

CHEMICAL IMPROVEMENTS

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I recently purchased a Franklin Crosswords Puzzle Solver (Model CW-40). It is startling to look at this object, the size of a playing card, and watch it carry out tedious searches from an enormous Merriam-Webster vocabulary, with a button-press.

It can be used to improve upon earlier **Word Ways** investigations. The November 1977 issue presented Darryl Francis's best results at transposals and transadditions to the names of the chemical elements; in February 1978, Jeremy Morse and I independently listed various improvements. I decided to give this problem to Franklin, and in short order found twenty improvements that we had overlooked. (However, the indefatigable Dmitri Borgmann found 12 of these in August 1978.)

AMERICIUM ceramidium	IRIDIUM rhipidium
BISMUTH mintbush	MERCURY conumerary
CERIUM* uremic	OXYGEN exogeny, xylogen
CURIUM Urumchi	PLATINUM penultima
EINSTEINIUM diminutiveness	RHODIUM* humidior
FLUORINE* neurofil	RUBIDIUM Brundisium
FRANCIUM microfauna	SELENIUM* semilune, seminule
HELIUM* humlie	STRONTIUM uromantist
HYDROGEN greyhound	THALLIUM limphault
INDIUM cumidin, Numidia	URANIUM lunarium

Exact transposals have been indicated with an asterisk. The words can be generally found in the unabridged Merriam-Webster dictionaries, with the exception of Brundisium and uromantist. I find the most esthetically-pleasant solution the one-letter transadditon of hydrogen, namely greyhound. It is hard to imagine any but the computer finding diminutiveness as a transaddition of Einsteinium!

Can any **Word Ways** reader write an article on the possibilities of reprogramming the Franklin to carry out logological investigations?