

WINDMILLS

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For those logophiles who like to construct crossword puzzles, the Windmill can be an entertaining diversion. But, first, what is a Windmill? It is nothing more than two word squares on a cross.

Windmills of size four are very easy to construct, like these two:

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

Windmills of size five are a little harder but not that difficult. Here are three of them:

U N T A X	C O R A M	W A L T Z
N E R V Y	O P E R A	A D O R E
T R A I L	R E P E L	L O T U S
A V I S O	A R E N A	T R U S T
X Y L O P H O N E	M A L A Y A L A M	Z E S T F U L L Y
H I V E S	A G A P E	U T I L E
O V E R T	L A K E S	L I G A N
N E R V E	A P E R S	L L A M A
E S T E R	M E S S Y	Y E N A N

Windmills of six can be difficult. The selection of the word forming the cross requires much thought. However, they can be done:

E S C A R P	A T T A R S
S I E V E R	T R I V E T
C E R I S E	T I S A N E
A V I S O S	A V A T A R
R E S O R T	R E N A M E
P R E S T I S S I M O	S T E R E O S C O P E
S O O N E R	S T O R A X
S O R T E D	C O B A L T
I N T A K E	O R A C L E
M E E K E R	P A L L E R
O R D E R S	E X T E R N

It ought to be possible to construct a windmill of size seven, but thus far all attempts have been unsuccessful. The one depicted below utilizes one coined word, MANSURE (sure of a man), but all the rest of the words can be found in a dictionary.

C A S S I U S
 A B A L O N E
 S A T A N I C
 S L A V I T E
 I O N I Z E S
 U N I T E R S
 S E C E S S I O N I S M S
 O M E N T A L
 N E R V I N E
 I N V E R S E
 S T I R R U P
 M A N S U R E
 S L E E P E R

COMMENT (Palmer Peterson): I don't recall ever having seen anything like Mr. Shedlofsky's "Windmill" before. However, Form 128 in A Key To Puzzledom (Duane Powell, Dowagiac, Michigan, 1906), by William W. Delaney closely resembles it -- this is formed out of two word squares on a cross consisting of not just one word but two words in parallel. Windmills are considerably more difficult to construct than a pair of word squares sharing a single letter.

Unfortunately, I cannot find MANSURE in any of my references. Drop the S, and you have a common commodity down on the farm.