TWICE IN FIVERS

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In a continuation of my studies on alphabetical letters in five-letter words (see the May 1978 Kickshaws and "From AB--- to --- YZ" in the November 1978 issue) I present here an analysis of five-letter words containing each letter twice in all combinations. A glance at the tabulation will show that each letter must appear two times in each of ten words, for a total of 260 required.

The references used were (1) unreferenced, Webster's Collegiate, (2) *Webster's Third, (3) § Random House, (4) # Webster's Second, (5) $ Oxford English, all in decreasing order or priority.

I recognized compact words only. Hyphenated words and two-word combination entries were not allowed, even though they can fill in several blanks. Capitalized words (cap or usu cap) are indicated by underlining. All words must appear in the main body of the reference. Thus, place names, proper names, trademarks, etc. not in the A-Z sections were disallowed.

Of the 260 desired, there are 48 blanks, for a rating of 81.5%. This is much better than it may appear at first glance. By letter grouping, more than half (27) involve the rare letters Q, X, J and W. Reading across rather than down, note there are 24 blanks from only two categories: a doubled initial letter (16), and a doubled final one (8).

Based on my personal analysis I rate the 'utility' of the alphabetical letters for this study in decreasing order as

LOAENCSTRIBDMPGKFZYVHWJXQ

This considers (a) the completeness of the set, (b) the number and type of references required, and (c) the simplicity and commonness of the words, including potential alternate examples.

The list of letter frequencies in English text (Pratt) is

ETAONRISHDLFCMUGYPWBVXJKQZ

The largest changes are the H and L with 10 or more displacements. The H is easily explained because of the multiple use of first and second position H-words: the, he, she, here, there, etc. Letter L reveals itself remarkable, easily filling all allotted list slot lines.