We have often seen comments on words that have all five vowels AEIOU, usually in alphabetic order. I decided to take a particular dictionary and list all the words I could find with AEIOU in any order, eliminating those words in which a vowel was repeated, such as AdvEntIoUs with two I's. The dictionary I selected was the Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary (1973 printing) which I use frequently in the game of Scrabble.

To my surprise, I found 283 words; the editor subsequently provided me with 80 more for a total of 363. At his suggestion, I have listed the words that were found according to the order of the vowels. There are 120 possible permutations of AEIOU, of which 68 are represented by one or more words (about 60 per cent of the total).

Of course, the list could be greatly expanded with the use of other dictionaries. In the November 1969 Word Ways, the editor gives examples of words for 104 permutations, and dictionary words for nine more were later found.

The alphabetic-order pattern AEIOU is represented by AbstEmIoUs, FacEtIoUs, and ParEcIoUs, but the reverse alphabetic-order pattern UOIEA is realized only by UnnOtIceAbly (is it really unnotice-able?). Of the five possible circular alphabetic patterns, all but UAEIO are represented in the listing; contrariwise, the only other reverse circular alphabetic pattern to be found was AUEIO, in AuThOr-Ise and other words.

Such a list as this ought to prove useful in solving a cryptogram by the vowel-spotting method, familiar to cryptanalysts. If a word is found with five different vowels, none repeated, this list will reveal which one of 363 words will fit by length and pattern or non-pattern.

My final observation is that the shortest words with AEIOU have at least two consonants, and the longest words have sixteen letters (such as nOnUndErStAndIng). One word, mIAOUED, has its vowel pattern clustered together uninterrupted by any consonants.

| AEIOU | abstemious, facetious, parecious |
| AEOIU | aerobimit, archeogonium, pandemonium |
| AEIOU | warehousing |
| AEUO | maleruption |
AIEOU ambidextrous, calciferous, glaireous, glandiferous, graminaceous, jaspideous, lactiferous, lanigerous, spadiceous, stramineous
AIOEU carillonneur
AIOUE captiousness, factiousness, gladioluses, graciousness, grandiloquent, radiolucent, spaciousness, variousness
AOEIU androecium, apothecium
AOEUI manoeuvring
AOUIE agouties, favourite, jalousie, labourite, malnourished, patchoulies, savouriness, tabourine, tambourine, vapourize
AUEOI albumenoid, aureomycin
AUIOE aluminothermy, auctioned, audiometry, audiphone, cauliflower, lanuginose
AUOEI autoecism
AOUIE authorize, autopsies, glauconite, sautoire, staurolite
EAIOU behaviour, edacious, feracious, gelatinous, gregarious, keratinous, mendacious, nefarious, precarious, predacious, tenacious, veracious, vexatious
EAOIU crematorium, pelargonium
EAQUI belabouring, preannouncing
EAUIO exhaustion, preassumption, precaution
EIAOU fetiparous
EIOUA semivoluntary
EOAIU endocarpium, leprosarium, mesogastrium
EQUIA encouraging, expostulating
EQUIA preconfinable
EUAIO decussation, degustation, denudation, deplumation, depuration, deputation, despumation, detruncation, education, emulation, equation, eructation, exculpation, exhumation, expurgation, exudation, exultation, fecundation, menstruation, mensuration, peculation, regulation, reputation, speculation, stenurination
EUAOI pneumatolytic, regulatorship, rheumatoid
EUIAO denunciatory, elucidator, enunciator, renunciatory, resuscitator
EUOIA delusional, equivocal, reductional
EUOAI deutoplasmic, deutoplastic, edulcorating, leucocratic, neuropathic, pneumodynamics, pneumogastric, pseudoclassic
EUOIA eulogia, euphonical, euphoria, euphorbia, neuroglia, neuropsychiatry, pneumonia, sequoia
IAEOU diadelphous, diathermous, filamentous, intraserous, intravenous, ligamentous, micaceous, pineaceous, spinaceous, vitaceous
IAQUE chivalrousness, dialogue, disfavoured, infamousness, miaoued
IAEOU bicephalous, dicephalous, dipetalous, tripetalous
IEOUA interglobular, interocular
IEOUAI micrometallurgy
IOEUA bimolecular, incommensurably
IOUAEC bicorruate, bilocalate, bivouacked, discountable, discouragement, dismountable, importunate, impoundable, impoundage, incommutable, incomputable, incomstruable, incomsumable,
inoculable, inoculate, inoppugnable, inosculate, involucrate, thiosulfate

IOUEA  thiourea
IUOAE  circumrotate, insupportable

OAIUE  colatitude, odalisque, portraiture
OAUIE  coadjutrixes, consanguine, nonaculite, nonplausible
OEAIU  overfaithful, overfanciful, overpainful
OEAIU  conmeasuring, overhauling, overlaunching, somersaulting
OEUIA  nonresidual, nonvesicular
OEUAI  coequality, coequating, conceptualism, overquantity
OEUAI  nonreguital
OIAUE  foliature
OIUEA  continuance, continuare, contributable, orbiculate
OUAEI  outanswering, outbantering, outbrazening, outcapering, outchat­
tering, outflattering, outgathering, outhastening, outlander­ing, outraveling
OUAIE  boundaries, columbaries, communalize, commutative, conjuga­	ive, consultative, consummate, contumacies, copulative, formularize, gourmandize, journalize, obduracies, occupan­cies, oppugnancies, outcaviled, outlawries, outpatient, outpre­raise, outraise, outstrayed, outwaited, popularize, tournaline, voluntaries

OUEAI  countenancing, counteracting, counterblasting, countercharg­ing, counterclaim, countermarching, counterplanting, countersignal, counterstalling, counterstalling, housemaid, housewarming, mouse­trapping, nonunderstanding, noumemalism, outbeaming, outbeggar­ing, outbleating, outdreaming, outeating, outfeasting, outhear­ing, outlearning, outreaching, outrearing, outscreaming, outspeaking, outspreading, outswearing, outwearing, outweary­ing, troublemaking

OUIAE  communicable, communicate, concubinage, conduplicate, con­glutinate, conjunctivae, nonculti vated, nondutiable, nonpun­ishable, nonuplicate, nourishable, outdistance, outrivaled

OUIEA  nonexistent

UAEOI  quaestorship, quatrefoil, ultradespotic
UAIOE  mustachioed, ultraviolet, unsanctioned
UAOIE  fumatories, ultraconfident, unabolished, unsavoriness
UEAIO  nucleation, numeration, putrefaction, rubefaction, sustentation, tumefaction, ulceration
UEAOI  superabhorring, superastonish, supercatholic, unreasoning
UEIOA  questionably, questionary, subregional, subventionary, suc­cessional, superdiplomacy, superignorant, superimportant, unmentionably
UEOAI  nucleoplasmic, superromantic, undemocratic
UEOIA  questorial, supercordial, superformidably, superlogical, superordinary, superstoical, unheroical, unmethodeical, un­recognizably, uterodynia
UIAEO  multiramous
UIEAO  multipersonal
UIOAE  multicostate, multilobate, unicostate, unimportance
A DISCERNING/DISCRIMINATING DICTIONARY

Groups of words with closely-related meanings but different spellings and pronunciations have been collected into synonym dictionaries. However, similar dictionaries of groups of words with closely-related spellings or pronunciations have, to my knowledge, never been produced. A first attempt at filling this gap has been made by Adrian Room, in Room's Dictionary of Confusibles (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1979; $10), which contains groups of words resembling each other simultaneously in all three attributes: meaning, spelling, pronunciation. With each group, he provides brief definitions designed to bring out the differences in meaning. He does not consider variant spellings of the same word, such as theatre/theater or curb/kerb.

A few samples will, perhaps, give the flavor of the whole. Similarity in spelling alone is not enough: accidental/incidental does not appear, though accidental/incidental and oriental/oriental do. Some of the groups of two words are very good: ingenious/ingenuous, affect/effect, banister/baluster, vice-regent/vicegerent, magnificent/munificent, torturous/tortuous. However, his larger groups are less successful, often linking words with substantially different spellings or meanings:

- babble/rabble/gabble/rabbit/burble/blather
- rigid/turgid/turbid/tumid/torrid
- pagoda/pergola/portico/gazebo
- catacomb/becstomb/catafalque/cenotaph

Many of these were probably included on the basis of similarity in syllabification.

If one is looking for the right word to convey a particular shade of meaning, this book is no substitute for a good synonym dictionary. As the author recognizes, the book cannot hope to include everyone's pet confusibles, being a personal and idiosyncratic list. Nevertheless, the book does "distract, divert, and even delight" the browser, and serendipitous discoveries can be made: did you know that 'slot' comes from the Old French esclot, 'hollow between the breasts'?