

REVERSE TRIGRAMS AND TETRAGRAMS

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Over the last five decades, Word Ways has carried many articles and Colloquy items about trigrams and tetragrams – some with all vowels, and some with all consonants. Three particularly relevant ones to this article are these:

- Undominated Alphabetic Sequences, Ross Eckler, volume 15/2 (May 1982)
- Alphabetic Trigrams and Tetragrams, Jeff Grant, volume 32/2 (May 1999)
- Alphabetic Trigrams and Tetragrams Update, Jeff Grant, volume 51/3 (August 2018)

We decided to search for words and names containing reverse trigrams and tetragrams. Instead of searching for words with, for example, the trigram ABC, we searched for words with CBA. And likewise for tetragrams – for example, searching for PONM instead of MNOP. And so on through the alphabet. And for completeness, we chose to treat the alphabet as a circular arrangement of letters, thus YZA, ZBA, XYZA, YZAB and ZBAC. Our findings are in the table below.

AZY	hazy	Obscured, dim, unclear, vague	W3
BAZ	bazooka	A light portable shoulder weapon for firing rockets	W3
BAZ	bombazine	A silk fabric	W3
CBA	bacbakiri	A shrike of southern Africa	W3
CBA	ecbatic	Denoting a consequence	W2
CBA	lucban	The shaddock, a citrus fruit related to the grapefruit	W2
DCB		Nothing!	
EDC	bedchamber	A bedroom	W3
EDC	redcap	A person wearing a red cap; in Britain, a military policeman	W3
EDC	redcoat	A member of the British armed forces in America during the Revolutionary War	W3
EDC	seedcake	A cake or cookie containing aromatic seeds	W3
FED	confederacy	A league, compact or alliance	W3
FED	fed	Past tense of the verb 'feed'	W3
FED	wifedom	The state or condition of being a wife	W2

GFE	bigfeet	The plural of 'bigfoot', a hairy creature like a human being that is reported to exist in the north-western United States and western Canada	W3
GFE	Longfellow	Surname of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, an American poet, famous for <i>The Song of Hiawatha</i> , among many others	WBD
GFE	slugfest	A struggle or boxing match	W3
GFE	songfest	An informal session of group singing	W3
HGF	Guschgiel	A mountain, Liechtenstein	USBGN
IHG	Maihawan Tank	A place, Uttar Pradesh, India	TIG
IHG	Maihaura	A populated place, Uttar Pradesh, India	USBGN
JIH	jihad	A bitter strife or crusade undertaken in the spirit of a holy war	W3
KJI	kjimsie	In the Shetland Islands, Scotland, a dialect word for fellow	EDD
KJI	Kurkjian	Surname of Tim Kurkjian, a baseball analyst on ESPN	Wikipedia
LKJ	milkjug	A breast or manboob; other dictionaries spell this as a hyphenated word or two words	UD
LKJ	stolkjaerre	A 2-wheeled cart used in Norway	W3
MLK	Domlkachara	A populated place, Chittagong region, India	USBGN
NML	Houyhnhnmland	The land of the Houyhnhnms, the fictional race of intelligent horses described in Jonathan Swift's satirical <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> . In the OED, the word appears in a 1726 quote at 'houyhnhnm'	OED online
ONM	ironmonger	A dealer in iron and hardware	W3
ONM	conman	definition needed	Chambers
ONM	cottonmouth	A venomous pit viper of the southern USA that is closely related to the copperhead	W3
ONM	environment	Surroundings	W3
ONM	nonmember	An individual who is not a member	W3
PON	pond	A small body of water	W3
QPO	Qpod	A make of car	Wikipedia
QPO	Tariqpoya	Populated place, Tajikistan	USBGN
RQP	Sharqpur	Populated place in Pakistan	TIG

SRQ	Qasrqand	A spelling of Qasr-e-Qand, a place in Iran located at 26 ⁰ 14'N,60 ⁰ 47'E	TIG
TSR	staatsraad	In South Africa, a council of state	W2
UTS	juts	Sticks out	W3
VUT	kevutzah	A Jewish communistic settlement	W2
VUT	kevutsoth	Plural of 'kevutzah'	W2
VUT	Nunavut	The newest territory of north-west Canada, formed in 1999	Collins
VUT	vutty	South-west English dialect word, meaning dirty	Collins
WVU	Willowvue	Willowvue White Suffolk Stud is a farming and agricultural supplier in New South Wales, Australia	fatcow
WVU	Meadowvue	The name of various streets and roads in locations including Hendersonville TN, Pittsburgh PA, Baldwin PA and Athelstone South Australia	Google
XWV		Nothing!	
YXW	Styxxwold	Old spelling of Stixwold, a place in Lincolnshire, England. In the OED, the Styxxwold spelling refers to a convent, and appears in a 1536 quote at 'beads-woman', itself listed at 'bead'	OED online
ZYX	zyxomma	A type of dragonfly	F&W
ZYX	zyxst	Middle English form of 'sixth'	OED online
ZYX	zyxt	Middle English form of 'see', 2nd person singular	OED online
AZYZ	Azyx	A genus of moth	Wikipedia
AZYZ	Parazyxomma	A genus of dragonfly	Wikipedia
BAZY	Bazy	A populated place in Kazakhstan	USBGN
BAZY	carbazylic	Pertaining to or designating the univalent group C(:NH)NH ₃ - characteristic of a series of organic ammono acids, ordinarily called amideines	W2
CBAZ	Karačbazi	A locality in Macedonia	USBGN
FEDC	Fedchenko	A large glacier in Tajikistan; also a surname	Wikipedia
FEDC	Fedchyne	A populated place in Ukraine	USBGN
FEDC	Safedchashma	A populated place in Afghanistan	USBGN
GFED	Llandegfedd	A large water supply reservoir 8 miles north of Newport in south Wales	Wikipedia

JHGH	Sitou Jihgsueichang	A waterworks in Taiwan	USBGN
KJHI	blackjihad	The following sentence appears in a recent book: "But Saleh, whose policy portfolio under Meeks includes homeland security, is a fan of the pan-Islamist, pro-jihadist <i>imam</i> Zaid Shakir, according to Saleh's post on Twitter.com, where he tweets under the name 'blackjihad'." Edward Balkjin Kim is a named individual who has resided in various towns and cities in Texas	Muslim Mafia
LKJI	Balkjin	Time for an out-and-out coinage - nonmleccha (a nonforeigner, in ancient India). There are many Google hits for the hyphenated forms non-mleccha and non-mlechchha. There are no hits for the word in solid form. However, there seems no reason why these words couldn't be spelt nonmleccha or nonmlechchha . W2 has hundreds of unhyphenated entries beginning non, from nonabandonment to nonzoological ; W3 likewise has many unhyphenated entries, from nonability to nonzero .	spokeo
ONML	nonmleccha		Coinage
PONM	Kponmon	A populated place in Liberia	USBGN
PONM	tamponment	Use of tampons	W2
QPON	Qponics	An agricultural company operating in the food and beverage sector based in Brisbane, Australia	qponics
UTSR	Ablautsreihe	German word appearing at 'series'	OED online
UTSR	Algutsum	A populated place in Sweden	USBGN
UTSR	Eisenhutsrot	A populated place in Germany	USBGN
UTSR	Vaalputsrivier	A stream in South Africa	USBGN
VUTS	Chivutsigo	A hill in Zimbabwe	USBGN
VUTS	Rodavutsiems	A locality in Latvia	USBGN
VUTS	Vutshini	A stream in South Africa	USBGN
VUTS	Vutsov	Bulgarian surname of various individuals	Wikipedia
ZYXW	Zyxware	Zyxware Technologies is a global IT solutions provider based in India	zyxware

Here is a list of the printed sources and websites used:

Chambers	Chambers Dictionary, 12 th edition, 2011
Collins	Collins English Dictionary, 2015 edition
EDD	English Dialect Dictionary
fatcow	www.fatcow.com.au
F&W	Funk & Wagnall's New Standard Dictionary, 1945
Muslim Mafia	Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld That's Conspiring to Islamize America, P D Gaubatz and P E Sperry, 2009, p185
OED online	Oxford English Dictionary online: www.oed.com
qponics	www.qponics.com
spokeo	www.spokeo.com
TIG	Times Index Gazetteer, 1965
UD	Urban Dictionary, www.urbandictionary.com
USBGN	US Board on Geographic Names: geonames.usgs.gov
W2	Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition
W3	Webster's Third New International Dictionary
WBD	Webster's Biographical Dictionary
Wikipedia	en.wikipedia.org
zyxware	www.zyxware.com

My thanks to Jeff Grant for several of the examples. Can readers fill any of the gaps, or improve on the examples given here?