

WORDS CONTAINING THE FFL TRIGRAM

ALFRED LUBRAN

Christchurch, Dorset, England

Where type is hand set, the type is kept in trays. Among the boxes in the lower-case trays are ones for the ligatures (letters joined on a single piece of type) ff, fi, fl, ffi and ffl. Of these, the ligature ffl always looks the newest because it is used least often. Just how infrequently is it used? When I asked the editor, he informed me that Kucera and Francis's million-word sample of text published in the United States in 1962 revealed only 87 occurrences: ffl occurs, on the average, in only one word in ten thousand in running text.

The following list gives all the words I know of that occur in boldface in either the second or third edition of the Merriam-Webster Unabridged, Chambers English Dictionary, or the Oxford English Dictionary and its Supplements. Can *Word Ways* readers supply examples I have missed, or boldface entries from other dictionaries? To save space, I omit all plurals, but include past tenses and participles if explicitly sanctioned. Words with no tag can be found in either or both of the Webster editions, and if capitalized can be found in the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary. The tag ch indicates Chambers but not Webster, and the tag oed indicates the Oxford English Dictionary but neither Chambers nor Webster. Numbers indicate the number of occurrences of words given in Kucera and Francis. (The 87th word is CUFFLINKS, not recognized as a one-word entry by any of these dictionaries.)

afflate, afflated ch, afflation, afflatitious oed, AFFLATUS, AFFLICT, afflicted 8, afflictedness, afflicter, afflicting, afflictingly, AFFLICTION 2, afflictionless, AFFLICTIVE, AFFLICTIVELY, afflige oed, afflight oed, afflue, AFFLUENCE 4, affluency, AFFLUENT 2, affluently, affluentness ch, afflux, affluxed oed, affluxion, all-afflicting, asniffle

BAFFLE 1, BAFFLED 5, bafflement, baffler 1, BAFFLING 4, bafflingly, bafflingness, bemuffle, beruffled, bluffly, buffle, bufflehead, buffle-headed, bufflehorn

caffle, carfuffle, chaffless, chafflike, cliffless, clifflet, clifflike, coeffluent, coeffluential, coffle, cuffle, cuffless oed sup

daffle, difflate, difflation, diffloryssh oed, diffluan oed, diffluence, diffluency, diffluent, diffluous, Diffugia, diffluxive oed, driffle oed, driffing oed, DUFFEL BAG, duffle

efflagitate, efflagitated, efflagration oed, efflate, efflation, effleurage ch, EFFLORESCE 1, EFFLORESCED, EFFLORESCENCE, efflorescency, EFFLORESCENT, EFFLORESCING, efflower, efflowering, effluction oed,

EFFLUENCE, effluenced oed, effluency, EFFLUENT 19, effluentness oed, effluous oed, effluve oed, EFFLUVIA, effluviale, effluvial, effluviate, effluviating, effluvient oed, effluviography, effluvious, EFFLUVIUM 1, efflux, effluxing oed, effluxion, effluxive oed, exsufflate, exsufflation, exsuffle oed, exsufflicate, exsuffolate oed

faffle, fancy-baffled, fuffle, fuffed

gaffle, gaffled oed, gafflet, gafflin oed, goffle, grufflingis oed, GRUFFLY

haffle, hafflins, huffle, huffed, huffling, huffler

insufflate, insufflation, insufflator

jiffle, juffle oed, juffling oed, juffler oed

kaffle, koffle oed

leffly oed, liffleod oed

mafflard oed, maffle, maffled, maffler, mafflin, maffling, mafflingly oed, moffle, moufflon, MUFFLE, MUFFLED 11, muffledness oed, muffle-jaw, muffleman, MUFFLER 2, muffle-shaped, muffle-y oed, mufflin, MUFFLING 1

offlet, offlete oed, offload ch, offlook, offlyght oed, offlying oed, overafflict, overaffliction

paffle oed, paffler oed, pain-afflicted, paraffle, PIFFLE, piffler, piffing, poffle, preafflict, preaffliction, puffless oed, pufflet

RAFFLE, RAFFLED, raffler, Rafflesia, Rafflesiaceae, rafflesiaceous, RAFFLING, reaffect, reshuffle, riffle 1, riffler, RUFFLE 1, RUFFLED 3, ruffle-headed, ruffleless, rufflement, ruffler, ruffled oed, ruffery oed, rufflike, ruffliness, RUFFLING, rufflingly, ruffly

safflor, safflorite, safflow, SAFFLOWER, scaffle, scaffling oed, schiffli, SCOFFLAW, scraffle, scruffle, SCUFFLE 1, SCUFFLED, scuffler, SCUFFLING, scufflingly, scuffly, self-afflicting, self-affliction, self-afflictive, shaffle, shaffler oed, shuffles oed, shafflin oed, shuffle-shuffle, SHUFFLE 3, SHUFFLEBOARD, shufflecap, SHUFFLED 2, shuffler shufflewing, SHUFFLING 1, shufflingly, siffle, sifflet, siffleur, siffleuse, sifflement, siffing, sifflet, sin-afflicting, skiffle ch, skiffless, skiffing, SNAFFLE, snaffle-bit ch, snaffle-bridle ch, snaffle-bridled, snaffled, snaffle-mouthed, snaffler oed, snaffle-rein ch, snaffle-reined, snaffles, snaffling-lay, SNIFFLE 1, sniffer, sniffing, sniffly, SNUFFLE, SNUFFLED, snuffler, snuffless, SNUFFLING, snufflingly, snuffly, SOUFFLE 1, soufflee oed, souffled, soufflement oed, souffler, spefflicate oed, spifflicate, spifflicated, spifflication, spoffle, spuffle, staffless, stiffleg, stiffler oed, stifflike, stiffing bone, STIFFLY 9, subaffluent, sufflame oed, sufflamine, sufflamination, sufflate, sufflation, sufflature oed, suffle oed, suffue, supereffluence, supereffluently

taffle, tantafflin, tariffless, thunder-baffled, tiffle, tippet-scuffle, trafflike, trafflicker, triffle oed, TRUFFLE, truffled, truffle-dog ch, truffle-pig ch, truffer, trufflery oed, trufflesque, truffling

unafflicted, unafflictedly, unbaffled, unbaffling, uncoffle, unmuffle,

unmuffled, unraffled, unriffled, unruffle, unruffled, unruffling,
unshuffle, unshuffled, unsnaffled, unsufflated

WAFFLE 1, waffle-iron ch, wafflike, waffling, waffly, whiffle, whif-
fled, whiffler, whiffery, WHIFFLETREE, whiffing, whiffingly, whuf-
fle, woffler

yaffle, yaffler, yaffling

A CALL FOR HELP

Darwin K. Rolens of Denver writes "Alfred Lubran's article, "Manias", caught my attention with its reference to the French use of the suffix *-manie*. I recalled that some ten or twelve years ago I was reading John Fowles' book, *Islands*, in which I ran across this sentence on page 17: 'Of course all islanders have to be handy with boats, but genuine nesomanes are not sailors.' I wrote **nesomanes** in my vocab notebook and went about searching for its meaning...I finally defined it as **island lover** only by putting together its two parts. But now that I have more dictionaries available to me I researched the word again and found...Webster's New Third International Dictionary defines *neso-* as the comb. form for **island**...May I presume that John Fowles coined the word? Maybe someone among your readers has other sources for searching or has seen the word used in other writings."