SIAMESE TRIPLETS

PETER NEWBY
Chesterfield, England

BLACKBIRD	
LACK	BID
LAC	ID
LA	I
A	AI
AI	AIS
I	DAIS
IT	DIS
HIT	IS
WHIT	FIS
WHITEFISH	

Alongside is a nine-letter word example of my latest development in the technique of insertion/deletion. As many long words consist of two or more simple words. one can, by considering these elements independently, bring into the realm of wordplay many long words otherwise denied standard treatment. Beauty of presentation is maintained by restricting all action to within the confines of a rectangle, though other possibilities will be mentioned later. For convenience, therefore, I will refer to the original example as a rectangular triplet.

To demonstrate the practicality of rectangular limitation, I append six examples of the conversion of ten-letter words to their anagrams. Interestingly, the first of these, RANGERSHIP/SPRINGHARE, mutually transpose to REPHRASING!

RANGERSHIP		STONEBRASH		MATTERLESS		STINKSTONE	
RANGE	HIP	TONE	RASH	MATER	ESS	SINK	TONE
RANG	HI	ONE	ASH	MATE	ES	SIN	TON
RAN	I	ON	AS	ATE	E	IN	ON
AN	AI	O	A	AT	ED	I	O
AIN	A	BO	AR	A	LED	OI	OE
PAIN	AE	BOA	OAR	TA	LIED	O	E
PIN	ARE	BA	OR	TEA	LIE	NO	ES
SPIN	CARE	BAS	TOR	TEAM	LE	NOT	ESS
SPRINGHARE		BASE	TORN	STEAM	LES	KNOT	NESS
		BASSETHORN		STREAMLETS		KNOTTINESS	

OPENSTITCH		STITCHWORK	
PEN	TITCH	TITCH	WOR
PE	ITCH	ITCH	WO
PIE	ICH	ICH	O
PI	IC	IC	PO
I	I	I	POI
IN	OI	OI	PI
PIN	O	O	I
PINT	ON	OW	IC
PIT	ONE	TOW	SIC
PITH	TONE	TROW	SICK
PITCHSTONE		THROWSTICK	

Apart from the fact that the phrase OPENSTITCH STITCHWORK provides a link between the final two examples, a neater connection lies in their termination in rustic missiles! Notice the original perceptions of the words RANGERSHIP, STINKSTONE, OPENSTITCH and the mathematical relationship between all pairs of intermediate words.

The perception of RANGERSHIP as RANGERS + HIP is just as valid as my own RANGER + SHIP. The same is equally true of STINKSTONE and OPENSTITCH; it is purely a matter of taste. Unlike their close relatives (see "Triplets: An Added Dimension" in the November 1991 issue), rectangular triplets are not bedeviled by the need to harmonize mathematically as they do it of their own accord. Words of an odd number such as BLACKBIRD automatically devolve into pairs of words with an odd total. Even-numbered words such as STINKSTONE give rise to pairs with an even total. Either way, successful conversion is merely a matter of word power, not mathematics.

```
A    EAT
MA   TEAT
MALTREAT
MAL  RAT
MA   RA
A    A
AE   AT
E    ATE
EN   GATE
DEN  GRATE
DENIGRATED
```

The perception of a full-length internal word is rather interesting. In the figure on the left, MALTREAT has arisen from MAL + TREAT, but continuation has been made on the basis of MALT + REAT (wrong-doing). Whatever the original eight-letter word happened to be is of no consequence; our concern is with a ten-letter word conclusion. At some stage prior to the penultimate line, the rectangular shape is discarded to provide for the essential expansion.

```
MISFORTUNE
IS  OR TUN
I   O  UN
IO  LO U
O   LOB EU
OU  OB E
U˙  FOB ME
UN  FO MES
UNIFORMEST
```

This final example of ten-letter anagramming shows how one can cope with the difficulties of a word whose natural perception (MIS + FORTUNE) has an intractable element (FORTUNE). Reconsidered as MIS + FOR + TUNE, it is now well within the scope of play. Even though it was not necessary to vary the position of the central column (no pairs of words would have accidentally conjoined to produce an invalidity), I did so to illustrate a means of avoiding such an unfortunate occurrence.

Must all perceptions be genuine words? I would say yes; otherwise, one could bend all rules to the point where it ceases to be an exercise in the English language.

Finally, despite any brickbats that might be hurled from Arizona, I detail the most valuable of all words in any activity of this nature:

Single-letter Words A,E,I,O,U,Y. These have been discussed in my previous "Triplets: An Added Dimension" article.

Two-letter Words The world's finest collection is the yet-unpublished two-letter word dictionary compiled by Jeff Grant (I, for one, hope that it will not be too long ere it is seen in print). Apart from my discovery of the word CI in a 19th-century tome on the origins of British place names, Jeff will not disagree with any given below. The editor of the Oxford Minidictionary also rejected the word, as it does not occur in any dictionary which is above reproach. That same editor, incidentally, also agrees with me that players in the United Kingdom Scrabble Championship

are in error in the acceptance of CH as a word. Neither Chambers (from where it is taken) nor any other authority call it a word. Players who use the following mnemonic from Pears Advanced Word-Puzzlers Dictionary will find most of the words defined in either the OED or Web 2:

* every word beginning with a consonant is always followed by a vowel (exceptions: ji ju jy qa qe qo qy ve xe xo xy yy zu)
* every word beginning with a vowel is always followed by every letter of the alphabet including itself (exceptions: ag aj ap aq av az ej eq ev ez ib ii ij ip iq iu iy iz og oj oq oz ub uc ud ue uf ui uj uk ul uq uw ux uy)
* whilst Pears lists double-consonant words, these have been ignored here in the interest of making constructions appear genuine to the casual (as opposed to the specialist) reader

As the Pears mnemonic is concerned solely with lower-case two-letter words, readers familiar with Ju and Oz (both of which are perfectly acceptable for any type of triplet) will not be in the least surprised to discover that Jeff can validate quite a few of my exceptions -- even two-letter words in lower case!

Armed with a lexical arsenal of this nature, the reader who wishes to develop Siamese Triplets has every opportunity to bedazzle us with his or her logological wit.