OVERLAPS Part 1

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
thorpsed@hotmail.com

If the two words PANT and TRY are merged so that the two letter Ts overlap we obtain the word PANTRY. In other words, the parent word PANTRY will split into the offspring PANT and TRY by duplicating the T. Overlaps may be of any length and can occur anywhere in a word except for the first and last letters. In these lists of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-letter overlap(s), the parent word and the first of its offspring do not have the same basic root as clinger and cling do in...clinger = cling + linger. Such a relationship becomes more difficult to avoid as parent words become longer. Some words exhibit a single overlap whilst others exhibit multiple overlaps (two or more overlaps).

SINGLE OVERLAPS

A. OFFSPRING ARE NOT MEANINGFULLY RELATED TO EACH OTHER

1-letter overlaps (A-Z)
spam = spa + am combust = comb + bust machine = mac + chine address = add + dress
caveat = cave + eat muffin = muff + fin cogent = cog + gent archer = arch + her
skin = ski + in hijack = hij (high) + jack monkey = monk + key million = mill + lion
plume = plum + me hornet = horn + net dour = do + our lamprey = lamp + prey
sequin = seq. + quin tarot = tar + rot astern = as + stern suitable = suit + table
flutter = flu + utter reverse = rev + verse towelled = tow + welled axel = ax + xel (shall)
bye = by + ye fezen (dipl. pheasant) = fez + Zen onion = Oni (a Nigerian title) + ion
Transpositional Offspring:
shamash = sham + mash stearates = stear (old ‘stare’) + rates

2-letters overlap (A?-Z?)
mangle = man + angle Alban = alba + ban discover = disco + cover rodent = rode + dent
yeast = yea + east define = defi (defy) + fine agent = age + gent lather = lathe + her
ration = ratio + ion ajar = aja (It. nurse) + jar skin = ski + kin flog = Flo (name) + log
comet = come + met sinew = sin + new brown = brow + own expose = Expo + pose
Bigat (Israel) = Bisha (Jordan) + qat (a narcotic drug) operate = opera + rate ashy = ash + shy
rectory = recto + tory funder = fun + under diyan = diva + van
stowed = Stowe (in Buckinghamshire, UK) + wed taxeme = taxe (tax) + xeme (a fork-tailed gull)
ryot (an Indian peasant) = ryo (former Japanese coin) + yot (yet) dozen = doze + Zen
t Transpositional Offspring:
palp = pal + alp tart = tar + art eraser = eras + aser (old dozen = doze + Zen
chic = chi + hic chin (bedbug) = chin + inch /azure’)
Romero (surname) = Rome + mero (sea perch)
Masham (town in Yorkshire) = mash + sham Hugh = hug? + ugh!
setose = Seto (city in Japan) + tose (old ‘toes’) incase = Incas + case

3-letters overlap (A??-Z??)
fallow = fall + allow urbane = urban + bane baffled (puzzled) = baffle + fled
Andrew = Andre + drew yearn = year + earn
regale = regal + gale
majoram (old ‘marjoram’) = major + joram (a large drinking bowl)
plane = plan + lane
amend = amen + mend
clover = clove + over
lupine = lupin + pine
grind = grin + rind
Ruskin = Ruski + skin
draper = drap + er
founder = found + under
loxian =loxia (crossbill genus) + Xian (surname)
pying (the alphabetical index to rolls and records) = pyin (a substance found in pus) + ying (drug-craving)
bazoom (bosom) = bazoo ( slang: mouth) + zoom

Transposal Offspring:

shunt = shun + hunt
clinker (type of brick) = clink + inker
jerking = jerkin + king
finest = fines + nest
squad = squa (old ‘squaw’) + quad
sating = satin + ting
twine = twin + wine

sages = sage (herb) + ages
Rover (the dog) = rove + over
diced (vegetables) = dice (roll) + iced
plump = plum + lump
heded (one’s bets) = hedge + edged
Olive = olive + liver
sleight = sleigh + eight
ethane = Ethan (name) + Thane
plumber = plumb + lumber
tablet = table + ablet (bleak fish)
scores (with a knife) = score + cores
scrap (left overs) = scrap(tight)+craps
hearth = heart + earth
shades (of colour) = shade (from the sun) + Hades
rosier = Rosie + osier

Transposal Offspring:

4-letters overlap
Marian = Maria + Arian
slinger = sling (for arm) + linger
estroid = aster + steroid

Transposal Offspring:

heded = hede + gedled
Oliver = olive + liver
Sleight = sleigh + eight
ethane = Ethan (name) + Thane
Table = table + ablet (bleak fish)
scores = score + cores
scrap = scrap(tight)+craps
hearth = heart + earth
shades = shade (from the sun) + Hades
rosier = Rosie + osier

Transposal Offspring:

5-letters overlap
Shambles (a street in York) = shamble + ambles

Transposal Offspring:

rambler (can’t get to the point) = ramble + ambler
gasking (gasket) = Gaskin (name; native of Gascony) + asking
grating = gratin + rating

B. OFFSPRING FORM A PHRASE-LIKE CONFIGURATION OR ARE RELATED WORDS

1-letter overlaps

thorgxes = Thorg xes
redress = red dress
Hungary = hung Gary
masking = mask king
canine = can nine?
Herod = her rod
yous = you, us
Rayon = Ray yon

2-letters overlap

Hadrian = had Adrian?
tenter = ten enter
compose = Compo poses (for UK TV viewers)
gutters = gut utters!

2-letters overlap

barmy = bar army
shears = she hears

3-letters overlap

grants = gran rants
pusher (drug) = push usher

2-letters overlap

Bomabay = bomb bay (in plane)
heats = he eats
wither = with her
allies = all lies
gout = go out
history = his story
revile = Rev. vile
ozone = Oz zone

2-letters overlap

drawl = draw awl
thought = thou ought
operated = opera rated

2-letters overlap

vacant = vac can’t
refined = ref. fined
skit = ski it
theme = them, me
impair = imp pair
nothing = not ‘thing’
nowhere = now where

Gwent (in Wales) = Gwen went
4-letters overlap
olives = Olive lives  orange = orang range  graced = Grace raced
Broads (Norfolk) = broad roads  borates = Borat orates

In spite of the first of these offspring having the same root as the parent word, my favourites include:
shopping = shop hopping  lover = love over  tripper = trip ripper (dodgy travel agent)
caddies = caddie dies (the golf ball hit him!)

MULTIPLE OVERLAPS

Some parent words, by means of multiple overlaps, produce more than 2 offspring. These parent words can be divided into two categories:
A. those which provide the maximum number of overlaps possible.
B. those which provide less than the maximum number of overlaps

The number of letters involved in successive overlaps is given in brackets.

A. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OVERLAPS

The maximum number of overlaps for a word of n letters is n - 2. This only occurs under 2 conditions - when each overlap involves only one letter and each offspring consists of 2 letters.
1 overlap: mat = ma + at (1)
2 overlaps: sofa = so + of + fa (1 1)
3 overlaps: mason = ma + as + so + on (1 1 1)
4 overlaps: masher = ma + as + sh + he + er (1 1 1 1)

B. LESS THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OVERLAPS

(a) 3 offspring
mother = moth + the + er (2 1)  postage = post + stag + age (2 2)  limerick = lime + Eric + rick (1 3)
towelling = tow + well + ling (1 1)  bramble = bra + ram + amble (2 2)  hither = hit + the + her (1 2)
upright = up + prig + right (1 3)  rotundo = rot + tun + undo (1 2)  heart = he + ear + art (1 2)
amuse = am + mu + use (1 1)  pulp = puls + pi + it (1 1)  grandish = gran + and + dish (2 1)

Offspring make a phrase: rated = rat ate Ted (2 2)

(b) 4 offspring
teacher = tea + each + ache + her (2 3 2)  buttered = but + utter + ere + red (2 2 2)
anthem = ant + nth + the + hem (2 2 2)  therein = the + her + ere + rein (2 2 2)
collapsing = coll + laps + psi + sing (1 2 2)  plantable = plan + ant + tab + able (2 1 2)

(c) 5 offspring
tintometry = tin + into + tome + met + try (2 2 2 1)

(d) 6 offspring
southeastern = sou + out + the + east + aster + stern (2 1 1 3 4)

(e) 12 offspring
antheridiophore = an + nth + the + her + eri (errie) + rid + Idi + Io + oph (oaf) + ho + or + re

(1 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 1)

Other types of overlap will be offered in Overlaps Part 2.