ALL-DIAGONAL SIX-SQUARES WITH FAMILIAR WORDS

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I have previously attempted to find word squares with words as diagonals for squares of order 9, 8, and 7. As the order of the square decreases, it becomes possible to use more familiar words. The six rows and three diagonals of six-squares make nine words: in all the examples in this article, the majority of the nine words are in the most-used 87,000 words (British National Corpus): in the best square, just two words do not appear in the top 87,000. It is then no surprise to find that all bar relatively few words are in the OED as headwords. Given the stringent criteria, I found just 1965 squares, dependent upon 374 reversible words and 319 palindromes. Unfortunately, the squares with the largest number of most-used words tend to have boring palindromes, so I have given a selection of palindromes, even though the squares contain less popular words. Following each square are the diagonals, as read from NE or SW, NW, and SE. The notation ‘4:’ after a square gives an alternative for the fourth row.

In the following square, all except ETERNE and EEEEE are in the top 87,000 words
(sieve is the Irish for mountain)

ETERNE Macquarie, or OED piper
LEN TEN [1b 1884
INVENT
ENTER S
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEVRES Sèvres, the porcelain
SERVES

The following squares have 6 of their 9 words in the top 87,000

STIFLE
TENUES
INVEST
FUERSE
LESSER
EST
RS plural
diagonals as above
or 4: FUERTE (Web2, below line), 5: LESTER
(see lestercock)

SKOPE
KERREY
ORIENT
PRENSA
JENSEN
ETYAND
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEINED seine
DENIES

SCHAPE
CEASES
HAVENT
ASERVE
PENVER
ESTERS
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEVRES Sèvres, the porcelain
SERVES

STEELE
TERMEN
ERVEST
EMERSE
LESSER
ENTE.RS
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEINED seine
DENIES

SKOPJE
KERREY
ORIENT
PRESA
JENSEN
ETYAND
EEEEEE EE-EE-EE, EDD
SEINED seine
DENIES

SEINE
SEVRES
SERVES
These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SWIETE</th>
<th>WENGEN</th>
<th>INVENT</th>
<th>EGERNE</th>
<th>TENTER</th>
<th>ENTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SYBASE</td>
<td>YEAVEN</td>
<td>BAVENT</td>
<td>AVERSE</td>
<td>SENSER</td>
<td>ENTERS</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>TIPLER</td>
<td>see tippler</td>
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<td>TIPLER</td>
<td>see tippler</td>
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<td>ERLEND</td>
<td>Erlend Øye, pop star</td>
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<td>ERLEND</td>
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<td>EEEEE</td>
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<td>see leisure</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SICCIS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRYADS</th>
<th>REALIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YANCEY</td>
<td>Web2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALCINE</td>
<td>Web2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIENER</td>
<td>SAYERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SICCIS</td>
<td>Pcon, or OED Caorsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENIES</td>
<td>SEINED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEINED</td>
<td>seine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DASSEL</th>
<th>dassel(l)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIQUEA</td>
<td>Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOAPED</td>
<td>EEE-EE-EE, EDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUFFED</td>
<td>LADDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEE-EE-EE</td>
<td>EDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LADDER</td>
<td>EDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIAPER</td>
<td>REPAID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEBOWA</th>
<th>Lebowa, Maquarie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EARROT</td>
<td>ear rot, Web2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIANT</td>
<td>family name, warehou eman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORANGE</td>
<td>[2 1677q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WONGEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTEND</td>
<td>AOAAOA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATTEND</td>
<td>AOAAOA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REINED</td>
<td>lain, verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAINED</td>
<td>lain, verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENIAL</td>
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</table>

These squares have 5 words in the top 87,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGARD</th>
<th>EE-EE-EE, EDD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENRES</td>
<td>plural</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENRES</td>
<td>plural</td>
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<tr>
<td>AERNDE</td>
<td>ærndle</td>
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<td>AERNDE</td>
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<td>DESERT</td>
<td>=dared, Pa</td>
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<td>DESERT</td>
<td>=dared, Pa</td>
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<tr>
<td>RENNEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>RENNEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TENNER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RAPIDS
AEONIC æonic
POPLAR
IN LINE see in-line
DIANNE forename and place
SCREES scree
SILLIS sill 1a 1536q
REPI N S repin
SNIPER

SMEGMA
MEDIAL
EDWARD forename, Orrefors, 1929q
GIARRE town, Catania Province, Italy
MARRER
ALDERS
AAAAAAA Pcon, shoe-width
SEVRES Sèvres, the china
SERVES

or 2: MEDIAN, 5: ANDERS (lunar crater)

All the following have the same diagonals, viz:
E E E E E E, EDD
SEVRES Sèvres, the china
SERVES

SPHYRE
PEAHEN
H A V E N T haven’t
YHERDE
RENDER
ENTERS
or 4: YHERNE, 5: RENNER

SPLAKE
PEAHEN
LAVERD
AHERNE eg Bertie Aherne, PM of
KERNER [Ireland
ENDERS ender

STIEDE
TENNES
INVENT
ENERVE
DENVER in Colorado
ESTERS

STIFLE
TENUES
INVECT
FUERTE Web2, below line
LECTER see lectern
ESTERS

STRALE
TEEHEE see tee-hee C
REVEAL
AHERNE eg Bertie Aherne, PM of
LEANER [Ireland
EELERS

STRATE
TEVEE
REV EAL
VERSE
TEASER
EELERS

STREDE
TEEMED
REVEN D
EMERSE Web2 below line
DENSER
EDDERS

STROBE
TEVEE
REVEAL
OVERTE
BEATER
EELERS eeler
or 4: REVELL, 5: BELTER

SACHET
AI OUEA Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS [plant
CONNER
HUNNER
EEE EEE E EE-EE-EE, EDD
TARR ED
TENNET
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

or 1: SACRET (sacreng, sacret), 4: RUNNER
SACKED
AIOUEA Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
CONNEN
KUNNEN
EEEEE EEE-EE-EE, EDD
DARNED
DENNED den 3
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

The following squares have these diagonals:
EEEEE EEE-EE-EE, EDD
SINNED
DENNIS my brother, a make of truck

SPEALE
PINGED ping, verb
ENNEAD
AGENDA
LEADER
EDDARD EDD, form of edder

S WA I DE
WINTER
ANNEAL
ITENDE i-tende
DEADEN
ERLEND Erlend Øye, pop singer

SEEKER
ELMORE
EMERGE
KOREAS Koreans
ERGATE
RESES Reese, verb
RRRRRR Ulysses, p. 373
SLEETS sleet, verb
STEELS steel

SAFEST
ATORAI Atorai, Web2
FORMIN Web2, or uro-, 1900q
ERMANI Erman, Latvia
SAINTE eg Sainte Chapelle
TINES plural of noun

TAMMAT EDD or place
STRATS Fender Stratocasters
STARTS

TASSER Web2, below line
AIOUEA Aiouea crispa forbesii, ITIS
SONNET [plant
SUNKEN
EEEEE EEE-EE-EE, EDD

RATNER ‘Doing a Gerald Ratner’*
RENNER
TINKER
REKNIT

* now describes any business gaffe. He
notoriously described a sherry decanter as ‘total
crap’ in a speech: he ran the chain of jewellery
shops selling it.

In the following squares, 8 of the 9 words are
OED headwords
FRACHE
RIDLEY
ADREAD
CLERTE
HEATEN
EDD or place
FRACHE
RIDLEY
ADREAD
CLERTE
HEATEN
EDD or place

FIRRET ferret
TERRIF
A six-square with its top row equal to its NW diagonal is to be found in W83-26. All words are in the OED as headwords, or are in the most used 87,000 words, except where noted. EDD = English Dialect Dictionary. Pcon = Palindromicon. ITIS = database of US Dept. of Agriculture.

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