LYING IN WAIT

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Many years ago, a friend challenged me to name an adjective, as opposed to an adverb, ending in LY. I do not recall if I succeeded, but the problem remained in my subconscious, and has surfaced at irregular intervals ever since. Occasionally I would sit down and mentally compose a list of ten or fifteen such words, each time trying to surpass my last effort.

The most recent time this notion emerged, it became obsessive. I found myself compiling lists as I drove, as I swam, during business meetings, during meals; and sometimes when I woke my mind would play back the list I had composed while asleep. I passed the 50 mark the first hour, the 100 mark the first day, and the 200 mark within the week.

Now that the birthing is over, I present the results for your delectation, neatly parcelled by meaning or type of construct. The first class of LY adjectives I found dealt with personal appearance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>burly</th>
<th>homely</th>
<th>roly-poly</th>
<th>ugly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>comely</td>
<td>lovely</td>
<td>sightly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gangly</td>
<td>portly</td>
<td>stately</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is well to mention that I have avoided including the negated forms, such as UNSIGHTLY, except in the case of UNRULY, where the positive form is obscure. Also, where a word seemed to fit several categories, I made an arbitrary choice.

The immediate extension of appearance was to other types of characterizations of people. Such words are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>elderly</th>
<th>kindly</th>
<th>sickly</th>
<th>weakly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>friendly</td>
<td>lively</td>
<td>silly</td>
<td>wily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gainly</td>
<td>lonely</td>
<td>slovenly</td>
<td>woolly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>godly</td>
<td>lowly</td>
<td>sprightly</td>
<td>worldly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holy</td>
<td>mannerly</td>
<td>surly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jolly</td>
<td>poorly</td>
<td>unruly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many characterizations are of the form xxxly, where xxx is some category of person forming a role-model for the behavior described. The construct means 'in the manner of xxx':

- bastardly
- beggarly
- brotherly
- cowardly
- curmudgeonly
- dastardly
- daughterly
- fatherly
- beastly
- churchly
- biweekly
- bimonthly
- and all their derivatives
- easterly
- to which other
- southeasterly
- These are complemented by various adverbs ending in the
- bubbly
- bustly
- chilly
- crackly
- crawly
- crumbly
- crumby
- cuddly
- curly
- drawly
- dribbly
drooly
To these, we may add a few words derived from nonhuman characterizations:

beastly
courtly
earthly
ghostly
gentlemanly
grandfatherly
grandmotherly
kingly
lordly
maidenly
manly
matronly

Two rich sources of LY adjectives are time and direction. From the basic stock of:

hourly
daily
 nightly
weekly
monthly
quarterly
yearly

we may apply a variety of modifiers to obtain:

biweekly
semiweekly
twice-daily
half-yearly
bimonthly
semiyearly
twice-weekly
thrice-weekly

and all their permutations. In directions, we have the primary:

easterly
westerly
northerly
southerly
to which other points of the compass may be added:
southeasterly
south-southwesterly
north-by-north-northwesterly

These are complemented by an equally-large set in which ERLY is replaced by WARDLY.

By far the most abundant source of LY adjectives is nouns and verbs ending in the sound L, whether spelled L, EL, LE, LL or otherwise:

bubbly
bustly
chilly
crackly
crawly
crumbly
crumplly
cuddly
curlly
drawly
dribbly
drooly
fiddly
frilly
gigly
gnarly
gravelly
gristly
grizzly
growly
grumbly
hilly
hownly
jiggly
jowly
mealy
nubbly
oily
pearly
prickly
rattly
ravelly
rilly
ruffly
rustly
scaly
scraggly
scrawlly
scowly
smelly
smily
sniffly
snivelly
snuffly
snuggly
sparkly
spindly
squally
The 4-STAR PUZZLER

This is the name of a new monthly magazine of 12 pages, started in January 1981 by the editors of Games magazine, designed to be "the most challenging popular puzzle publication in the United States." Word Ways readers will be interested to hear that nearly all of the magazine is devoted to word puzzles. Some of these are well-known (standard and cryptic crosswords, cryptograms, acrostics) but others are less commonly encountered (a variant of the diagramless puzzle known as "battleships", a petal-shaped crossword, picture rebus of the style popular in the 1930s, and Enigma-type rhymed puzzles originally published between 1822 and 1942). Non-puzzle material includes book reviews (one on Word Recreations, an anthology of Word Ways articles) and biographies (Eugene Maleska, N. Y. Times crossword puzzle editor). A one-year subscription (PO Box 10149, Des Moines IA 50349) is available for $9.97 (Canadian or foreign, add $2).

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