## COMMON 4x4 WORDSQUARES

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In a companion article, the editor estimates the number of m-letter words to be drawn at random from the dictionary in order to have a reasonable expectation of forming an mxm word square. This is a task admirably suited to the computer, which can take a list of words and check all possible combinations for potential squares. To show what can be done, I took the 298 four-letter words in my spell checker and formed a total of 153 4x4 word squares, somewhat more than the editor's prediction of 67. (The editor suggests that the support should be only 84, not the 104 calculated in his article.) In a similar effort, the computer was unable to form a 5x5 word square using 320 words from my spell

able also area arms army away back ball bank base been best bill blue boat body bond book both boys call came camp card care cars case cash cent city club code cold come copy cost dark data date days dead deal deep desk died does dogs done door down drop duty each east easy edge else even ever eyes face fact fair fall farm fast fear feel fees feet fell felt file fill film find fine fire firm five food foot form four free from full fund game gave girl give glad goes gone good gray hair half hall hand hard have head hear heat held hell help here high hold home hope hour idea inch into item jack jazz jobs John join June just keep kept kind king knew know lack lady laid land last late laws lead left less life like line lips list live loan long look lord loss lost lots love made mail main make many Mary mass mean meet Mike mind miss more most move much must name near neck need news next nice nine none note once only open over page paid pain park part pass past pays pipe plan play plus poet pool poor post race rate read real rent rest risk road role room said sale same save says seek seem seen self sell send sent sets ship shop show side sign size sold some soon sort stay step stop such sure take talk team tell term test than that them then they thin this thus time tire told tone took town trip true turn type unit upon urge used very vice view vote wage wait wall want ways week well went were west what when whom wide wife will wine wire wish with word work year York your

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