

# AGAMEMNON WORDS

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The name Agamemnon is composed of three consecutive sets of three letters in which the first and third letters in each triplet is the same. There are a handful of such words in the Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary (Second or Third Editions): AGAMEMNON, MIMULUSES, ILICACEAE, SUSUHUNAN, COCCACEAE and the doubtful MIMICISMS ("morbid tendencies to mimicry"). A search for analogous twelve-letter words in Levine's pattern word lists proved unsuccessful, although a few one-letter misses did surface: IMITATRESSES, IRIDODONESIS (and its listed plural), VIVIDIALYSIS (and its inferred plural).

The search for three or four consecutive triplets, like the search for palindromic or tautonymic sequences, may be generalized by allowing them to be embedded in longer words. In the following type collection, S and D refer to Stedman's and Dorland's medical dictionaries:

ALACACEAE	Galacaceae
ALACICHTH	Malacichthyes
ARAENESIS	paraenesis
ARAGOGIZI	paragogizing
BABILISTS	probabilists, equiprobabilists
CECIDIOLO	cecidologist, cecidology
COCCACEAE	Chroococcaceae, Micrococcaceae, Pleurococcaceae
GOKENESIS	algogenesis (D)
HTHERESIS	sympathicodiaphtheresis (D)
HTHISIOLO	phthysiologist, phthysiology
IRIDODESE	iridodeses
NONIMITAT	nonimitative
ONOCOCCIC	gonococcic, antigonococcic, gonococcicide (S)
OTOCOCCAC	protococcaceous
OTOMAMETE	scotomameter (S)
OZONOSIS	dermatozoonosis, anthropozoonosis (D), eperyth- (D)
NENTITIZI	nonentitizing
POPOROSIS	hypoporosis (S, D)
REREDEEME	preredeemed
SISMOMETE	sismometer
UNUNANIMI	unanimity

The three chemical halogenated derivatives of alanine given below are not found in the dictionary, but they follow standard rules for naming organic chemicals:

ODOALANIN	iodoalanine
OMOALANIN	bromoalanine
OROALANIN	chloroalanine

In addition, there are a number of -ism plurals which are somewhat doubtful words (but it should be noted that all the Websterian examples given below are explicitly pluralized in the Third Edition, with the exception of ROTATIVISM) :

AMAITISMS	haramaitisms (D)
ARAITISMS	Karaitisms
BABILISMS	probabilisms
NANIMISMS	unanimisms
ONOINISMS	glonoinisms (D)
TATICISMS	astaticisms
TATIVISMS	rotativisms
TETICISMS	Peripateticisms

Only two words were found which embedded four consecutive triplets:

OROCOCCACEAE	Chlorococcaceae
OTOCOCCACEAE	Protococcaceae

Can readers add to any of these lists?

#### DICTIONARY DEFAMATION

The November 1973 Word Ways briefly reported on a suit brought by Marcus Shloimovitz, a Manchester textile merchant, against the Oxford University Press, to force the latter to drop their definition of Jew as a usurer or hard bargainer. Although that suit was unsuccessful, Shloimovitz has continued his campaign; in January of 1980, Cassells dropped from its latest edition all descriptions of Jew condemned by him as unjustifiable and maligning. On the other hand, Hamlyn's has taken the same position as Oxford, pointing out that dictionaries contain many words to which people might take umbrage, words which are used and cannot be ignored by dictionary-compilers. Even Cassells is not totally consistent in this matter; the edition which expunges Jew retains the following definition of a Greek: "a trick fellow, a knave, a cheat".