

AWK AWK

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Ron Singer's article *Poll Pirate* appeared in the November 2018 *Word Ways*, and made extensive use of the letters A, W and K. Which set us wondering - how many words are there which use only the letters A, W and K? We have managed to find just 51 of these rare specimens, listed in the table below.

Of particular note is the penultimate entry, **Kwakwakawakw**. This is especially notable for using four occurrences of each of the three different letters, while not being composed of a group of three letters simply being repeated four times. We cannot think of another solidly-spelled word or name with this property.

awk	Turned or done the wrong way	UMW
Kaw	A Siouan people of the Kansas river valley, Kansas	UMW
Kwa	A branch of the Niger-Congo language family that is spoken along the coast and a short distance inland from Liberia to Nigeria	UMW
wak	Moist, damp (obsolete)	OED
Akwa	Akwa Point is a place in	TIG
awak	A variant spelling of 'awake', used in a c1500 quotation at 'lover' (noun, 2) "Awak! awake! I bring, lufar, I bring The newis glad."	OED
Awka	Awka is the capital of Anambra State, Nigeria with an estimated population of 301,657 as of 2006 Nigerian census	Wikipedia
Kawa	A people chiefly of the autonomous Wa States of mountainous northeastern Myanmar and adjoining parts of Yunnan province, China	UMW
kwak	A place in Nepal	US Board Geog Names
waak	18th century variant spelling of 'walk'	OED
waka	A Maori seagoing craft , a canoe	UMW
wakk	19th century spelling of 'walk', from Orkney, Scotland	OED
Akawa	A populated place, Nigeria	US Board Geog Names
Awaka	A village in northern Owerri, Imo State, southeastern Nigeria	Wikipedia
Kaawa	A place in New Zealand	TIG

Kakwa	The Kakwa people are found in north-western Uganda, south-western South Sudan, and north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly to the west of the White Nile river	Wikipedia
Kawaa	A French company situated at 27 Rue Piat, 75020 Paris, France. Kawaa is a web and mobile platform that allows users to connect in real life, proposing and participating in local and thematic meetings	Wikipedia
Kawka	Kawka is a village in the administrative district of Gmina Niemce, within Lublin County, Lublin Voivodeship, in eastern Poland, which lies approximately 7 miles west of Niemce and 11 miles north-west of the regional capital Lublin	Wikipedia
kwaak	Dutch word - first-person singular present indicative of <i>kwaken</i>	Wiktionary
Kwawa	A place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	TIG
Waaka	Stacey Waaka is a New Zealand rugby union player. She debuted for the Black Ferns in 2015, the same year her brother Beaudein Waaka made his Rugby sevens debut for New Zealand	Wikipedia
Wakaw	Place and lake in Saskatchewan, Canada	TIG
Wakka	A character of <i>Final Fantasy X</i> and <i>X-2</i>	Wikipedia
Wawak	Wawak Sewing is the US's number 1 sewing source for over 100 years	Wawak
Akaawa	There are streets called Akaawa Street in Kapolei and Makakilo, both in Hawaii	Google
Akwáwa	A Tupi–Guarani dialect cluster spoken in Pará in western Brazil	Wikipedia
awaaka	A named individual on Facebook	Facebook
Kaaawa	A small community and census-designated place located in Koolauloa, city & county of Honolulu on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, US. As of the 2010 Census, the total population for Kaaawa was 1,379	Wikipedia
Kakawa	Populated places in Poland, Congo, Nigeria and Malawi	US Board Geog Names
kawaka	A tall evergreen tree (<i>Libocedrus plumosa</i>) of New Zealand having highly valued fine-grained, dark reddish-brown wood — called also <i>New Zealand cedar</i>	UMW
kawaka	<i>Libocedrus plumosa</i> , with the common name kawaka, is a species of Libocedrus that is endemic to New Zealand	Wikipedia
Kawawa	A place in Japan	US Board Geog Names

Kwakwa	Victoria Kwakwa is a Ghanaian economist and serves as Vice President at the World Bank for East Asia and the Pacific	Wikipedia
wakaka	A Malaysian way of laughing, often referred to as 'ekek', 'kakaka', or an underline/bolded combination of the two	Urban
Wakawa	A populated place, Niger	US Board Geog Names
wakwak	Wakwak is a vampiric, bird-like creature in Philippine mythology, said to snatch humans at night as prey	Wikipedia
Wawaka	A place in Indiana	TIG
Awakawa	A Japanese surname - for example, Yasuichi Awakawa (a Zen painter and art critic, born 1902: and Koichi Awakawa (a Japanese economist, 1902-1977); they may be the same person because of the same birth year	Google
kaw kaw	A taunt popular in the sport of lacrosse in which a defender loudly caws like a bird when an offensive player is either passing or shooting in order to mess up the shot	Urban
Kawkawa	A lake located 1.6 miles east of Hope, British Columbia	Wikipedia
Akwakwak	A Pokemon character; in English, Golduck	Wikipedia
Kakawaka	A noise artist based in Berlin, Germany	Discogs
kawakawa	A shrub or small tree (<i>Piper excelsum</i>) chiefly of New Zealand and held to be sacred by the Maoris	UMW
Wakakaka	Wakakaka Cafe is in Kuching, Malaysia	Google
Wakakawa	A Japanese cosmetics company	Wakakawa
Wakawaka	Populated places in Ghana and Uganda	US Board Geog Names
Kawakawaka	This surname (or username) appears on several social media websites, including Facebook	Facebook
Wakakakaka	Wakakakaka Cafe is in Kuching, Malaysia - from the 50,000+ internet hits, this looks like the same café as Wakakaka Café	www.google.com
Wakka Wakka	An Australian Aboriginal nation of south-east Queensland	Wikipedia
Kwakwakawakw	A member of a First Nations people living on the shores of Queen Charlotte Sound and on North Vancouver Island; the Wakashan language of this people	Collins Gage
Kwakwaka'wakwa	A variant of Kwakwakawakw (see above)	Wikipedia (in the entry Dantsikw)

Bibliography

Collins Gage	Collins Gage Canadian Paperback Dictionary
Discogs	www.discogs.com
OED	Oxford English Dictionary, online
TIG	Times Index Gazetteer
UMW	Unabridged Merriam-Webster dictionary, online
Urban	www.urbandictionary.com
US Board Geog Names	geonames.usgs.gov
Wikipedia	en.wikipedia.org
Wakakawa	www.wakakawacosmetics.com
Wiktionary	en.wiktionary.org
Wawak	www.wawak.com

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