Webster’s Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

Several readers commented on Double Dactyls, and composed a few of their own. Philip Cohen suggests that “watching bacteria” is a more accurate description of Leeuwenhoek’s early experiments than “watching the viruses.” More substantively, he noted that “Register your word with the Rebents” is incomprehensible without including Rule 7: each double dactyl word can be used in only one Double Dactyl. Helen Gunn supplied a short list of Double Dactyl personages: Alfred Lord Tennyson, Jacqueline Kennedy, Emily Dickinson, William M. Thackeray, Thomas A. Edison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Lloyd Garrison.

Two of her poems:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flippity-floppity</th>
<th>Dillery-dallery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas A. Edison</td>
<td>Sir Edmund Hillary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searched in his brain for a</td>
<td>Wanting a breath of some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New kind of spark.</td>
<td>Cool mountain air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathered together some</td>
<td>Brushed up a bit on his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraphernalia</td>
<td>Geomorphology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Then brought the world in from</td>
<td>Scaled Mount Everest because</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of the dark.</td>
<td>Cause it was there.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Richard Lederer contributed two more:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crippity-cloppity</th>
<th>Higgledy-piggedly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Dickinson,</td>
<td>Richard H. Lederer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing a fly buzz, with</td>
<td>Asked to create double Dactyls, demurred:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death took a ride.</td>
<td>&quot;Etymologically,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death took one look at her:</td>
<td>Unrealistically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripatetically</td>
<td>Sequipedalian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sped to her garden, and</td>
<td>&quot;Words are absurd.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locked her inside.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the latter contains three double dactyl words in a row!

Jules Leopold recalls Marcelle Dorval’s book, Le Coeur Sur La Main: The Heart On The Sleeve (Brentano’s, 1943), a “delightful compilation” of hundreds of literal translations of French phrases wittily illustrated by Jean Carlu. No doubt this is long out of print.

Corrections are welcome at sesquipedalia@webster's dictionary. Acid residues: total of six letter acids with six residues: ALA for alanine, R for arginine, G for glycine, N for asparagine, T for tryptophan, D for aspartate, E for glutamate, B for lysine, G for glutamine, U for serine, R for arginine, A for asparagine, M for methionine, E for glutamate, H for histidine, K for lysine, Q for glutamine, I for isoleucine, and T for tryptophan.

Kurt L. Loenix has called Rudolph, a double dactyl word, best word of the year (1978). More substantively, oxyribonucleic acid residue is the molecular context of our double dactyl word.

Ed Pegg of McFarland, has said: “pavement of square tiles: instead of laying 25 three-letter words around the vertices of a triangle of 21 different letters, he tacks the vastly more vertices of a 5x5 in Webster’s Universal Dictionary of English Words.”

In discussing “infinite patterns,” rich example, using 3 consonants, endless words, endless: Webster’s Pocket...

Note how each of the constraints: repeated consonants. It appears that no double dactyl pattern, using 3 consonants can be followed. Can one of their double dactyl words be a...
Corrections are necessary for the longest word in "Superultramegalosequipedalia". Rudolf Ondrejka noted a misspelling of one of the amino acid residues: TRYPtophanyL is in reality TRypToPhyl, losing a total of six letters in its three appearances. On the other hand, an updated version of Bovine Glutamate Dehydrogenase, published on pp. 3427-38 in the Journal of Biological Chemistry (1979), inserts ISOLeUCyl after the underlined glutaminyl, raising the letter-count to 3644. Note that the name has not been published in full in this journal, but summarized according to a chemical shorthand using three letters for each residue: ALA for alanyl, ASP for aspartyl, and so on.

Kurt L. Loening, the Director of Nomenclature at Chemical Abstracts, has called Rudolf Ondrejka's attention to an even larger molecule which has been reported on pp. 225-46 in the Journal of Molecular Biology (1978). More precisely, the 5386-element nucleotide sequence of Deoxyribonuclease Acid Bacteriophage QX 174 is given there. Each amino acid residue is encoded by three consecutive nucleotides; the entire molecule consists of ten different protein molecules, in some cases overlapping each other in the nucleotide sequence, containing 38 to 513 amino acid residues each. Should molecule names in the future be formed out of their nucleotide sequences instead of the amino acid residues? In the molecule cited above, this would lead to a name about 66,000 letters long!

Ed Pegg of McGuire Air Force Base extends the Hex-Word study to a pavement of square tiles: instead of finding X W R N J waxy braw burn junk

ing 25 three-letter Y A B U K amyl blah chub puck

words around the M L H C P slim hilt etch cope

vertices in a trian- S I T E O zigs gift deft dove

gle of 21 different Z G F D V letters, he tackled

the vastly more difficult task of finding 16 four-letter words around the

vertices of a 5x5 square of 25 different letters. All words can be found

in Webster's Unabridged, Second Edition.

In discussing "Three-Letter Hex-Words", the editor overlooked an infinite pattern which uses nine different letters. Below is a consonant-rich example, using 3 vowels and 6 consonants to form 18 different words, endlessly repeated. As in the article, all words are found in Webster's Pocket Dictionary.

Note how each of the vowels I, A and U are surrounded by six consonants. It appears impossible to construct an analogous vowel-rich pattern using 3 consonants and 6 vowels if only Pocket Dictionary words are allowed. Can one find a consonant-rich example in which the nine different letters can be anagrammed to a Pocket Dictionary word?
Marjorie Friedman adds New Mexico to the "On The Inter(e)state list," observing that it contains the reversal of CIX, the longest Roman-numeral sequence for any state. Philip Cohen adds a few more properties:

Massachusetts - longest alphabetical-order internal subsequence (ACHSTT)
Ohio - only Morse palindrome: ---------
Pennsylvania - longest alphabetical-order substring (ENNSY)
South Carolina - longest reverse-alphabetical internal subsequence without repeated letters (UTROLLA)

Dennis S. Kluk of Skokie, Illinois footnoted Edward Wolpow's "Alphabetizing The Integers" with a study of the alphabetical order of the 50 factorial numbers less than one thousand vigintillion (a factorial number is the product of all the positive integers less than or equal to the number, as 1! = 1, 2! = 1x2, 3! = 1x2x3, etc.). The first factorial starts "eight decillion" (8,222,838,654,177,922,817,725,562,880,000,000), and the last factorial starts "two septendecillion" (2,658,271,574,788,448,768,043,625,811,014,615,890,319,638,528,000,000,000). With the help of a DEC computer, Alan Frank of Somerville, Massachusetts determined the alphabetically-last square and cube, both starting "two vigintillion":

Square: 2,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,002,202,221,698,297,079,027,232,663,249,060,167,009 which is the square of 144,721,359,549,995,793,928,183,473,399,247
Cube: 2,000,000,000,000,002,002,002,223,034,262,439,251,153,304,361,145,301,581,948,035,141,971 which is the cube of 1,259,921,049,895,293,558,891

I think I'll take the computer's word for it.

Richard Lederer writes: "... I must again express my surprise and perplexity at the inconsistent placement of quotation marks in Word Ways, a journal that is, in all other respects, impeccably... put together... The rule is simple: commas and periods always, without exception, go inside." (The preceding sentence illustrates this point.) I plead guilty to the charge; in fact, I have deliberately broken this rule if the quotation is a than a full sentence. Just as a comma goes outside a phrase in parentheses (such as this), so it should logically go outside a quoted phrase. Furthermore, quotation marks always precede a semicolon, which is located between a period and comma as a separation marker. So much for grammatical consistency!

Alan Frank adds two more consecutive-letter sentences:

I know that the editor's signature was forged because of the spacing on the middle name: Ross's "ss" sticks together, but these are separated.
The chess player made a boo-boo (O.O.O); O-O obviously was better.
Philip Cohen notes that Charlie Bostick's holoalphabetic rebuses in "Kickshaws" can be solved in more than one way: 1. forge (forage), 2. mist (format), 6. relate (thereafter), 7. restart (therefore), 9. seaway (absentees (nose)), 10. agone, bara, noa (avoid), 11. barb, begone, about, bout (blackening).

Philip Cohen comments that Charlie Bostick's Ravenisms are a higher-order form of wordplay than Malaproverbs because the mixed proverbs are (in the majority of cases) related in meaning. Boris Randolph explored the same idea in his book The Maxiomatic Confuser (McKay, 1958): it never rains but the sun shines; honesty is stranger than fiction; don't tell tales and forget; love and learn; history may call the tune; God helps the best teacher; all is fair but the flesh is weak.

Boris Randolph also supplied two more 1x1 crosswords that Mr. Callimahos surely would have appreciated:

1. a voiceless velar 1. a Cartesian coordinate
2. half of intelligence quotient 2. 26th in a class
3. a factor in the Gospels 3. a voiced fricative
4. most important chess piece 4. a buzzing sound
5. a farthing 5. 6th letter of Greek alphabet
6. Hebrew 100 6. 7th letter of Hebrew alphabet
7. Roman 500 7. Roman 2000
8. a quarter of Iraq 8. zed or izzard

For those who like their 1x1 crosswords harder, Philip Cohen suggests the December 1979 issue of Crossword, which uses cryptic clues.

Robert Kurosaka adds yet one more example of Folk Etymology: the Japanese expression for "you're welcome", dō itashi-mashite, was transformed by American Gls to "don't touch the mustache".

Rudolf Ondrejka reports yet another -CIDE word: SEWERCIDE, a newspaper coinage for death by sewer fumes.

Alan Frank, perusing old Word Ways while convalescing, noted:

250th anniversary coinages: dekaquicentennial, quimillennial (1976)
Things not to ask: are you winning? (chess problem composer) 250th anniversary coinages: dekaquicentennial, quimillennial (1976)
how's the weather up there? (basketball player) (1976)

Homophone pair with J: ai, jai alai (pronounced by a Cockney)(1977)
Scrabble DEELOT* hand: FEEDLOT and TOWELED are also in
Webster's Third (1978)

Quakes: CHEESEQUAKE is a New Jersey town and park (1979)
Capitonyms: hare, Hare (Krishna) (1980)

Consecutive-letter sequences: The black leader referred to the "sick KKK kids"; I wish HHH had been elected President; Although on his sixth hajj, J. J. Jinnah was as excited as the first time; The Roman vase was priced XV denarii, IIII librae.