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Where type is hand set, the type is kept in trays. Among the boxes in the lower-case trays are ones for the ligatures (letters joined on a single piece of type) ff, fi, fl, ffi and ffl. Of these, the ligature ffl always looks the newest because it is used least often. Just how infrequently is it used? When I asked the editor, he informed me that Kucera and Francis's million-word sample of text published in the United States in 1962 revealed only 87 occurrences: ffl occurs, on the average, in only one word in ten thousand in running text.

The following list gives all the words I know of that occur in boldface in either the second or third edition of the Merriam-Webster Unabridged, Chambers English Dictionary, or the Oxford English Dictionary and its Supplements. Can Word Ways readers supply examples I have missed, or boldface entries from other dictionaries? To save space, I omit all plurals, but include past tenses and participles if explicitly sanctioned. Words with no tag can be found in either or both of the Webster editions, and if capitalized can be found in the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary. The tag ch indicates Chambers but not Webster, and the tag oed indicates the Oxford English Dictionary but neither Chambers nor Webster. Numbers indicate the number of occurrences of words given in Kucera and Francis. (The 87th word is CUFFLINKS, not recognized as a one-word entry by any of these dictionaries.)

afflate, afflated ch, afflation, afflatitious oed, AFFLATUS, AFFLICTION, afflicted 8, afflictedness, afflicter, afflicting, afflictingly, AFFLICT, affliction 2, afflictionless, AFFLICTIVE, AFFLICTIVELY, afflicted, affine oed, affine, AFFLUENCE 4, affluency, AFFLUENT 2, affluently, affluence ch, affluent, affluented oed, affluent, all-afflicting, affliction

BATTLE 1, BATTLE 5, bafflement, baffler 1, BAFFLING 4, bafflingly, bafflingness, bemuffle, beruffled, bluffly, buffle, bufflehead, buffleheaded, bufflehorn

caffle, carfuffle, chaffless, chafflike, cliffl ess, clifflet, clifflike, coeffluent, coeffluential, coif, coif, coifless oed sup
daffle, duffle, duffle, diffuseness oed, diffusian oed, diffuseness, diffuseness, diffusious, Diffugia, diffusion oed, driffl e oed, driffl ing oed, DUFFEL BAG, duffe

efflagitate, efflagitated, efflagration oed, efflate, efflation, effleurage ch, EFFLORESCENCE 1, EFFLURESCED, EFFLURESCENCE, efflorescency, EFFLURESCENT, EFFLURESCING, efflower, efflowering, effluction oed,
EFFLUENCE, effluenced oed, effluency, EFFLUENT 19, effluentness oed, effluous oed, effluve oed, EFFLUVIA, effluviable, effluvial, effluviate, effluviating, effluent oed, effluviography, effluvous, EFFLUVIUM 1, efflux, effluxing oed, effluxion, effluxive oed, exsufflate, exsufflation, exsuffule oed, exsufflicate, exsuffolate oed
gaffe, fancy-baffled,uffle, ruffled
haffle, gaffled oed, gafflet, gafflin oed, goffle, grufflingis oed, GRUFFLY
haffle, hafflins, huffle, huffed, huffling, huffer
insufflate, insufflation, insufflator
jiffle, juffle oed, juffling oed, juffler oed
kaffe, koffle oed
leffly oed, liffleod oed
mafflard oed, maffle, maffled, maffler, mafflin, maffling, mafflingly oed, muffle, moufflon, MUFFLE, MUFFLED 11, muffledness oed, mushroom-jaw, mufleman, MUFFER 2, muffle-shaped, muffle oed, mufin, MUFFLING 1
offset, offlete oed, offload ch, offlook, offlyght oed, offlying oed, overaffect, overaffliction
paffle oed, paffler oed, pain-afflicted, paraffle, PIPFLE, piffer, piffling, poffle, preafflicting, paffless oed, pufflet
RAFFLE, RAFFLED, raffler, Rafflesia, Rafflesiaceae, rafflesieaeous, RUFFLING, reaffect, reshuffle, riffle 1, riffler, RUFFLE 1, RUFFLED 3, ruffle-headed, ruffleless, rufflement, ruffer, rufflered oed, ruffle oed, ruffle-like, ruffliness, RUFFLING, ruffling, ruffly
safflor, safflorite, safflow, SAFFLOWER, scaffle, sconflling oed, schiffl, SCOFFFLAW, scraffle, scuffle, SCUFFLE 1, SCUFFLED, scuffer, SCUFFLING, scufflingly, scuffly, self-afflicting, self-affliction, self-afflictive, shaffle, shaffler oed, shaffles oed, shafflin oed, shiffle-shuffle, SHUFFLE 3, SHUFFLEBOARD, shufflecap, SHUFFLED 2, shuffer shuffling, SHUFFLING 1, shufflingly, sifflle, sifflet, siffer, sifflleus, sifflement, sifflet, sifflot, self-afflicting, skiffle ch, skiffless, skiffling, SNAFFLE, snaffle-bit ch, snaffle-bridle ch, snaffle-bridled, snaffled, snaffle-mouthed, snaker oed, snaffle-rein ch, snaffless, snaffles, snaffling-lay, SNIFFLE 1, sniffer, sniffling, sniffly, SNUFFLE, SNUFFLED, snuffer, snuffless, SNUFFLING, sniffingly, snuffly, SOUFFLE 1, souffle oed, souffled, soufflement oed, souffler, spefflicate oed, spifficate, spifflicated, spification, spoffle, spoffle, sniffless, sniffle, stiffer oed, stifferlike, stifle, stilling bone, STIFFLY 9, subaffluent, sufflame oed, sufflaminate, sufflation, sufflated, sufflatione oed, suffle oed, suffle, supereffluence, supereffluently
taffle, tantafflin, taraffless, thunder-baffled, tiffle, tippet-suffle, trafflike, trafflicker, trifflle oed, TRUFFLE, truffled, truffle-dog ch, truffle-pig ch, truffer, trufflery oed, trufflesque, truffling unaffectted, unaffecttedly, unbaffled, unbaffling, uncoffle, unmuffle,
unmuffled, unrafled, unrifled, unruffled, unruffled, unsufflated
WAFFLE 1, waffle-iron ch, wafflike, waffling, waffly, whiffle, whiffled, whiffler, whiffly, whifflike, WHIFFLETREE, whiffling, whiffingly, waffle, woffler
yaffle, yaffler, yaffling

A CALL FOR HELP
Darwin K. Rolens of Denver writes "Alfred Lubran's article, "Manias", caught my attention with its reference to the French use of the suffix -manie. I recalled that some ten or twelve years ago I was reading John Fowles' book, Islands, in which I ran across this sentence on page 17: 'Of course all islanders have to be handy with boats, but genuine nesomanes are not sailors.' I wrote nesomanes in my vocab notebook and went about searching for its meaning...I finally defined it as island lover only by putting together its two parts. But now that I have more dictionaries available to me I researched the word again and found...Webster's New Third International Dictionary defines nesos- as the comb, form for island...May I presume that John Fowles coined the word? Maybe someone among your readers has other sources for searching or has seen the word used in other writings."