinook salmon farm. (C)
CHOOKKEEPER  a poultry farmer. (C)
COLLEENNESS  the essence or character of someone called Colleen.
COLLEENNESS  ‘I’m feeling better, but not up to my full Colleenness.’ [chowido.com, 28 Jul 2013 (Net)]
COOKKEE  given name recorded 20+ times on Facebook. (Net)
COOKKEEPER  punning name for someone who ‘cooks the books’. (C)
COOKKOO-OOSEE  another name for the Coos indigenous people of Oregon, USA. Also called COOKKOOOSE, which is sometimes claimed to have four consecutive double letters, but it is flawed by the two double-O pairs in a row. (Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico, F W Hodge, 1905)
COOLLEE  in ‘COOLLEE Art Studio’, Brooklyn, New York. (Net)
COOLLEEARLEE  a well in Australia. (Geo)
COOLLOOK  a limited company in Birmingham, England. (Net)
CREEKKEEPER  = BROOKKEEPER (C)
CROOKKEEPER  a jailer or prison warden. (C)
DAADDAALE  town in Somalia. (Geo)
DAANNAA  given name recorded 50+ times. (Names)
DAYBOOKKEEPER  keeper of a daybook, for recording daily accounts transactions.
’The institution of *vakamuvis* largely lapsed into the kind of “*daybookkeeper*” envisaged by its creator,…’
*(History of the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey*, S J and E K Shaw, 1976, p296)

**DEEPPPOOL**
‘DEEPPPOOL Technologies Ltd’ is a company based in Brighton, England. (Net)

**DEERREEVE**
in New England, US, an officer formerly appointed to administer laws relating to deer. (hyphenated in OED)
‘An officer, called a *deerreeve*, was chosen in each town.’ *(A History of Deerfield, Massachusetts*, G Sheldon, 1972, p579)

**DOOMMOOD**
dark feelings, depression. (C)

**DOORROOD**
‘full red’, in Dutch, possibly coined. (PDicon)

**EEMMEER**
lake in the Netherlands. (Geo)

**EEMMEERDIJK**
dike in the Netherlands. (Geo) It begins with three double letters and ends with three consecutive letters!

**EEZZEE**
a laundromat in Somerset, New Jersey, US. (PDicon)

**ELLAAUUA**
locality in Morocco. (Geo)

**FEEDDOOR**
a door in an old-fashioned stove for feeding in wood or coal.
‘My invention consists in constructing the fuel-magazine…, with a *feeddoor* tilting or turning on its lower edge,…’
*[S B Sexton, Base-Burning Fire-Place Stoves, Patented August 1-2, 1873 (Net)]*

**FEESSAAL**
town in South Africa. (Geo)

**FLOODDOOR**
trademarked British flood barrier for domestic doors.
*[www.snorkelevent.co.uk (Net)]*

**FLOORROOF**
relating to roof-beams which can serve as the floor for a small room above. (C)

**FOODDOOR**
a door though which animals, birds, etc, can be fed. (C)

**FOOLLEE**
surname recorded 30+ times. (Names)

**FOOTTOOL**
a pedicure implement. (C)

**GAARRAAY**
park in Australia. (Geo)

**GEELLAAYE**
mountain in Somalia. (Geo)

**GEELLOOFUUL**
mountain in Somalia. (Geo)

**GOODDEE**
surname recorded 20+ times. (Names)

**GOODDEED**
Shetland and Orkney Islands, Scottish; in truth, truly, indeed.
*[oxforddictionaries.com (Net)]*

**GOOSSEE**
lake in the Schleswig-Holstein region, Germany. (Wiki)

**GREENNEEDLE**
a type of grass, often hyphenated.
‘Big bluestem, Indian grass, porcupine grass, *greenneedle*, switchgrass, prairie dropseed, bearded wheatgrass, cordgrass…’
*(Conservation of Natural Resources in North Dakota*, I T Dietrich, J Hove, 1962, p38)

**GREENNOOK**
a pleasant, imaginary place. [‘Lielta of *Greennook*, giantitp.com (Net)]

**HAASSAAN**
surname and given name each recorded 30+ times. (Names)

**HALLOOEE**
one of the dogs being encouraged by a huntsman’s cry of ‘halloo!’ (C)
‘halloer’ is used on Net.
HEELLOOPS  a kiteboarding accessory for the feet; footrest attachments on a wheelchair, etc. ‘If you don’t want binding, but want a secure feeling, use straps with heelloops.’ [kiteforum.com, 19 Apr 2004 (Net)]

HOOFFOOT  instrumental jazz/rock band from Malmo, Sweden. (Net)

HOOKKEEPER  a wire ring that holds a fly-fishing hook in place while rigged. (Wikt)

IITTOOAIVA  mountain in Finland. (Geo)

INTERROOMMATE  between roommates.

‘…courtship violence and even interroommate violence are being noted.’
[‘Coping with Crime on Campus’, M C Smith, 1988, p23 (Net)]

JAALLEE  given name recorded 70+ times. (Names)

JAARRAA  surname and given name each recorded 100+ times. (Names)

JEEPOOL  to carpool using a jeep.
‘Let me know if you would like to jeeppool or just head up together.’
[www.jeepings, 9 Apr 2007 (Net)]

JIBBOOMMAKER  one who made jibboom extension spars for sailing ships. (C)

KAALLAAGTE  name of many farms in South Africa. (Geo)

KAFFERSKRAALLEEGTE  locality in South Africa. (Geo)

KASTEELLOOP  stream in Belgium. (Geo)

KILLEENNESS  the character or essence of someone named Killeen, such as Jim Killeen, producer of a documentary called ‘Google Me’.
‘…to find out if there was any “essence” of Jim Killeenness.’
[www.nationalpost.com, 25 Aug 2008 (Net)]

KJAAPPAAN  lake in Norway. (Geo)

KOOKKEE  surname and given name each recorded 25 times. (Names)

KOOKKEEPER  warden at a psychiatric institution, offensive slang. (C)

KOOKKOO  surname recorded 40+ times. (Names)

KOOKKOOK  given name recorded 100+ times. (Names)

KOOLLOOK  International Ltd, firm making reading glasses and sunglasses, based in Shanghai, China. (Net)

KOOLLOOS  surname recorded 25+ times. (Names)

KOOSSOOL  surname recorded 20+ times. (Net)

KOOTTEERI  surname recorded 40+ times. (Names)

KOOTTOOR  surname recorded 20 times. (Names)

KUULLAAGER  ball-bearing, in Estonian. (Net)

KUUNNAATI  mountain in Greenland. (Net)

KUUSSAARI  island in Finland. (Geo)

KUUTTAAKH  town in Russia. (Geo)

LAABBAASIYA  farm village in Morocco. (Geo)

LAAKKII  town in Finland. (Geo)

LEEKKEEPER  in olden times, used to designate a gardener, invariably hyphenated or two words on Net. (C)

LEELLEEEL  hardship, trouble, in Somali. (PDicon)

LEELLOO  given name recorded 70+ times. (Names)

LEERREEL  canon, in Afrikaans. (PDicon)

LOOKKOOL  cocktail bar in Graz, Austria. (Net)
LOOPPOOL 1988 record album by American Elliott Sharp, who does experimental music and is based in Europe. (PDicon)

LUUKKAANAHOL locality in Finland. (Geo)
LUUSSAARE RABA bog in Estonia. (Geo)
LUUSSAARI island owned by Russia. (Geo)
MAAMMAA surname recorded 100+ times. (Names)
MAAMMEE given name recorded 100+ times. (Names)
MAAMMOO surname recorded 100+ times. (Names)
MAASSAADE town in Syria. (Geo)
MAASSEE lake in Germany. (Geo)
MAXILLOOCCIPITAL pertaining to the junction of the maxilla (jaw) and occiput (back of head) bones in the skull, usually hyphenated.
‘…maxillooccipital bone conduction in 30 cases.’ [Tuning Forks in Bone Conduction, H Tsukamoto, 1929, p51 (Net)]

MCCOOLLILE resembling someone named McCool, such as legendary Irish giant Finn McCool. (C)

MOOLLEE surname recorded 40 times. (Names)
MOONNEE surname recorded many times on Facebook. (Net)
MOORREES Myrthe MOORREES is a female dutch footballer. (Wiki)
MOORREESBURG town in South Africa. (Geo)
MOORROOM cultural association based in Rome, Italy. (Net)
MULLAALLA town in Afghanistan. (Geo)
MUULLAAX mountain in Somalia. (Geo)
NAADDAA given name recorded 20+ times. (Names)
NAALLEE given name recorded 20+ times. (Names)
NAANNOO surname recorded 20 times and given name 30+ times. (Names)
NABABEEPPORT pass in South Africa. (Geo)
NEETTOO surname and given name both recorded 20+ times. (Names)
NOGOONNUUR administrative region in Mongolia. (Geo)
NONBOOKKEEPER one who is not a bookkeeper.
‘The book can be adequate for use by the nonaccountant or nonbookkeeper …’ (The Accounting Review, Vol 32, 1957)
Other similar terms on the Net include PSEUDOBOOKKEEPER, QUASIBOOKKEEPER, SEMIBOOKKEEPER, SUPERBOOKKEEPER and UNDERBOOKKEEPER.

NONBOOKKEEPING not related to bookkeeping.
‘Perhaps the most common nonbookkeeping use of the computer in education is as a private tutor.’ (Special Technology for Special Children, E P Goldenberg, 1979, p25)

NOOKKEEPER one who looks after some kind of nook (corner, recess, secluded or sheltered place).

NOONNOON given name recorded 100+ times. (Names); to talk, speak or chatter, in Yapese. (PDicon)

NOOTTEE given name recorded 20+ times. (Names)
NOTEBOOKKEEPER one who keeps a notebook.
‘Oliver’s… observations of the “wild world”… burst with the lush detail of an obsessive notebookkeeper.’
[Blue Pastures, by Mary Oliver, 1 Oct 1995, kirkusreviews.com (Net)]
Other plausible words ending in -keeper include LOGBOOKKEEPER, SCRAPBOOKKEEPER, CASEBOOKKEEPER, CODEBOOKKEEPER and SKETCHBOOKKEEPER. (C)

NOTOONNUUR variant of NOGOONNUUR. (Geo)
NUUNNAAY town in Somalia. (Geo)
NUUPPAANJOKI stream in Finland. (Geo)
OOLLOO locality in Northern Territory, Australia. (Geo)
OOSSAAR spit in Estonia. (Geo)
OOSSOOR town in India. (Geo)
OUKRAALLEEGTE valley in South Africa. (Geo)
PAANNAAT mountain in Greenland. (Geo)
PALLEELLA town in Sri Lanka. (Geo)
PIISSAARI island in Russia. (Geo)
PIISSOO town in Estonia. (Geo)
POODDEE given name recorded 60+ times. (Names)
POOKKEE given name recorded 100+ times. (Names)
POOLLOO surname recorded 20+ times and given name 50+ times. (Names)
POOMMEE surname recorded 50+ times. (Names)
POORROOM room in a poorhouse. (C)
POSTTEENNESS the state or character of a “postteen”, someone older than a teenager. (C)
Compare ‘preteenness’ (Net quotes)
PREBOOKKEEPING before full bookkeeping (instruction).
’This book … contains materials for a one-semester foundational or prebookkeeping course.’ (General Business Science, Part 3, L L Jones, et al, 1931, piii)
PROBOOKKEEPING ‘Probookkeeping and Administrative Services of NY’ is a firm in White Plains, New York, US. (Net)
PUUSSAARE town in Estonia. (Geo)
QUEENNEE variant of the female given name ‘Queenie’, recorded 15 times. (Names)
RAAYYYAA surname recorded 100+ times. (Names)
RACCOONNESS the essence or character of a raccoon.
‘….we would check its size, its marking,… the observable features associated with raccoonness.’ (Cognitive Development, R A Rosser, 1994, p144)
RATTEENNESS the essence or quality of ‘ratteen’, a coarse woollen fabric. (C)
REELOOK silicone breast forms made by Softleaves. (Net)
ROODDOOR a door leading out of the church near the altar. (C) Hyphenated in Halliwell’s Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words, 1846.
ROOFFOOT the foot of a sloping roof, opposite to ‘rooftop’. (C)
ROOKKEEPER one who keeps rooks, large black crows.
‘Ingratitude from the rooks, poor thoughtless birds, might be borne, but from the rookkeeper, never.’ (The Celt, Oct 1859, p130)
ROOMMEET a gathering in a room. (C)
ROOMMOOD  the feeling or ‘mood’ of a room. (C)
ROONNEE  given name recorded 40+ times. (Names)
SAARAA  given name recorded 30+ times. (Names)
SAARREE  well in Somalia. (Geo)
SAASSA  town in Israel. (Geo)
SAASSAARE  town in Estonia. (Geo)
SHEEPPOODLE  a shaggy-haired German sheepdog, full name ‘German SHEEPPOODLE’. [Purebred Dog Breeds A-Z, dogbreedinfo.com (Net)]
SHEEPPOOP  sheep excrement. (C)
SIIPPOO  town in Finland. (Geo)
SIISSII  to spurt out, in Tuvaluan. (PDicon)
SLEEPPOOPER  one who disrupts sleep, compare ‘partypooper’. (C)
SOODDEE  surname recorded 25+ times. (Names)
SOOKKEE  surname recorded 30+ times. (Names)
SOOLLOOJEH  town in Iran. (Geo)
SOONNEE  variant of ‘Sunni’, an orthodox Mohammedan. (OED)
SOOTTOO  surname recorded 30+ times. (Names)
SPEEDDOOR  brand of speed roller door. [www.meerdeur.nl (Net)]
SPIINNIIDDI  farm in Norway. (Geo)
SPOOKKEEPER  a spymaster. (C)
SPOONNOODLES  in ‘butterscotch SPOONNOODLES’, a cookie/candy. [myrecipereviews.com, 21 Dec 2013 (Net)]
STEELLOOK  an aluminium window design marketed by Smart Systems, UK. (Net)
STEELLOOKS  a hybrid between wild steelhead trout and kamloops rainbow trout. ’These hydridized fish, “Steelloops” are not distinguishable from Steelhead.’ [minnesotasteelheader.blogspot, Steelhead Genetics Project, 23 March 2017 (Net)]
STOFKRAALLEEGTE  stream in South Africa. (Geo)
SUPERBOOKKEEPER  a powerful and efficient bookkeeper. ’Toft was Smith’s superbookkeeper, although he held no official position with the bank.’ (Forbes, Vol 116, 1975, p19)
SUPERROOMMATE  an exceptional roommate. ’She’s my superroommate, and one of my favourite people.’ [weddingwire.com, 31 Aug 2014 (Net)]
SWEETTOOTH  a Chicago rock band (Net); Jack SWEETTOOTH is a mouse in the book of that name by Malorie Blackman, 2008. (Net)
SWEETTOOTHED  having a love of sweet-tasting foods, usually hyphenated. ‘Cambridge University seeks sweettoothed student for chocolate PhD’ (headline) [telegraph.co.uk, 19 Aug 2014 (Net)]
TAADDEE  surname recorded 30+ times and given name 40+ times. (Names)
TAAMMEE  given name recorded 20+ times. (Names)
TAATTOO  surname recorded 40+ times and given name 20+ times. (Names)
TATTOOEEOEE  one who is tattooed by the ’tattooer’. (Wikt)
TAUERNMOOSSEE  lake in Austria. (Geo)
TIIKKAANMAKI  town in Finland. (Geo)
TIITTEEKH  town in Russia. (Geo)
TOOLLEEN town in Australia. (Geo)
TOOLLOOTER one who steals tools from workplaces after hours. (C)
TOOMMEE surname recorded 30+ times. (Names)
TOORREE surname recorded 30+ times. (Names)
TOORREES surname recorded 100+ times. (Names)
TOOTTOO given name recorded 20+ times. (Names)
TOOTTOOT the sound of a car-horn, trumpet, etc., usually hyphenated. (C)
TSAGAANNUUR town in Mongolia. (Geo)
UNDERROOFFUL as in ‘an underroofful of bats’. (C)
UUSSAARI town in Finland. (Geo)
VAALLEEGTE stream in South Africa. (Geo)
WAAIKRAALLOOP stream in South Africa. (Geo)
WALLOONNESS the essence or character of Walloons, a Romance ethnic people native to Belgium. ‘In spite of the overall Dutchness of their choices, a hint of Walloonness still echoed.’ (Set in Stone, K Shefsiek, 2017, p42)
WHEELLOOSE free, unhampered by ties, punning on ‘footloose’, applied to someone in a wheelchair for instance. ‘I rarely get the motivational drivel I got when I was younger and “wheelloose”.’ [sci.rutgers.edu, Forum, 28 May 2006 (Net)]
WHOOPPEE a brand of sodas made by Whooppee Soda Works, Garfield, New Jersey, US. (Net)
WOODDEE surname of Richard WOODDEE, May WOODDEE and Dorcas WOODDEE. (Net)
WOODDEER forest deer, hyphenated in Net sources. (C)
WOODDOOR an interior design company operating in Slovakia since 2004. (Net)
WOOLLEE possible variant of the surname Woolley, appearing 5 times in the 1881 England census. [forebears.io (Net)]
WOOLLOOM Aboriginal clan group from the Lake Wellington region, Victoria, Australia. (The Aborigines of Victoria, Vol 2, R Smyth, 1878, p92)
WOOLLOOMOOLOO suburb and bay, Sydney, Australia. (Geo)
WOOLLOONGABBA suburb of Brisbane, Australia. (Wiki)
WOORREE PARK locality in Western Australia. (Geo)
XIIMMEE given name recorded 10 times. (Names)
YELLOWWOODDOM the realm of yellowwood trees, compare ‘redwooddom’, which has been used on the Net. (C)
ZIIDDII given name recorded 40+ times. (Names)
ZOORROO given name recorded 20+ times. (Names)

Fours

AARRGGHH exclamation of extreme frustration. ['Urban Dictionary' (Net)] Shorter forms ‘aarrgh’ and ‘aarrghh’ are allowed in Scrabble.
BELLEEKKEEPER someone in charge of a Belleek porcelain collection. (C)
BOOTTOOLLESS lacking a BOOTTOOL. (C)
COUNTERROOMMOOD acting against the ROOMMOOD. (C)
DOUAR LAASSAASSA town in Morocco. (Geo)
FISHHOOKKEEPER = HOOKKEEPER. (C)
FLOORROOFFUNCTION the use of a floor as a roof for the room below. (C)
FOOTTOOOLLIKE resembling a FOOTTOOL. (C)
GOODDEEDDOM the realm of chivalry and good deeds. (C)
KOOKKOOKKAI given name recorded 20+ times. (Names)
LAPPEELLAAN flat, in Finnish. (Net)
NGOOORROOTT Aboriginal word for 'sky', from Lake Wellington area, Victoria, Australia. (The Aborigines of Victoria, Vol 2, R Smyth, 1878, p92)
NONNOOKKEEPER one who is not a NOOKKEEPER. (C)
NONNUUNNAAY as in a 'NONNUUNNAAY resident’, someone not from NUUNNAAY, Somalia. (C)
PESSEEKK surname recorded 20+ times. (Names)
POORROOMMATE someone sharing a POORROOM. (C)
PUUTTEELLINEN defective, in Finnish. (Net)
SUBBEERROOM beneath BEERROOM bar in St Petersburg, Russia. (C)
SUBBOOKKEEPER an assistant bookkeeper. (Web2)
SUPERROOMMEET a particularly big ROOMMEET. (C)
TOORREESS surname recorded 100+ times. (Names)
UNDERROOKKEEPER an assistant ROOKKEEPER. (C)
WOOGGOODDY WURROONG well in Western Australia. (Geo)

Fives

BABOONNOOKKEEPER zoo worker in charge of the baboon enclosure. (C)
BEERROOMMEET meeting in the BEERROOM bar. (C)
BOOBBOOKKEEPER an incompetent bookkeeper; person in charge of the BOOBBOOK network. (C)
BOOTTOOOLLLOOKER cobbler who has misplaced a BOOTTOOL. (C)
FLOODDOORROOM room with a FLOODDOOR. (C)
LIIKKEESSAAN showroom, in Finnish. (Net)
LOONNOOKKEEPER conservation worker in charge of loon nesting sites. (C)
SHEEPPPOOPPEEEVED annoyed by SHEEPPOOP in the wrong place. (C)
SPOONNOOKKEEPER one who looks after a cubby-hole where spoons are kept. (C)
WOOLLOOKKEEPER nightwatchman at the shearing shed. (C)
WOOLLOOMMOOLOO original spelling of WOOLLOOMOOLOO in a 1793 land grant, according to the Australian Encyclopedia (1956). [see Word Ways, May 1977, p114]

Sixes

BALLOONNOOKKEEPER someone in charge of the balloon cupboard. (C)
BUFFOOONNOOKKEEPER one who is responsible for ‘clown corner’. (C)
MOOHHAAMMEEDD dubious extended ‘Mohammed’, recorded 11 times as a surname. (Names)
RACCOONNOOKKEEPER zoo worker who looks after the raccoon enclosure. (C)
SUBBOOBBOOKKEEPER assistant to the BOOBBOOKKEEPER. (C)
VOORRAADDOOSSPULLEN things you keep in a supply box, in Dutch. (Net)

Sevens

FLOODDOORROOMMEET meeting in a FLOODDOORROOM. (C)
MOONNOONNOOKKEEPER one who keeps house in a nook on the moon at noon. (Language on Vacation, D Borgmann, 1965)
WOOLLOOMMOOLLOO early spelling of WOOLLOOMOOLOO used twice in Description of a View of the Town of Sydney, New South Wales, by Robert Burford, 1829. (Net)

References

C coined; contrived
ChD Chambers Dictionary, 13th ed., 2014
Geo GeoNet Names Server, US Board on Geographic Names [geonames.usgs.gov (Net)]
Names Names directory (www.namesdir.net)
Net Internet, using Google search program
PDicon Palindromicon files, 2018
Web2 Webster’s New International Dictionary, 2nd ed., 1961
Wiki Wikipedia, online encyclopedia (Net)
Wikt Wiktionary, online dictionary (Net)
A TERMINAL WORD is derived from, in order, the first and last letters of the first word and the first and last letters of the second word of a two word phrase. Thus the terminal word STAY can be derived from SHUT AWAY (shown as STAY – SHUT AWAY). The terminal words are shown in alphabetical order read across the page.

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<td>SENT – SEINE NET</td>
<td>SENT – SLEEVE NUT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As the 3 words together make sense, my favourite is PATS - PYJAMA TROUSERS
MEAN SIDEWALKS

ANIL
Perth, Australia

More miscellanies, no thread. SIY. As M.S.[4] noted (Feb’18), I’ve dropped numbering these.

• QUIBBLING
I don’t like to quibble... Well, actually I do. I freely admit it now I realise that *quibble* originally meant a play on words, a pun. We pundits and pun-nits quibble with spellings and meanings and interpretations. A healthy skepticism, which unfortunately makes some people physically sick.

• MILLION MILE MILLIPEDE MILLENNIUM
*Million mile millipede millennium* is, first of all, the technical term and standard unit for how far a millipede can travel non-stop in 1000 years. Symbol: mmmm.

Secondly, it’s the planned Celebration for the heroic millipede after it completes the million-mile thousand-year trek. It will include a very large prize for this selfless Hero of Science.

Superhero, actually. I calculate the millipede must travel at about 5cm/s without pause for the whole millennium to reach a million miles and define 1 mmmm. It’s the right magnitude for averaging 1.0—an enlightening coincidence for the linguists at the Bureau of Standards.

These four words came up during my search for strange bedfellows (sb. ’10-150), curiosities and surprises of etymological relationships. These obviously related mills fail as sb’s. I just jotted them down because my muse dictated. (She’s a bit weird at times, often embarrassing me.) I pass them on for poetic charm and scientific interest.

• another UNI-VERSE: a short story with a linguistic twist

*Screw-Driver*
Sam the Hiver paid a skiver
(a conniver and fast jiver Taxi Driver)
his last fiver for a river!
(Tho a striver, poor Sam Hiver
is no thriver or survivor!)

Poor Sam, lacking any sense of rhyme, in a typical email-type scam, thought he was buying a huge stream, a river, but was instead buying a river, a splitter off of his money by a splitter with it.

• DEEP THEOLOGICAL REVELATION (a mean sidewalk into murky water)
It’s often asked whether people who lived in the time before Jesus brought Salvation were doomed to go to Hell. The answer is No, they all got reincarnated. The reason Jesus came was that, as the world population grew, Heaven ran out of its 170 million quality reusable souls. So God created eternal mortality, ended reincarnation, and issued cheap non-recyclable eternal souls thereafter. This also cut down on the paperwork. Hell was a waste bin for undesirables, to keep Heaven clean. Lost sinners must pine for the good old days before God ruined it all. Well, it wasn’t all God’s fault. We helped a bit in causing our population explosion. The answer, yet again, is 42! (x170m)
* A PASTORAL NOVELLAGRAM

**Cottage**
Get a cot, cage, tot, goat, etc.

(Get 0 cat!)

---

* COINCIDENTAL NUMERICAL PALINDROME
During the Australian Open (tennis, 21/1/18), Nick Kyrgios lost to Gregor Dimitrov by a score of 7-6 7-6 4-6 7-6 7-6. Ironically, and rather amazingly, Kyrgios won an equally thrilling previous match against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga by the mirror opposite score 7-6 4-6 7-6 7-6, for a set-unit reversal. For a true letter palindrome, simply list both results from Kyrgios’ side. This gives, in order,

76 46 76 76 + 67 67 64 67.

Furthermore, the two matches happened back to back in the tournament or, historically, at the same time. And taking the phrase back to back (itself a word-unit palindrome) literally, the players would show reversed anatomies, a sort of visual palindrome, symmetrical like two bookends!

If you think this over-interpretation is poop, don’t poo poo poop! Where would you be without it? *Stuffed!*

---

* ADJACENTS, or READING THE DICTIONARY AS PROSE AND POETRY
For a fun solitaire or party game, look for meaningful runs (phrases, sentences) of three or more consecutive words or their inflections, in the same order. I recommend a pocket dictionary for better results. This one got me started: **seminal seminar semination** (planting the seed of a seminal idea at a key colloquium). It’s easy. I found 30 in just the first half of the A’s in Collins Pocket D.

Best examples:

“**Abolish, abominate Aborigines!”** mentality of many early (and some current) white Oz settlers

**Abstruse absurdities abound.** sigh of the times (No typo, sigh!) abound = inflection of abundant

**Acknowledge acme acne.** Admit it—zits explosion!

**Actuate acumen, Acupuncture!** asking a lot of traditional medicine (but not too much, I suspect)

**Adolescents adopt adorable adornments.** Much ado- about nothing. *(Adorable??)*

**aerospace: aesthetics afar** ethereal sky beauty

**aged’s Agenda Agent’s aggrandisement** robbing the old and defenseless

**Ahoy! Aid aide’s AIDS ailment!** You! Donate to hir treatment fund now!

**Alchemy Alcohol Alcove** name of a liquor store in la-la land

**Aliens alight alit.** Immigrants get drunk en route, or ‘coming out’ UFOs land fully aglow.

**aloneness alongside aloofness** the hermitic life, or life at the top

**AMOEBAE AMOK AMONG AMORAL AMOROUS AMORPHOUSNESS** (headline)

So that’s what those frisky shapeshifting protozoa get up to when we’re not looking!
S- UNFRIENDLINESS

ANIL
Perth, Australia

In surveying the dictionary for S anagrams I was reminded of the remarkable “friendliness” of S as an initial letter. Of all consonants it accepts the most second letters. It’s also by far the busiest initial overall in dictionary pages. I shall deal only with initial S but assume that -S is also the friendliest terminal letter because of plurals, verbs, -ness, -less, -ous, etceteras). Yet it’s ordinary enough as an internal letter that it’s only the 7th most common letter overall (etain Shrdlu).

Defining “friendly” second letters as those that produce an abundance of words, there are 16 for S: the 6 vowels plus 10 consonants: -CHKLMPQRTW. For comparison, the number of friendly second letter consonants following other consonants are: 5 after PT, 4 GK, 3 BCD, 2 FW, 1 R, 0 HJLNMQVXZY. Aside: Vowel Y accepts 13 consonants, none friendly. The other five vowels can accept Scrabble words with every consonant in second spot, many unfriendly, except Iq Uq Uw Uz.

As “unfriendlies” (S-BDFJRSVXYZ) I count M.E. and other archaic and obsolete spellings, several only in OED (thanks to Jeff Grant), but exclude abbreviations, capitalised words, and initial ‘S, S’ and S-hyphen words. It turns out that S can form words with any second letter except X. It can form Scrabble words (listed below) with all but 3 second letters: SXZ. Many unfriendlies are unaltered foreign words listed in English dictionaries. Most others (eg, minerals) are eponyms of proper names: Sz, E. Europe; Sv, Scandinavia and Caucasus; Sr, India.

The friendliest letters have between 80 (Sq-) and over 600 (St-) basic Scrabble words, excluding inflections. S-T (ie St-) has more than any S-vowel words. S-CHP have more than any vowel except S-A (roughly 400), which they nearly match, surpassing S-EIOUY at 100-300 words.

Aside: the most popular second consonant overall is H, with L and R close behind. Yet H is not a friendly second after any of the vowels except A at 25 (E 2, I 1, O 6, U 3, Y 0).

These (+ inflections) are all the Scrabble S words with unfriendly second letters.

sbirro Italian police officer
sdain/e, sdain, sdein, sdeig/n e obs. forms of disdain, <Ital.
sdrucclla antepenultimate accent placement in rhyme, Ital.
sferics spherics: 1. spherical geometry/trigonometry; 2. a storm detector; 3. “atmospheres”
sforzando, sforzato in music: strong accent, Ital.
sfumato interbleeding colour edges in painting, as used eg by DaVinci, Ital., Ital.
sgraffito a carved pottery style or technique, Ital.
sjambok (n., vb) (to) rhino-hide whip, S.Af.
sjoe! S.Af. exclamation of surprise
sraddha, sradh Hindu ceremony and faith, = Shraddha
sri = Shri, Hindi Sir or sir
svabdhakti inserting a vowel sound, esp. between R or L and a consonant, in Sanskrit, etc.
svraj swaraj, self-government in British India, < Sanskrit
svastika swastika, Sanskrit for well-being (!)
svedberg ultracentrifugation time unit, a Swedish eponym but uncapitalised
svete gracefully slim, French < Ital.
WISCONSIN WORDS – 1

Steve Kahan

The periodic table of the elements contains fourteen entries, each of whose chemical symbols consists of a single letter: B (boron), C (carbon), F (fluorine), H (hydrogen), I (iodine), K (potassium), N (nitrogen), O (oxygen), P (phosphorus), S (sulfur), U (uranium), V (vanadium), W (tungsten), and Y (yttrium). These letters constitute a pool from which words of minimal length eight can be formed. Such words will henceforth be dubbed wisconsin words, since this state’s name can be constructed by bonding some of these letters together.

Fifteen such specimens, on display below, have their letters arranged in non-descending alphabetical order. If you are able to unscramble them to reveal the actual words, you are legitimately entitled to be called a “big cheese”!

1. B B H I N O S S
2. B C C S S U U U
3. B H K O O O P S
4. C C O O S S U U
5. C I I I N N O S
6. C I K N N O O S
7. F H H I K O O S
8. H I N O P S S Y
9. C F F I I O O S U
10. C F I N N O O S U
11. C H I O P S S S Y
12. I N O O O P S S U
13. B C H I I O P S S Y
14. C H I I N N O P S U
15. C C I N O O P S S U U
WISCONSIN WORDS – 1 – Answers

1. SNOBBISH
2. SUCCUBUS
3. BOOKSHOP
4. COUSCOUS
5. INCISION
6. COONSKIN
7. FISHHOOK
8. HYPNOSIS
9. OFFICIOUS
10. CONFUSION
11. PSYCHOSIS
12. POISONOUS
13. BIOPHYSICS
14. PINCUSHION
15. CONSPICUOUS
PUTATIVENESS - WHEN IS A WORD NOT A WORD?

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In an earlier article (Zipwords – aka Alternades), I noted the word PUTATIVENESS as a 3-ply zipword. That is, if the letters are written zigzag fashion, as below, every third letter can spell out a genuine shorter word. Thus:

P A V E
U T E S
T I N S

The three shorter words are PAVE, UTES and TINS.

As far as I can tell, PUTATIVENESS first appeared in Dmitri Borgmann’s Language on Vacation. But I wouldn’t be surprised if it had previously appeared in a trinade puzzle in The Enigma, the journal of the National Puzzlers League, a source which Borgmann plundered extensively for his book.

In my earlier article, I noted that PUTATIVENESS isn’t listed in any dictionary. It’s not in Websters Second and Third Editions, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the Random House Dictionary, Funk & Wagnall’s New Standard Dictionary, the American Heritage Dictionary, nor even on the bang up-to-date Unabridged Merriam-Webster website (www.unbridged.merriam-webster.com).

I note that the Alpha Dictionary website (www.alphadictionary.com) says “the noun putativeness is available, if needed”.

How do dictionaries define PUTATIVE, and from those definitions can I figure out a reasonable definition for PUTATIVENESS? Webster’s Third defines PUTATIVE like this: “commonly accepted or supposed: reputed: assumed to exist or to have existed: hypothesized: inferred”. And the OED has this: “that is commonly believed to be such; reputed, supposed; imagined; postulated, hypothetical.” Further, Webster’s Third has this definition for the suffix -NESS: “state: condition: quality: degree”. More extensively, the OED defines -NESS in this way: “forming abstract nouns from adjectives, participles, adjectival phrases, and (more rarely) nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adverbs.”

Putting all this together, I think that PUTATIVENESS could reasonably be defined like this: “the state or condition of being reputed, supposed, commonly believed, imagined, postulated or hypothetical.”

In passing, it’s worth noting that the OED lists the noun PUTATION, with the definition “The action of considering or reckoning; supposition, estimation”. Webster’s Second Edition also lists PUTATION and has a similar definition, but Webster’s Third doesn’t see fit to include the word. Perhaps PUTATION and PUTATIVENESS should be considered synonyms...
So, is PUTATIVENESS a real word or not? No major dictionaries have it listed, but it can be found in a variety of quotes on the internet. Let’s take a look at some of these, and see if they accord with my definition. Here are some of the occurrences found.

1. The first occurrence of PUTATIVENESS that I found was in a book entitled *Subjects, Citizens and Law: Colonial and Independent India*, edited by Gunnel Cederlöf and Sanjukta Das Gupta (published by Routledge India, 2017). Part way through the book is this sentence: “The putativeness of the formation also manifests once we move away from the normative and instrumental understanding of measurement and see it ‘in action’.” I wondered what was meant by “the formation” in the quote, and managed to figure out that it was the “putative formation of juridical agro-ecological subjecthood based on the idea of proprietorship (aided by measurement)”. I was still none the wiser given this tortuous academic phraseology, so decided to give up trying to embellish it further!

2. PUTATIVENESS can also be found in a 1985 opinion filed by the Supreme Court of Kansas. The law.justia.com website has this: “The statute before the Court embodies elements of putativeness and discrimination which violate the rights of citizens to equal treatment under the law.”

3. Dan Graur is the author of a book entitled *Molecular and Genome Evolution* (2016). Dan has a very low threshold for hooey, hype, hypocrisy, postmodernism, bad statistics, ignorance of population genetics and evolutionary biology, and hatred of any kind. He writes about these subjects on his tumblr blog, which is a diary of his peeves, dislikes, antipathies, annoyances, and random feelings of contempt. It can be found at judgestarling.tumblr.com. On part of his blog he has written: “For a valid publication of a species (sans *Candidatus*), bacteria must be isolated, cultured, described, and deposited in a bacteriology culture collection. Please note that there is no requirement that the genome of a bacterium needs to be sequenced in order for the name to be valid or *Candidatus*-less. If a bacterium cannot be maintained in a collection, it is slapped with the prefix *Candidatus* as a mark of temporariness and putativeness.”

4. Drowning in Eternity is a website dedicated to the review of English syntax – check it out at www.drowningineterinity.estranky.cz. In a discussion about clauses on the website can be found this quote: “Result clauses: introduced by subordinators *so that* and *so*. From purpose clauses they differ by absence of modal auxiliary, that purpose clauses need for because of their putativeness.” (Is the text slightly mangled there? Is there an unnecessary word for in that quotation?)

5. In 2004, one Roxanne Mitchell submitted a paper for her doctor of education degree at Oklahoma State University. Her paper was entitled *The Effects of Trust on Student Identification and Academic Performance*. The paper can be found at digital.library.okstate.edu. The paper uses PUTATIVENESS twice. Its first appearance is in this lengthy sentence: “Empirical research in the area of student identification with school has focused on antecedent conditions necessary for the development of
identification such as prior academic achievement, student’s prior experience of participation in school and school related activities, the structural environment of the school (school size and racial/ethnic composition of the school), and the regulatory environment of the school (degree of rigidity of school rules and disciplinary putativeness)”. And the word crops up a second time in this quote: “The findings from these studies have shown that most of these factors do matter and do have a significant effect not only on student identification with school but also on academic performance. Interestingly enough Finn and Voelkl (1993) found that disciplinary putativeness did not have an effect upon student identification.”

6. In its fall 2006 review, the Long Island Education Review (at www.scopeonline.us) carried a similar item about student identification. It ran: “Empirical research in the area of student identification with school has focused on antecedent conditions necessary for the development of identification such as prior academic achievement, student prior experience of participation in school and school related activities, the structural environment of the school (school size and racial/ethnic composition of the school), and the regulatory environment of the school (degree of rigidity of school rules and disciplinary putativeness).” You’ll not be surprised to find that the author of this item was the same Roxanne Mitchell mentioned in item 5 above!

7. In 2007, the Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal Association published an article entitled When the Price is too high: Rethinking China’s Deterrence Strategy for Robbery, by Peter Nestor. Check it out at digital.lib.washington.edu. The article carried this sentence: “Another scholar noted that the investment in ‘sheer putativeness’ in strike-hard campaigns is a ‘futile strategy’ to deter crime; rather, the Party uses it to appear tough on crime and shore-up its legitimacy.”

8. Market Place Troy Media (www.marketplace.troymedia.com) is a website dealing with business and recruitment issues. In 2016, it ran a piece by one Allan Bonner which said: “But many quotes are unattributed, interviewees’ alleged quotes go unchallenged, and so do apparently made up quotes from hypothetical oil and pharmaceutical company spokespeople – ersatz putativeness.”

9. Laird is a smart technology company based in Missouri, US, and London, England. On its website (www.lairdtech.com) it has extensive terms and conditions of sale, presumably for prospective customers. One of the paragraphs runs thus: “17.4 If any provision of these Conditions or a Contract/Order formed pursuant to it is found by any court, tribunal or administrative body of competent jurisdiction to be wholly or partly illegal, or invalid, void, voidable, putative (futile), ineffective or unenforceable it shall, to the extent of such illegality, invalidity, voidness, voidability, putativeness (futility), ineffectiveness or unenforceability, be deemed severable and the remaining provisions of the Contract and the remainder of such provision shall continue in full force and effect.”

10. And finally, there is a Facebook public group named Algarve Portugal Rare Birds. In April 2017, Martin Hodges commented on the possible sighting of the bird Limicola
falcinellus with this short message: “I agree with the putative-ness!!! Better to be safe than sorry.”

So there we have it – real world examples of the word PUTATIVENESS, all unrelated to its logological property of its three zigzag words PAVE, UTES and TINS. From these quotes, I think that my definition of PUTATIVENESS as “the state or condition of being reputed, supposed, commonly believed, imagined, postulated or hypothetical” is reasonable.

Further, do these internet quotes for PUTATIVENESS make it a real word? If so, does that highlight the deficiency of dictionaries in not listing and defining such a word? What makes a word a real word? Over to the reader ...
A DOUBLE HAIKU FROM HOMOGRAPHS

ANIL
Perth, Australia

bay, bay, bay, bay bay
sea inlet, herb tree,
window view, reddish brown hound*
howling at the moon

This picturesque poem forms two haiku. Its title is five unrelated homographs. It arose out my “Homograph Puns” article in this issue. First it’s a classic English haiku of 17 (5-7-5) syllables. Second, the 5 word title itself meets the criteria for being a post-modern “haiku”, which scraps the 17 element and all rhythm and seeks minimal length evocations devoid of the “frills” of classical poetry. My title is such a five word poem. But it needs the 17 version to be translated, for all but very imaginative readers.

* Bay as a noun is usually applied to horses, but not obligately. A bay when talking about dogs can be a bay-coloured hound, as here. If you object, would you believe changing “hound” to “horse”—a bay horse that bays at the moon? I never met one of them. Nor I believe did Sherlock.
HOMOGRAPH PUNS

ANIL
Perth, Australia

Unrelated HOMOGRAPHHS can make amusing pairs: cricket cricket, latest sports feature at the Flea Circus. A to C alone in Chambers Dict. Etymol. ('88) revealed maybe two hundred pairs, most of which could by twist be interpreted meaningfully, if at times fancifully like cricket. Here’s a selection. Verbal phrases are punctuated as sentences. The Multiples are presented as a Quiz.

Alight alight. to land lit up (Extra drinks on the flight in? Or is this Rudolph Reindeer here?)
Aye? Aye! Forever? Yes! (Long live the aye-aye lemur, still being killed as a harbinger of evil!)
ball ball formal sex dance, dress optional (Possible influence: ball = dance, several “dance” = sex: Cassell Dict. Slang ('98); but it says the primary derivation of ball = sex is from testicles.)
bank bank a financial institution on the edge, where the money can suddenly go down the river (They all seem to be hogging the river lately. 2008 redux?)
bark bark a tree trying to scare off the loggers
Bats bats animal cruelty
Boils boils Drops pus-filled swellings into steaming broth. (Why?? For flavouring, of course.)
boom boom! Someone didn’t duck the swinging mast’s spar!
bridge bridge card playing over the river Trump rules: If wind blows a card away, play on! Last card left wins. (It’s a trump.)
brogue brogue a stylish shoe with an Irish accent (widely conjectured to be related: CDE)
Brush brush. = Scrub scrub. Clean up the environment manually. (What, an acre per year?)
Hey, if that’s one acre per person, together we could clean up 7 billion acres a year. That’s a lot. I crudely calculate that we could clean up 4 Australias or one Africa per year. If we kept it up for 5 years we’d have brushed and scrubbed Earth clean clean. Let’s do it!!!
buff buff an enthusiastic nudist or manicurist (Most likely a nude manicurist. If not for incest laws s/he could also have buff hair or skin and be in buff muscle tone, but no, both are kin to buff naked.)
bull bull a papal decree that’s full of you know what (Hey, it’s only a theoretical possibility!)
bunk bunk a fake bed or a bed of nonsense (Buncombe County NC has a lot to answer for.)
bust bust striptease raid, or an intimate body search found contraband
butter butter the high-hopes ram who thought he could break thru the EU butter stockpile
card card the joker (I cheated. These two are related. But they’ve acquired very different meanings so I thought it still a good pun. An oldie, I imagine.)
carp carp  bichir’s bitching  (I’ve promoted the bichir fish to Honorary Carp Representative.)
champ champ  winner of the World’s Fastest and Noisiest Chewer contest
cleaving cleaving  divorce
cobbler cobbler  a maker of cobblestones out of fruit pies  *(my wife!*)
Console console.  Don’t whack your TV when it dies on you!  Give it a caring, sympathetic pat and words of comfort.  (And, if you’re sincere, call the repairperson.)
corn corn  a silly joke about my sore toe  *(Don’t laugh! It hurts when you laugh.)*
counter counter  a New Age stall at the markets  *(where they reluctantly have to count the filthy lucre)*
curry curry  ingratiate oneself to gain flavour

• QUIZ: MULTIPLES  These mind-twisters are all mutually unrelated homograph constructs.  You are to “translate” them as coherent phrases or sentences, with a different unrelated definition for each instance of a word.  You add the punctuation if any.  My answers below.  Others are possible.

ash asp asp
bit bit bit bit
blaze blaze blaze
bore bore bore
bound bound bound bound
bow bow bow
box box box
buck buck buck buck
butt butt butt butt
chap chap chap
char char char
chase chase chase
chuck chuck Chuck chuck chuck chuck
con con con con
• NON-HOMOPHONES All the above homographs are also homophones (sound-aliases) except
bow bow bow in the multiples. I found only these few other unrelated heterophonic homographs.

agape agape stunned by a show of brotherly love in 2018

Are are. They = 100 m². (The two words are optionally also homophones.)
bass bass a fish that plays in a band or sings in a choir (School activities?)

buffet buffet bump the cabinet (But please don’t hit Jimmy the singer/songwriter!)
cashier cashier the dismissal from the army of a more cashed up offender
(Did he win big money off his officers at cards by allegedly cheating?)

• My ANSWERS to the Multiples. The numbers clarify word order by identifying which bold
words in the quiz correspond to which definitions in the verbal answers (see bound). Once you
know the number of each meaning, the numbers are the Answers.

Ash ash, asp-asp. Burn to ashes two trees, an ash and an asp housing an asp snake. 1, 2, 4, 3.

Bit bit, bit bit. Bit off some computer-bits, but only a small amount. (bit³ = but, Scot.) 1, 2, 3, 4.
How, you ask, can I bite computer bits? I can’t actually, I lack the teeth for it. But hackers can do it.

Blaze, blaze, blaze. Mark a tree, burn it down, then proclaim your misdeed as if bragging. 1, 2, 3.

Bore bore bore. Endured a tiresome person who bragged incessantly about holes he’d drilled. 1, 2, 3.

bound bound bound bound headed toward 1 jumping 2 over a tied-down 3 fence 4, 3, 2, 1.
bow bow bow a kneeling at the archer’s weapon carved on a ship front (New religion? Old!) 3, 2, 1.

Box box box. Fist-punch a container made from the wood of a certain tree. (Ouch!) 1, 3, 2.
buck buck buck buck responsibility for a cheap male prostitute's obscene sawhorse 4, 1, 2, 3.
I couldn’t find out just what made his sawhorse obscene. Any ideas? I never got into sawhorses.
Did I miss out on a lot of fun?
butt butt butt butt the barrel where one’s scorned rear end is head-butted 4, 1, 2, 3.

chap chap chap the hog jowl of a cracked-lips man (or v.v.) 2, 3, 1 (or 1, 3, 2).

Char char char. Burn the charwoman’s tea. (char = cha, chai, tea: Br.) 1, 2, 3.

Chase chase chase. Seek to hire a pipe-groove engraver. (They’re hard to find, I hear.) 1, 2, 3.

Chuck chuck Chuck chuck (chuck?), chuck. Throw provisions (beef?) to a woodchuck called
Chuck (Charles), then touch it playfully under the chin. 1, 4, 5, 7, 2, 3, 6. (4, 5 & 1, 6 possibly related).

con con con con against the study of a jailbird’s trickery 1, 3, 4, 2.
CORNAGES (FUNNY WORDS 6)

ANIL
Perth, Australia

My previous WW excursions into wordmaking appeared in 6-16, 7-162, 11-177, 12-146, 13-30. On Google check, most here are original. A few have more sober uses unrelated to mine. Cornage, for example, is my word for a corny coinage, but it’s also an old feudal tax on horned cattle.

airotic  pretending to be sexy to your mirror

beattitude  the blessed kids problem!
(‘Blessed’ fits with one or two syllables.)

brute fork  eating meat without a knife —

closet God  “Just you wait!”

Coed us, interrupt us.  (story of my sex life)

fishyologist  a physiologist who fudges data

ho-ho ho  a prostitute laughably beyond her use-by date (She now resembles Santa Claus—ho ho ho!)

homogenius  Us, after GM brains make everyone equally brilliant—and just alike! This would fulfill the unpunny prophecy of online Urban Dict., which defines homogenius as a superintelligent human.

litterature  junk writing  (OMG, that includes all of French Litterature!)

myopinion  my short-sighted view

niferous tubule  two seminiferous tubules join

non-secateurs  pruning scissors that got stolen, or don’t work and won’t follow reason

Phathom  the ghost who swims

right to bare arms  constitutional entitlement to go sleeveless, despite offensive tattoos——/

snaked  the story of Adam and Eve in one and three syllables——/

swollen paranoid glands  clinically nervous and suspicious

“two busy!”  mother with twins

vole love  They’re a lot better at it than we are.
And more faithful. Vole Love is the subject of an actual scientific study, voles being so monogamous. Bless these li’l fake mice! Vole, evolve! Lo, love!
INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Word Ways is interested in receiving original articles (non-fiction, fiction or poetry) relating to recreational logology. All articles should be sent to the editor, Jeremiah Farrell, 9144 Aintree Dr., Indianapolis, Indiana 46250 (wordways@butler.edu).

Authors are encouraged to send computer-ready articles in Microsoft Word with the following specifications:

- Title: 14 pt Times New Roman BOLD
- Text: 12 pt Times New Roman
- Page Size: 7 inches horizontal, 9 inches vertical

Diagrams and the like should be drafted in black or India ink in a form suitable for photo-offset.

In non-fiction articles, the responsibility for the accuracy of any statement rests primarily with the author. The general scope of any investigation should be defined: for example, a statement that words have been taken from the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary or the Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary, Third Edition., or place names taken from the Times Index-Gazetteer of the World. If a word or name comes from an unusual source, this should be identified. Footnotes in general should be avoided; references can be given either in the text or at the end of the article.

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