

THE ELUSIVE TRIANGLE

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Readers of *Word Ways* have tried to find a 15-letter word which has 5 of one letter, 4 of a second letter, 3 of a third letter, 2 of a fourth letter and 1 of a fifth letter. In *Geometrical Words: Part 1* (*Word Ways* August 1997), I wrote '*The dictionary-sanctioned word which makes a triangle with the letter ratio 5:4:3:2:1 remains as elusive as ever, the only representatives are cleverly coined words such as Sir Jeremy Morse's 'linenlessnesses'.*

But no longer! I can now offer two of these elusive 15-letter triangle words with letter ratios of 5:4:3:2:1. Both words appear in the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN). The first word is DJANNADJANNAIJA, a populated place in Indonesia; and the second word is BURABURARAKABRA, a creek in Guyana. These words can be displayed diagrammatically with like letters in the same rows to make 15-letter triangles:



Also in *Geometrical Words*, I introduced 'edge words'. These are made from the letters along the edges of similarly diagrammatized words. Edge words can read either from the top of the triangle downwards or from the bottom of the triangle upwards.

In the first triangle above, reading from the bottom upwards produces the edge word ANJDI. South ANJDI is the name of a dialect in Saudi Arabia.

Reading along the edge of the second triangle, from the top downwards, produces the edge word KUBRA. Standing on its own, KUBRA is the name of populated places in Ghana, Poland, Slovakia and Russia; and the name of islands in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It also forms part of the name of other locations. Urma al KUBRA is a populated place in Syria, Ajhur al KUBRA in Egypt, Dogshman al KUBRA in Iraq, Majaz al KUBRA in Oman, and Al Qal'ah al KUBRA in Tunisia. Tunb al KUBRA is an island in Iran, Ayn al KUBRA a spring in Jordan, and Velika KUBRA a marsh in Croatia.

Reading along the edge of the second triangle, from the bottom upwards, produces ARBUK, the reversal of KUBRA. ARBUK is the name of a planetary system in *Star Trek*.