SUPER DUPER LOOPERS

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The letters of some words can travel in a circle, like the whirling of juggled balls. Such words -- in which the first letter can be moved from frontword to backword to form another word -- have been labeled "cyclic transposals." I prefer the more straightforward term "looping anagrams."

The most common looping anagrams, and the easiest to construct, are those beginning with S. That's why you can change your SPOT and SPAN to POTS and PANS, simply by moving the S from front to back. That's why you can so easily replace your SWORD with WORDS so that WORDS have then become your SWORD. SMILE/MILES, STRAP/TRAPS, SEXIST/EXISTS, and SHOE/HOES are other S types. More satisfying are looping anagrams that don't start with S and are especially surprising in their new form:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aye/yea</th>
<th>ether/there</th>
<th>lease/easel</th>
<th>rave/aver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>car/arc</td>
<td>ethos/those</td>
<td>name/amen</td>
<td>ruse/user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>den/end</td>
<td>evil/vile</td>
<td>near/earn</td>
<td>tap/apt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>each/ache</td>
<td>free/reef</td>
<td>nope/open</td>
<td>trap/rapt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ear/are</td>
<td>gelatin/elating</td>
<td>now/own</td>
<td>trio/riot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>echoic/choice</td>
<td>grin/ring</td>
<td>plum/lump</td>
<td>tough/ought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eon/one</td>
<td>heart/earth</td>
<td>pram/ramp</td>
<td>wane/awew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>esprit/sprite</td>
<td>height/eighth</td>
<td>range/anger</td>
<td>who/how</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The transmogrification of AIDE into IDEA is especially delightful because with a single swoop the word triples its syllables.

Animals figure prominently in all this hoopla and loop, ha!:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>asp/spa</th>
<th>emit/mite</th>
<th>flea/leaf</th>
<th>snail/nails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>drake/raked</td>
<td>emus/muse</td>
<td>low/owl</td>
<td>swine/wines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emanate/manatee</td>
<td>ewe/hee</td>
<td>rhea/hear</td>
<td>tan/ant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You'll GRIN at the RING of bright letters.
You'll SMILE at the MILES of fun.
You'll ROVE OVER anagrams looping.
You'll laugh till you ACHE at EACH one.

A SNAIL NAILS PA'S ASP in a hot SPA.
Then a DRAKE RAKED a FLEA off a LEAF.
A RHEA will HEAR, SHARK HARKS, EMUS MUSE.
Will a MANATEE EMANATE grief?
The HEART of the EARTH is the looper.  
Like an APE with a PEA, you'll soon try it.  
When a STAG TAGS a LOW OWL, TAN ANT, and WEE EWE, 
The TRIO is likely to RIOT.

Not yet done, because enshrined in our lexicon are triple super-
duper loopers, words that can be looped and then looped again:

asp/spa/pa's emit/mite/item sear/ears/arise/arse/stable/tables/ablest
stripe/tripes/ripest

To complete our exhibit of looping, swooping anagrams, we present 
three spectacular triples. In the first triad, the words progress from 
one syllable to two to three:

route outer utero

In the second cluster, the first letter loops to the back. Then the 
next two letters and then the next three execute the same maneuver:

terran errant ranter terran

The third grouping is more a progress of meaning:

eat ate tea

ATE is the past tense of EAT. After we ATE, we washed the whole 
thing down with TEA. In this instance, the triple loop returns EAT to 
its original base, allowing us to form three word squares:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EAT</th>
<th>ATE</th>
<th>TEA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATE</td>
<td>TEA</td>
<td>EAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEA</td>
<td>EAT</td>
<td>ATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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More than just one letter at a time can leap from frontword to 
backword to form a looping anagram. Excluded, of course, are reverse 
compounds, such as BOATHOUSE/HOUSEBOAT, HUNTSMAN/MANHUNTS, and 
SHOTGUN/GUNSHOT; particle verbs, such as TAKEOUT/OUTTAKE, 
pASSOVER/OVERPASS, and UPSET/SETUP; or repetitions, such as YO-YO, 
FIFTY-FIFTY, and PRETTY-PRETTY.

We can command a cluster of two letters to leapfrog over two other 
letters so that the two pairs switch places:

arch/char chin/inch eddy/dyed game/mega sear/arise
arts/tsar code/deco emit/item mesa/same chit itch
Now watch three letters loop across two letters:

bowel/elbow ideas/aside ranter/errant
cedar/arced loyal/alloy sonar/arson
glean/angle mitre/remit verse/sever

Next, four letters will leap over two others:

centre/recent pineal/alpine stable/ablest route/utero

The most balanced of multiple loops is three letters bounding over three other letters, producing a three-three switch:

bedlam/lambed callow/low-cal german/manger rowing/ingrow

Finally, I present a four-three transposals: raining/ingrain.

A notable number of these multiple-letter loops include proper nouns:

bare/Reba etch/Chet manor/Norma roast/Astro
Cain/Inca evil/Levi only/Lyon rove/Vero
dietered/Teddie Gerber/Berger opals/Alsop saunas/Nassau
divers/Verdi harlot/Lothar rave/Vera sexes/Essex
Dale/Leda Derry/Ryder toot/Otto banal/Alban

Given this pattern of names, it is surprising how resistant English is to multiple looping.

Now we combine a loop-the-loop with a charade:

Start with the word SAFARI. Move the back letter to the front, and then cleave the word. The result -- IS AFAR.

Start with WASTE, and relocate the W to the end. Then charade, and you’ll find that when we WASTE resources, we end up in a A STEW.

To close our super-duper looper act, let us gaze upon one of the most spectacular feats of logology -- the looping and charading of CABARET. Move the C from the front to the back and -- presto, chango! -- we stand in the presence of Harry Ober’s extraordinary A BAR, ETC., which is just what a CABARET is!