Consider the word CLIFF. The first letter (C) has an alphabetical value of 3; the last letter (F) a value of 6 (assigning a =1, b = 2...z = 26). Coincidently, the total value of the whole word is 36. CLIFF is what I call a totally extreme word. However, it doesn’t end there. The total value of the middle letters situated between C and F (L, I, F = 12+9+6) is 27, which is 9 times the value of the first letter, C. It transpires that:

1. When, in a totally extreme word, the value of the first letter lies between 1 and 26 (A – Z), and the value of the last letter lies between 1 and 9 (A – I), then the total value of the middle letters is always 9 times the value of the first letter.

2. When the value of the first letter lies between 1 and 26 (A – Z), and the value of the last letter consists of a double figure between 10 and 26 (J – Z), then the total value of the middle letters is always 99 times the value of the first letter.

Some of this is purely academic because where would you find a word beginning with G (7) and ending in M (1 3) with a total value of 7 13!

Here is a collection of Totally Extreme Words. The total value of each word is given.

Unreferenced words can be found in the Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition. Other references: Cham = Chambers Dictionary; Grz = Grzimek’s Animal Life Encyclopedia vol. 1, 1971; Hod = Handbook of American Indians, ed. F.W. Hodge, 1907; Sted = Stedman’s Medical Dicy. TF = Tertiary Faunas by A. Morley Davies, 1971; Web2 = Webster’s Second Edition; Locations, by country, are taken from the United States Board on Geographic Names.

1. **FIRST LETTER A – Z; LAST LETTER A – I**

   When the first letter reaches T (20), the 3-digit total exceeds 200 and totally extreme words become scarcer (see end of article). Hence, the first letters of the words listed here are cut off at S (19).

   - AGBA (a tree) 21 BRA 31 COLA 41 DERMA (skin under epidermis)
   - Ahab 22 Bahib (Yemen) 32 CRIB 42 Dalerb (U.K.)
   - AIC (Hod) 23 Bobac (a marmot) 33 Cadmic (of cadmium) 43 Damalic (name of an acid)
   - AID 24 Bedded 34 Cold 44 Deafened
   - AEbbe (have) 25 Baddie 35 Cole 45 Datable
   - ABAff (abaft -Web2) 26 Belaf (remained) 36 Cuff 46 Douf (dull, inactive)
   - AGAAG (Algeria) 27 Belag (to make to lag) 37 Clog 47 Doug
   - AHAH 28 Boch (botch) 38 Creach (local soil name) 48 Datoh (a chief in Borneo)
   - AEDl (blessed) 29 Bale (Web2) 39 Coli 49 Dazhai (China)
   - AGAAG (Algeria) 27 Belag (to make to lag) 37 Clog 47 Doug
   - AHAH 28 Boch (botch) 38 Creach (local soil name) 48 Datoh (a chief in Borneo)
   - AEDl (blessed) 29 Bale (Web2) 39 Coli 49 Dazhai (China)

2. **TOTALS OF**

3. **BELOW**

   - IL-GHARIB (Malta) 102 TOTALS OF 101 Jungeda (a mollusc)
   - ISOIONIC (chemical term) 103 Jovanovac (Croatia) 111 - 126
   - IMPLANTED 104 Jelly-boned 127 Load-carrying
   - IMMIGRATE 105 Jargonize 128 Liquorish
   - INISHDUff (Ireland) 106 Jeutendorf (Austria) 129 Lambourghini
   - IMPELLING 107 Japanizing (making Japanese) 127 Load-carrying
   - INTEGRAPH 108 Juwaysah (Egypt) 128 Liquorish
   - IZVOR (Albania) 109 Jurbini (Bangladesh) 129 Lambourghini
2. FIRST LETTER A - Z; LAST LETTER J - Z

In this category, A is the only first letter which produces totally extreme words with a 3-digit total below 200, eg. ANTINUCLEAR (118). The total of the middle letters (N,T,I,N,U,C,L,E,A = 14+20+9+14+21+3+12+5+1) is 99, which is 99 times the value of the first letter, A. For more of these words, see 3. below

3. SAME TOTAL BUT DIFFERENT FIRST LETTERS AND DIFFERENT LAST LETTERS

For word totals between 111 and 126, the same total may allow the use of two different pairs of extreme letters. For example, a total of 125 can represent a totally extreme word which begins with L (12) and ends with E (5) as well as one which begins with A (1) and ends with Y (25). LAUNDERETTE (12-5) and ARTIFICIALLY (1-25) are one such pair, both having a word total of 125.

Words with a total of 120, such as ALTRUISM (120), are an exception and cannot be paired because no letter has a value of 0 (12.0).

1.11 ARATURUK (China) 1.12 ARGUMENTAL 1.13 ALTRUISM
1.11 KURUMAYA (a rickshaw puller) 1.12 KRAzfER (Austria) 1.13 KURJAKOVAC (Bosnia-H.)
1.14 ADMONITION 1.15 ANTIPASTO (Hors d'oeuvre) 1.16 ALTENDONOP (Germany)
1.14 KENNEL-SHAPED 1.15 KALEIDOSCOPE 1.16 KULLENKAMPF (a violinist)
1.17 AKULERQOQ (Greenland) 1.18 ANTINUCLEAR 1.19 ACCUMULATES
1.17 KAWNGSUNG (Burma) 1.18 KNURRISH (gnarled) 1.19 KULLUMBERI (Albania)
1.21 ANTROLIKU (Cyprus) 1.22 ALEKSANDROV (Belarus) 1.23 ANITSCHKOW (a type of cell)
1.21 LEPIDOPTERA 1.22 AULJETITZ (Czechoslovakia) 1.23 LINGUISTIC
1.24 ARCHICORTEX (Sted) 1.25 ARTIFICIALLY 1.26 AUNJETITZ (Czechoslovakia)
1.24 LOW-CRESTED (Web2) 1.25 LAUNDERETTE 1.26 LIGHT-PROOF (Cham)

Totally extreme words with a total in excess of 200 do exist but only in small numbers. These three are the most understandable ones I found:

20.4 TRUNCATO-ROTUND 21.5 UNCIRCUMSCRIPTIBLE 22.5 VIGINTIQUINTUPLE (the result of multiplying by 25)