

# ONOMASTICON I

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One of my favorite pastimes is gathering together words that share an interesting suffix -- or perhaps share a similar spelling, regardless of etymology.

An onomasticon is a specialized collection of words; and, since words have brought us together, this is my onomasticon of kinds of words.

-ONYM, "denoting a (specified) type of name or word" (corresponding adjectives are formed in -onymous, and nouns denoting condition in -onymy)

ACRONYM a word formed from the initial letter or letters of each of the successive parts or major parts of a compound term (as radar)

ALLONYM a name that is assumed by an author but that actually belongs to another person

ANONYM (1) one that is of unknown name; or a publication of unknown authorship; (2) an idea that has no exact term to express it

ANTHROPONYM a personal name

ANTONYM a word opposite in meaning to another

AUTONYM one's own name; or a publication using the real name of the author

CACONYM a taxonomic name that is objectionable for linguistic reasons; or a bad name

CHIRONYM a manuscript name for a species, having no taxonomic validity until published

CRYPTONYM a private or secret name

DIONYM a binomial name, i. e., a name composed of two terms

EPONYM one for whom or which something is named or supposedly named

EUONYM a name well suited to the person, place or thing named

EUPHONYM a euphonious (i. e., pleasing in sound or smooth-sounding) word having the same meaning as another

HETERONYM a word spelled like another, but differing in derivation or meaning or pronunciation -- also known as homograph or homonym

HOMONYM (1)(a) a word pronounced like another, but differing in meaning or derivation or spelling -- also known as homophone (to, too, two); (b) a word spelled like another, but differing in derivation or meaning or pronunciation -- also known as homo-

graph or heteronym (lead, to conduct, and lead, the metal);  
 (c) a word spelled and pronounced like another, but differing  
 in meaning (pool of water and pool, the game); (2) a namesake;  
 (3) a taxonomic designation rejected because the identical term  
 has been used to designate another group of the same rank

HYDRONYM a name of a body of water

HYPONYM a generic name not based on a recognizable species

ISONYM a word having the same root or stem as another -- also  
 known as paronym

METONYM a word used for another that it may be expected to suggest;  
 or a word used in metonymy, i. e., a figure of speech that consists  
 in using the name of one thing for that of something else with which  
 it is associated (as in "spent the evening reading Shakespeare") --  
 also known as synonym (see sense 2)

METRONYM (MATRONYM) a name derived from that of the mother  
 or a maternal ancestor

MONONYM a monomial name, i. e., a name composed of a single word

NEURONYM the name of a nerve or a part of the nervous system

ONYM (1) a name; or a publication bearing an author's name;  
 (2) a technical name or term

ORGANONYM a technical name of a bodily organ

PARONYM a word having the same root or stem as another; or a  
 word formed from a word in another language; or a derived word

PATRONYM a name derived from that of the father or a paternal an-  
 cestor, especially showing descent by the addition of a prefix or  
 suffix (MacDonald, Williamson); or a patrilineal surname or fam-  
 ily name

POECILONYM a taxonomic designation rejected as being incorrectly  
 applied, or incorrect in form or spelling; or rejected in favor of  
 another because of evidence of the priority of that other, or evidence  
 establishing a more natural genetic classification -- also known as  
 synonym (see sense 4)

POLYONYM (1) a person or thing with, or known by, various names;  
 (2) a polynomial name, i. e., a name composed of many terms;  
 (3) synonym (rare)

PROTONYM the original of a name (rare)

PSEUDONYM a fictitious name assumed (as by an author) for the  
 time; a pen name

SIDERONYM a fictitious name (pseudonym) consisting of the name of  
 a celestial body

SYNONYM (1) a word having the same meaning as another word of the  
 same language; (2) a name that suggests another through real or  
 supposed association -- also known as metonym; (3) one of two or  
 more names for the same thing in different languages or localities;  
 (4) a taxonomic designation rejected as being incorrectly applied,  
 or incorrect in form or spelling; or rejected in favor of another be-  
 cause of evidence of the priority of that other, or evidence estab-  
 lishing a more natural genetic classification -- also known as poe-  
 cilonym

STRESSONYM a word spelled like another, but differing in derivation or meaning or pronunciation, which sounds different only because of the accent -- also known as homograph or heteronym (refuse, garbage and refuse, decline); coined by the author of the Encyclopedia of Homonyms (Los Angeles: Newhouse Press)

TAUTONYM a taxonomic designation in which the generic name and the specific epithet are alike

TEKNONYM (TECNONYM) a child's name given to a parent (practiced among certain primitive peoples); or a child's name when used to identify a person as the parent of that child, rather than by that person's personal name ("Look, there's Tim's father")

TOPONYM a place name; or a name derived from the name of a place

TRIONYM a trinomial name, i. e., a name composed of three terms

TYPONYM a taxonomic name based on an indication of a type specimen or type species rather than on a description or diagnosis

Standard dictionaries and word-books were used in the compilation of this onomasticon. My thanks to the editor for additional words he located in the Air Force Reverse Dictionary. Further additions and corrections are encouraged. In particular, can any reader find the words CHARACTONYM or CONTRONYM in an English-language dictionary? These are listed (without source) in Martin Lehnert's Reverse Dictionary of Present-Day English (VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie, 1971).

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