

OCCUPATIONAL REDEMPTION

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In "Occupational Hazards" in the February 1981 Word Ways, Richard E. Douglass suggests that various jobholders can be gotten rid of in ways more euphemistically ambiguous than simply being fired, canned, or sacked. For the most part, he plays upon the semantic properties of absorbed roots conjoined with the negative prefixes de- and dis- and shows how a nobleman would be discounted, distributed or subject to delivery and a tennis player disadvantaged or defaulted (or, we add, deserved or deduced).

In a more optimistic vein, let us ask ourselves how, using the prefix re- and the suffix -ed, we can describe the reinstatement to their jobs (or roles) of the following people:

dog catcher - recurred	baseball catcher - remitted
shoe-shine boy - rebuffed	gardener - repeated
poet - reversed	carillonneur - rebelled, repealed
lawyer - retorted	tailor - repressed, resurged
mortician - rehearsed	ophthalmologist - recited
fisherman - rebated	meteorologist - regaled
cowboy - rebutted	detective - resolved, retailed
carpenter - replied	lion tamer - remained
doctor - repulsed	sewer worker - recessed
soldier - retrenched	seductress - revamped
ropemaker - recoiled	English lit professor - rejoiced
auto maker - retired	lacrosse player - relaxed
teacher - remarked	orchardist - repaired
fast food chef - rehashed	banker - recounted, recollected
herpetologist - recoiled	chemist - reviled
politician - relied	baby food manufacturer - restrained
butcher - revealed	contest entrant - reprised
orphan - rewarded	chicken farmer - recouped
genius - reminded	bridge player - redoubled
knight - requested	exorcist - repossessed
chorister - required	football tackle - realigned
stevedore - reported	prisoner - regarded, repented
farmer - receded	hematologist - retyped
masher - refreshed	pessimist - recanted
musician - rescaled	forester - relieved, repined
minister - respired	electrician - refused, revolted
martinet - restricted	engineer - retracted, retrained

model - reposed, renewed	tennis player - reserved, reduced
ambassador - relegated	prostitute - relayed, rescinded
thespian - reacted	grammarian - renowned, reverb- erated
mailman - resorted	track star - relapsed, resumed
highway worker - retarded	Halloween reveler - retreated
policeman - reinforced	judge - redeemed, refined
perfumer - resented	sculptor - reformed
surveyor - rebounded	
telephone operator - recalled	

TWO-LETTER POSITIONAL DICTIONARIES

In recent years, two books designed for the crossword puzzle solver but of interest to the logologist as well have appeared on the market: Edmund I. Schwartz and Leon F. Landovitz's *Crossword Puzzle Finder* (Funk & Wagnalls 1974, \$8.95; paperback, Stonesong Press 1979, \$6.95) and John Griffiths' *The Crossword Finisher* (St. Martin's Press 1975, \$8.95; paperback, Warner 1980, \$7.95). The former book takes approximately 27,000 words of two through six letters (including plurals) from the Funk & Wagnalls Standard Collegiate Dictionary and indexes them by every possible pair of letters; thus, EBB is listed with EBN and EBS under the header EB., with EDB and EIB under the header E.B, and with OBB under the header .BB. The latter book performs the same classification on some 21,000 words of three through seven letters, but does not index them by every possible pair: four out of the six possible pairs for four-letter words (omitting xx.. and .xx.), five out of the ten possible pairs for five-letter words, six out of fifteen for six-letter words, and seven out of twenty-one for seven-letter words. (The reason for these omissions lies in the special structure of British crosswords; in general, even-numbered letters of words in their puzzles are left unchecked.)

It would be nice if the same indexing could be performed for longer words as well, but a brief calculation demonstrates the economic impossibility of this: if all words in the Funk & Wagnalls Collegiate were included, the pages would rise from 754 to approximately 15,000, and the price would be at least \$180 (probably far more, as the press run would be much smaller). By virtue of its complete set of patterns and its somewhat larger vocabulary, the Funk & Wagnalls is the better buy.