

A NEW APPROACH TO TRANSPOSITIONS

DMITRI A. BORGMANN
Dayton, Washington

Although many words and names are transposable, many more are not, leaving a bitter taste in the logologist's mouth. One way of overcoming the problem in relation to groups of words or names is to adopt the transaddition which includes one extra letter as an acceptable standard of achievement, with the further proviso that each transaddition need not adhere to that standard: all that is necessary is for all members of a group of transadditions to adhere to it is their average. This supplementary condition permits some members of the group to add zero letters, becoming genuine transposals, these being balanced by an equal number of two-letter transadditions.

To illustrate these principles in action, I have applied them to a particularly intransigent group of names - those of the 50 largest cities in the United States. An alphabetical list of these names follows, showing the rearrangements I have found and the number of letters added in the course of each rearrangement. The total number of letters added, 50, equals the number of names rearranged, for an average of one letter per name. I recommend this technique for dealing with other difficult word or name groups.

<u>United States City</u>	<u>Rearrangement</u>	<u>Additions</u>
Albuquerque	Brusque equals	2
Atlanta	Tantalate	2
Austin	lssuant	1
Baltimore	Artmobile	0
Birmingham	Limb-harming	1
Boston	To bonus	1
Buffalo	Oak Bluffs	2
Charlotte	Cattle horn	1
Chicago	Coaching	1
Cincinnati	lnaction, Inc.	1
Cleveland	Never-called	2
Columbus	Subcolumn	1
Dallas	Alclads	1
Denver	Nerved	0
Detroit	Dottier	0
El Paso	Aslope	0
Fort Worth	Oft-rethrown	2
Honolulu	Full honour	2
Houston	Outshone	1
Indianapolis	Pandivisional	1

Jacksonville	Locked javelins	2
Kansas City	A sick sanity	1
Long Beach	Bold change	1
Los Angeles	Long leases	0
Louisville	Olive Mullins	2
Memphis	Mimeship	1
Miami	Misaim	1
Milwaukee	Owl leukemia	2
Minneapolis	Simpletonian	1
Nashville	Ill-shaven	0
Newark	Wakener	1
New Orleans	Anne S. Fowler	1
New York	Roy Kerwin	2
Oakland	Kay Dolan	1
Oklahoma City	Calamity-hooked	2
Omaha	A fathom	2
Philadelphia	Happily-hailed	1
Phoenix	Ex-sonship	2
Pittsburgh	Shrub-potting	2
Portland	Prodental	1
Saint Louis	Outsailings	1
San Antonio	Annotations	1
San Diego	Agonised	0
San Francisco	Corsican fans	0
San Jose	Jonases	0
Seattle	Attlees	0
Toledo	Looted	0
Tucson	Counts	0
Tulsa	A slut	0
Washington	Nowanights	0

The fact that the list ends with eight consecutive zeros is a statistical accident; so is the fact that the nation's capital happens to be the final entry on the list. The rearrangements shown are not necessarily the closest dictionary-sanctioned approaches to one-word transpositions. For instance, NEW YORK transposes into the obsolete word Y-WROKEN, the transaddition A FATHOM for Omaha can be replaced by the one-word surname MONAHAN, and the transposal A SLUT for TULSA (a reversal of the city name, as it happens) can be replaced by the name of another city in Oklahoma: ALTUS. My choices were aesthetically more pleasing to me. Readers are invited to find and submit aesthetically-improved rearrangements for some of the weaker entries on the list (such as those for ALBUQUERQUE, CHARLOTTE, and JACKSONVILLE).