

A NINE-LETTER POSITIONAL LIST

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Inspired by John Meyer's challenge in "A Positional Word List" in the May 1978 Word Ways, I decided to look for nine-letter words in which the central letter takes each alphabetical value, and both four-letter ends are words. Finding this task too easy for most central letters, I decided to restrict myself to nonpattern words (all nine letters different). This proved impossible for only J and Z; for Q, I was unable to find any suitable nine-letter word, even allowing repeated letters.

A bergalith, bungalows, crusading, overawing, signatory, verbalist
 B crumbling, overblack, plumbates, rainbowed, shoeblack
 C bluecoats, foreclaws, goldcrest, redocking, shipcraft, slipcover
 D archdevil, boardlike, cauldribe, markdowns, snowdrift
 E bothering, outsearch, pocketing, posterial, spadework, twinebush
 F backfired, campfires, goldfinch, overflush, scarflike, snowflake
 G clangours, kilograms, portglave, vainglory, wildgrave
 H crushable, marshbuck, overhands, semihoral, brightens
 I aluminose, centigram, dentiform, handiwork, rantipole, studiable
 J backjawed, flapjacks
 K blockhead, flankwise, sparkling, thinkable
 L archlutes, betalking, crawlsome, panelwork, ricelands
 M claymores, coinmates, polemarch, quagmired, tidemarks
 N browntail, cavendish, lamentory, ravenduck, thornlike
 O bestowing, chamoline, clamoring, pictograms, shadowily
 P bedspring, conspired, outspread, trampling, wordplays
 Q
 R bakership, caperbush, mayorship, sideronym, underplay
 S backstrip, brimstone, cornstalk, curhstone, plowshare, rainspout
 T bedstring, bucktails, heartsick, sidetrack, worktable,
 U consulate, costuming, overusing, posturing, spinulate, vesturing
 V disavowed
 W buckwheat, bushwomen, cartwheel, charwomen, shipwreck
 X planxties, trioxides
 Y chalybite, condylure, curlyhead, mealywing, pansylike, toadyship
 Z waltzlike, wheezling

Space prevents adding many more words to this list; have I overlooked any examples better than the ones above?