

Playing with words

Palindromes:

Palindrome with spatial symmetry: *able was I ere I saw Elba*

Palindrome without spatial symmetry: *a man a plan a canal panama*

While these are remarkable, there are many others.

A Toyota, kayak, racecar, no rotor on, eye, do geese see God, dog saw I was God, evils live, devil lived, do often net food, re: wolf flower, Warsaw was raw, madam I'm Adam, raw war, Eire Erie,...

Many years ago, I coined: *has sensuousness, ah*

And recently: *he stressed desserts, eh?*

Dogma: I am God.

Many years ago I also coined a variation on Rene Descartes' *cogito ergo sum*: *coito ergo sum*. This is a choice between the second (*svadhishtana*) and the sixth (*ajna*) chakras. This Classical Latin joke has been rediscovered many times. (Note that for 7 chakras, focusing on the second and the sixth is unambiguous regarding which two to view.) This example can be paired with Beethoven's *Erotica* symphony #3 in E-flat major.

Angry and *hungry* are the only English language words currently in usage ending with *gry*.

Tsk is a common English word, usually said twice, containing no vowels, and no y or w either.

Avocation versus *vocation*:

Merriam-Webster defines *vocation* at least two ways:

- 1) an activity in which one engages
- 2) the principal *business* of one's life

and defines *avocation* at least two ways:

- 1) a subordinate occupation pursued in addition to one's vocation especially for enjoyment : *hobby*

2) customary employment : *vocation*

Conjugated verbs:

Lie, lay, lain versus *lay, laid, laid*. *Lay* often is used incorrectly in first person for *lie*. *Lie* is intransitive and *lay* is transitive. I *lie* down, or I *lay* myself down are equivalent. I'm tired and want to *lay* down, is just wrong. *Lie*, meaning to prevaricate, is altogether different: *lie, lied* and *lied*.

How do you pronounce *tour*, like *your* or like *poor*? I hear the former quite a lot but the latter is correct. Listen carefully. How about *sure*? Its like *shoor*, not *shore*. Thus, *tour* sounds like *sure*.

I *may be* late (verb with modifier). *Maybe* I will be late (adverb). *Maybe* you get this one already. It *may be* that you do not.

Newscasters should never use *Now* to start a sentence. The exception to the rule is so rare that it should not happen more than once per broadcast. One sometimes hears it happen every other sentence.

Queueing has 5 vowels in a row. Some purists assert that the second *e* is improperly present.

Guadalajara has 5 a's. *Indivisibility* has 6 i's. *Proctocolonoscopy* has 6 o's. *Degenerescence* has 6 e's. *Untumultuous* has 5 u's. *Syzygy* has 3 y's.

Facetious has *aeiou* in order, and *seriously* does too.

The letter w, "double-u", looks like "double-v." Is this because the Classical Latin alphabet ends with ...R S T V X Y Z? No U (actually, no V, the V is the Roman U) or W is present (nor J, earlier, for that matter) and many engraved words have a V where we would use a U. Ancient Romans got downtown by BVS. What they did about writing the name VENUS is unclear to me.?

The drink *cocoa* is made from the beans of the *cacao* tree.

The drink *coca cola* is based on a South American Indian practice of chewing *coca* leaves and *kola nuts*. The coca leaves contain *cocaine* which raises tolerance to hunger and to cold while the kola nuts contain *caffeine* that keeps one awake. Until about 1905 coca cola, the beverage, contained some cocaine and was used as an elixir. The chocolate tree, or cocoa tree, is known scientifically as *Theobroma cacao*. *Theobroma* contains the chemical *theobromine*, that contains no elemental *bromine* (atomic number 35), and is a name made up of the Greek roots *theo* ("God") and *broma* ("food"), meaning "food of the gods."

Vowel substitutions:

I like sequences such as *bat, bet, bit, bot* and *but*. *Bot* is either the fly or a robot. *Hat, het, hit, hot* and *hut*. *Pat, pet, pit, pot* and *put*. *Rate, rete, rite, rote* and *rute*. *Bad, bed, bid, bod* and *bud*. *Mate, mete, mite, mote* and *mute*. *Gat, get, git, got* and *gut*. If I may separate *pell-mell* then we get: *mall, mell, mill, moll* and *mull*; and *pall, pell, pill, poll* and *pull*. *Ball, bell, bill, boll* and *bull*. *Nab, neb, nib, nob*, and *nut*.

Telescoping words:

here is inside *there*. *he* is inside *her*. *there, here, her* and *he*.

where, here, ere and *re*.

there, here. where, here.

(*therapist, the rapist*) minus *the hi step* = *rap artist*.

friend, fiend, I end, end, [en].

supine, spine, pine, pie, pi, I.

supine, spine, spin, pin, in, I.

Anagrams and permutations:

<i>no</i> and <i>on</i> .	2 of 2,	100%
<i>stop, pots, post, spot, tops</i> and <i>opts</i> .	6 of 24,	25%
<i>asp, sap, spa</i> and <i>pas</i> (dance step, not dads).	4 of 6,	66.67%
<i>eat, ate</i> and <i>tea</i> .	3 of 6,	50%
<i>tar, rat</i> and <i>art</i> .	3 of 6,	50%

<i>star, arts, rats, tsar and tars.</i>	5 of 24,	20.83%
<i>parse, spear, pears, spare, reaps, pares, rapes, apers</i> and <i>prase</i> (green chalcedony).	9 of 120,	7.5%
<i>I praise prase</i> , a <i>phrase</i> by a gemnologist during his student <i>phase</i> . (two more from Dan Fox)		
<i>east, sate, seat, teas, eats, tase.</i>	6 of 24	25%
<i>rapt, tarp, trap, part, prat.</i> (no plurals)	5 of 24	20.83%

Some years ago women's rights activities gave rise to the change from *human* to *huperson* (remember the change from *chairman* to *chairperson*?). Logically this leads to *huperdaughter*; *hyperlaughter*.

I coined a word during the late 1980's while desktop computing was burgeoning. The word is *liveware*, and was memorialized in Karla Jennings' 1990 book *The Devouring Fungus*. There you will find a glossary with the entry:

Liveware. Also called humans, or, more frequently, graduate students. The liveware's expertise, when harnessed by computer-illiterate professors, allows those professors to operate computers they don't understand in order to generate more research grants. (Word coined by Ron Fox, physics department, Georgia Tech.)

Liveware was independently coined by many others with a variety of definitions. The one given here is both jocular and pejorative.

Homophones:

medal, meddle, metal and mettle. (from Dan Fox)

pedal, peddle, petal and pettle. (with Tom Fox)

bider, biter, and bidder, bitter.

rapped. rapt, wrapped.

rite, right, wright, write.

air, ere, err, heir, are (hectare/100)

A person is said to be *patient* if he/she exhibits *patience*. *Patients* are persons who go to a doctors' offices and wait to be seen. Note that *patience* and *patients* are nearly perfect homophones. The latter don't have much of the former.

Infer versus *imply*:

We *infer* from the evidence, and the evidence *implies*. The evidence does not *infer*.

Less versus *fewer*:

We have *fewer* objects that we can count, but we have *less* substance than we can measure. There are *less* marbles on the floor is wrong.

Take versus *bring*:

In the old South one used to hear: "can I *bring* you downtown?" You can *bring* me back, but you must *take* me downtown. It all depends on whether you are going away (*take*) or coming back (*bring*). My mother was amused by this practice in 1950's Tallahassee, Florida.

A *sapsucker* is a type of woodpecker. They do indeed *suck sap*, but not from a *sup sack* (think *tucker-bag* in Australia). A *sucker* is a *sap* and a *sap* is a *sucker*, i.e. a chump, fool, dupe or patsy.

Breakfast:

M N X N T

F U N E M?

S, V F M.

F U N E X?

S, V F X.

F U N E T?

S, V F T.

O I C, U F M N X N T.

O, X T C!

If *Mississippi* wore *New Jersey*, what would *Delaware*?
Idaho, Alaska.

(The previous two were told to me by my father some 60 years ago.)

Take *you* out of *arouse* and get *a rose*.

Arouse, a rose, rose, -ose. (-ose is a suffix that means sugar [sweetness], e.g. glucose, fructose, ribose...)

-ough: (check out the pronunciations)

borough, bough, chough, clough, cough, dough, enough, furlough, hiccough, lough, plough, rough, slough, sough, thorough, though, through, tough, trough. ought, yacht

A *pirogue* is a *piroque*, or is it *vice versa*? Can you canoe?

A *togue* is not a *toque*.

nor is a *rogue* a *roque*.

Rules with exceptions:

I before *E* except after *C* or in *neighbor* or *weigh* where it sounds like *A*

or in: *ancient weird feisty scientist*.

Magic word squares:

E	A	T
A	T	E
T	E	A

S	C	E	N	T
C	A	N	O	E
A	R	S	O	N
R	O	U	S	E
F	L	E	E	T

L	O	V	E
---	---	---	---

O	G	E	E
V	E	I	L
E	E	L	S

H	O	G
A	D	O
G	E	T

N	O
O	N

I	T
N	O

I	S
T	O

C	I	R	C	L	E
I	C	A	R	U	S
R	A	R	E	S	T
C	R	E	A	T	E
L	U	S	T	R	E
E	S	T	E	E	M

Surprising anagrams:

eleven plus two

dormitory

astronomer

the eyes

a gentleman

anagrams

emperor

the priest

rhinoceros

the detectives

twelve plus one

dirty room

moon starrer

they see

elegant man

snag a ram

per orem

theist rep

his coroner

detect thieves

astronomer	star no more
stipend	spend it
incognito	I got in con
re: intercourse	surer erection
legal mind	mallenged
presidential	serendipital
astronomer	stare moron
economist	comes into
biologist scare	a logistics bore
mathematician	a main thematic
pithy scions	no physicist
plenitudinous	pinnule studio
o.i.t. mensch	no chemist
metamorphosis	promises a moth
Italian crime boss	a Sicilian mobster

(The antepenultimate anagram starts with *Office of Information Technology*, the penultimate anagram is from Andrew Brehaut, 2006, and the last one is from Meyran Kraus, 2010.)

squabble, quibble, quarrel. More?

brabble, niggle. More?

hassle, tussle, battle, struggle, scuffle. More?

tiff.

Does are deer, *does* is third person singular for *to do*, *doughs* are kneaded (*needed?*) by bakers.

More anagrams:

Hated death. Vile evil. Evil veil. Halal Allah. Lamb balm. The rat threat, low owl. Totem motet. Nacre caner. Ronald, Arnold, Roland; Orlando, Ronaldo, Aldoron (a NSAID drug). Fret tref. Earth hater. Hatred dearth. Earth heart. I heart., hear it?

The spider and the bee. (Greek in [blue](#))

R U A B?

S, I M A B.

U C?

S, I C.

U ϕ ?

S, I ϕ .

I ν U C N ϕ .

U β ϕ !

Y?

ι η U!

I β ϕ !

ZZZZZZZZ

Sesquipedalianisms: (no proper names, no chemicals, no medical devices...)
(in mostly abecedarian order)

agathokakological

bromidrosiphobia

contesseration

cypripareunia

deipnosophist

euneirophrenia (all 5 vowels)

extraforaneous

floccinaucinihilipilification (9 i's)

gynotikolobomassophile

hypengyophobia

interfenestration

jocoserious

kakorrhaphiophobia

longiloquence

maschalephidrosis

misodoctakleidist

nummamorous

omphaloskepsis

pithecolological
quintessentialize
renidification
schadenfreude
scolecophagous
stentorophonous
tintinabulation
triskaidekaphobia
ultracrepidarian
valetudinarianism
withdrawingroom
xenobombulate
ydromancy
zenzizenzizencic (6 z's)
preantepenultimate
antepenultimate
callipygian
achlorophyllaceous
(Thanks to Josefa Heifetz Byrne and her dictionary for several of these
obscurities.)

Plurals:

Lens is singular, *lenses* is its plural.

Mongoose is singular, its plural is *mongooses*, not *mongeese*.

Deer, *elk*, *bison* and *pliers* are both singular and plural.

The clothing called *pants* refers to a two legged garment. One of these garments is sometimes called a *pant* in the fashion business, but a *pant* is not one leg only.

To pant is to respire heavily. *To pants* is entirely different.

Multiple consecutive double letter repeats:

bookkeeper (*bookkeeping*)

subbookkeeper !!

The *subbookkeeper* worked for the city of *Tallahassee, Mississippi*.

Some list *sweettooth* and *hooffooted* as triple doubles but these are usually two words or hyphenated, not unlike *cross-section*, *bee-eater*, *bell-like*, *joss-stick*, and *shell-less*, each a candidate for a triple letter repeat.

Word morphs:

love, lave, late, hate.

girl, gill, bill, boll, boil, bois, boys. (Pardon my French)

cat, bat, rat, ram, ray.

cat, cot, dot, dog. cat, cot, cog, dog.

hog, dog, dug, bug .

gnat, goat, boat, boar, bear.

snake, snare, snarl, snail.

black, brack, track, trace, trice, trite, write, white.

solid, soled, poled, paled, pated, sated, sater, water.

tofu, toff, tiff, tift, tint, tent, teat, meat.

lead, lend, wend, weld, geld, gold. (not as hard as alchemists once thought)

idea, odea, odes, oies, pies, pied, died, deed. (Pardon my French, again)

danger, dancier, cancer

A silly goose goes other geese, but doesn't geese other geese.

Typoglycemia:

R u albe 2 raed tihs?

"Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteers be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe."

(Published March 31, 2009 FoxNews.com)

It deos mttar that lnog wrdos are not too smcelarbd, hevwoer.

It is not sufficiently infrequent to hear "*the proof is in the pudding.*" What image does that bring to mind? The correct quote is "*the proof of the pudding is in the*

eating.” In the preceding typoglycemia example *the proof of the claim is in the reading*, not *the proof is in the claim*. See how rulicuooids *the poorf is in the pindudg senttamet rlaley* is?

Words containing *rage* and the different ways it sometimes sounds:

rage, garage, courage, tragedy, mirage, forage, amperage, coverage, average, storage, suffrage, beverage, steerage, pasturage, superagent, outrageous, courageous, arbitrage, paragenetic, saxifrage.

Bad odors (overheard at Ted Hill’s 70th surprise birthday party):

The *nose knows noes*. (homophonic bromidrosiphobia)

Puns for Educated Minds: (via Jay Stempel of Gloucester Massachusetts and Tom Fox, from the internet)

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.

A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other:

'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

A backward poet writes inverse.

In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste for religion.

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The stewardess looks at him and says,

'I'm sorry, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says, 'Are you sure?'

The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root-canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

He cleaned his instrument with a tuba tooth paste. (this one is mine)

Some more of these forwarded to and from Eve Wells, a lexophile.

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping Center you've seen a mall.

Police were called to a day care Center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A bicycle can't stand alone, it is two tired.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory that was never developed.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

Three answers to the New York Times December 27, 2014 crossword puzzle:
Emergency situation that an Egyptian goddess experiences?

CRISISISISISIN

Fruit that grandma dubbed?

BANANANANANAMED

Ornate clone of designer Chanel?

ROCOCOCOCOCOPY

Mine is: send a picture to Dorothy's pet now?

PHOTOTOTOTOTODAY

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