

SOME NARRATIVE ALPHAMETICS

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In an alphametic, letters are substituted for numbers in an arithmetic problem, and the reader is invited to find the solution. If the letters spell out some sort of a message, so much the better; the oldest one known, SEND + MORE = MONEY, was crafted by H.E. Dudeney in 1924. (The term *alphametic* was coined by J.A.H. Hunter in 1955.) Narrative alphametics have occasionally appeared in *Word Ways*, including "Literate Cryptarithmic" by Peter Newby in November 1989, and "Literary Cryptarithmic by Computer" by Leonard Gordon in May 1990.

A special case of narrative alphametics are doubly-true alphametics, in which the narrative consists of a correct arithmetical statement, such as THREE + FOUR = SEVEN, with the solution $28566 + 7495 = 36061$. Mentioned in Borgmann's *Language on Vacation*, these have also appeared in *Word Ways*, in "Doubly-True Alphametics" by Leonard Gordon in February 1994.

The following narrative alphametics have unique solutions and are soluble by hand without excessive enumeration (although in some cases they may require quite a bit of analysis). To the best of my knowledge, all are original. I call the reader's attention to two with logological features:

STARTER + RESTART = ANAGRAM

BEAR + RARE + ERE = RHYME

ADVANCED + STUDENTS = CALCULUS

AGASSI + GRAF = TENNIS

ALICE + RABBIT = HATTER

ALLAH + ISLAM = MECCA

AMERICAN + COMEDIAN = ROSEANNE

AMES + AGENCY = SPYING

ANCIENT + JAPANESE = PAINTING

ANSEL + ADAMS = NATURE

BARBIE + MAKER = MATTEL

BATMAN + COMIC = GOTHAM

BELOVED + NOVELS = TOLSTOY

BLACK + SILK = JACKET

BLOOD + BODY = MURDER

BOB + DYLAN = SONGS

BORDELLO + REPORTED = DOWNTOWN

BRILLIANT + TERRIBLE = BEAUTIFUL

BRUTUS + STABS = CAESAR (my best one)

CANAL + TOWN = VENICE

COLLEGE + CLASSICS = SOCRATES

COOK + SHISH = KEBABS

COPPER + COINAGE = PENNIES
 COSA + NOSTRA = CRIMES
 CRACK + COCAINE = ILLEGAL
 CREOLE + SOUL = ZYDECO
 DAILY + MIRROR = LONDON
 DALAI + LAMA = TEMPLE
 DEAD + SINGER = GARCIA (pun intended)
 ENGINEER + DESIGNED = HARDWARE
 ENGLISH + CHANNEL = ISLANDS
 FANNIE + FREDDIE = LENDERS (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mae)

FICTION + BRONTE = SISTERS
 FRENCH + ARABIC = CHINESE
 FRESH + FISH = DINNER
 FRODO + MORDOR = GOLLUM
 GEORGE + WALLACE = ALABAMA
 GRACE + SLICK = SINGER
 HEALTH + CARE = SYSTEM
 HOOSIERS + REDSHIRTS = ATHLETES
 HORROR + BORIS = KARLOFF
 HOSPITAL + PATIENTS = ILLNESSES

HOSTS + PAT = VANNA
 JAZZ + MUSIC = ALBUMS
 LIBERAL + WILLIAM = BRENNAN
 LIVED + DIED = COFFIN
 LUXURY + RESORT = HOTELS
 MARIE + CURIE = RADIUM
 MILITANT + SIKHISM = PAKISTAN
 MURROW + CAREER = NEWSMAN
 NASCAR + RACING = DRIVERS
 NAZI + HORROR = DACHAU

ORIGINAL + COLONIAL = AMERICAN
 OSCAR + ACTOR = LEMMON
 OUTLAW + WILLIE = NELSON
 PEARL + HARBOR = BOMBED
 PIANO + ANDRE = PREVIN
 PIANO + PIECE = CHOPIN
 PINTA + NINA = VOYAGE
 POOPER + SCOOPER = CANINES
 PUNCHES + OPPONENT = KNOCKOUT
 PURPLE + ROSE = VIOLET (doubly true)

RABIES + FATAL = DISEASE
 RACE + TRACK = JOCKEY
 READ + WRITE = POETRY
 REAGAN + CARTER = DEBATE
 RIGOR + STIFF = CORPSE (this is a good solve, too)
 RIPARIAN + CREVICES = SERPENTS
 RUBEOLA + RUBELLA = MEASLES

SADDLE + LASSO = COWBOY

SEED + BEDS = BLOOM

SEVEN + SEAS = VOYAGE

SEVERE + STORM = TWISTER

SINGH + SHOT = GANDHI (Indira)

STAGE + SATIRE = BRECHT

SUGAR + YOUR = COFFEE

SURNAME + RECORDS = MORMONS

TAGGERS + PAINTING = GRAFFITI

TARIK + AZIZ = IRAQI

TASTE + SWEET = COCOA

TEACHER + STUDENT = RESEARCH

TUTU + WON = PRIZE (1984 Nobel Peace Prize)

WAIKIKI + HAWAII = SURFERS

WILD + SWEET = EXOTIC

WOMAN + BARES = BREAST

And here are a few subtraction narratives:

BUTLER – ACTOR = GABLE

COSTA – RICA = ARIAS

EROTIC – LOVE = SCENES

EXPENSIVE – PASADENA = VERANDAS

FABLED – LEGEND = NESSIE (Loch Ness monster)

GORILLAS – DESIGNED = LINGERIE (a *singerie* is a monkey trick)

KAREEM – ABDUL = JABBAR

PRICELESS – ARTISTIC = TREASURES

REVEALING – PARISIAN = NEGLIGEE

WATER – POLO = POOL

Finally, did you know that BILL MURRAY and EDDIE MURPHY sum to GILDA RADNER?