

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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What's in a name? Sometimes another name or an interesting word in the form of a transposition. If you were involved with naming twins, you might find it appropriate to use such transpositions. Say the twins were boys. You could call them LEON and NOEL, ABEL and BELA, LANDON and NOLAND, MANLY and LYMAN, ANDRE and ARDEN, ELLIS and LISLE, CLAUS and LUCAS (remember Santa Claus?), or AXEL and ALEX. If they were girls they could be called MAE and EMA, LONA and NOLA, ALICE and CELIA, MARY and MYRA, or DOROTHEA and THEODORA. A boy and a girl could be LLOYD and DOLLY, ALAN and LANA, ALLEN and NELLA, MARIO and MOIRA, NEAL and LENA, DANA and NADA, MARCEL and CARMEL, ARLO and LORA, DAVE and VEDA, CARLO and CAROL, ELMER and MERLE, IAN and INA, ELIAS and ELISA, ELISHA and SHEILA, HALE and LEAH, or BLAISE (of Pascal fame) and ISABEL. If triplets, three girls could be MAY, AMY and YMA (like Miss Sumac), two boys and a girl could be JASON, JONAS and SONJA, and two girls and a boy, ELLA, LELA and LEAL. Even quadruplets could be accommodated: four boys are ARNOLD, ROLAND, RONALD and ORLAND; two boys and two girls are DANE, DEAN, EDNA and NEDA, or RAMON, ORMAN, NORMA and MORNA.

In the following test, all the words in the two lists are transpositions of given names. How quickly can you spot them? The first 35 transpose to girl's names, and the last 35 to boy's:

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| 1. aid | 8. sail | 15. raven | 22. great | 29. threes |
| 2. yam | 9. aver | 16. daily | 23. alone | 30. riding |
| 3. use | 10. sale | 17. meals | 24. issue | 31. allies |
| 4. road | 11. roam | 18. canny | 25. ideas | 32. loaner |
| 5. goal | 12. soar | 19. total | 26. leaner | 33. teaser |
| 6. sets | 13. soil | 20. ladle | 27. triads | 34. belays |
| 7. take | 14. label | 21. naiad | 28. breath | 35. regain |
| 36. ord | 43. roam | 50. sails | 57. grade | 64. athrob |
| 37. air | 44. yell | 51. lyric | 58. wiles | 65. rustic |
| 38. lei | 45. loaf | 52. cured | 59. wined | 66. rained |
| 39. real | 46. vain | 53. inlaw | 60. learn | 67. inroad |
| 40. been | 47. veil | 54. thane | 61. troche | 68. events |
| 41. rice | 48. raze | 55. bails | 62. hurtle | 69. regard |
| 42. lark | 49. roped | 56. mynah | 63. wander | 70. yonder |

Some names have the interesting property of forming a transposition by being read backwards. Among these are DAMON which forms NOMAD, NEIL which reads LIEN, MEG becomes GEM, ENID to DINE, ELBERT to TREBLE, PAT to TAP, KAY to YAK, NED to DEN, EVA to AVE, RAE to EAR, DON to NOD, AMOS to SOMA, EMIL to LIME, ELIOT to TOILE, EVAN to NAVE, MARC to CRAM, WARD to DRAW, HARRIS to SIRRAH, and MAT to TAM.

A few names are palindromic, reading the same backwards and forwards. Among these are AVA, ADA, NAN, BOB, OTTO, GIG, ASA, EVE, and ANA, ANNA and HANNAH.

Another pastime with names is the construction of words (or names) out of the letters contained in your own name, using your first name or last name or both together. Thus, my own first name, BORIS, contains such words as ORD, OBI, BIS, SOB, SIR, etc., and the name ROB. My last name, RANDOLPH, contains words like LAD, RAP, OLD, PLAN, DROP, LOAD, LORD, ROAN, etc., and even a big one like PARDON. As for names, there's DORA, NORA, RHODA, LORNA, RALPH, HARPO (of the Marx brothers), HAROLD, ADOLPH, the four ways of ARNOLD as mentioned above, and a few others. Together BORIS RANDOLPH yields words like PIN, SHIP, BOIL, SLAP, SLIP, SLOP, POOR, BOOR, DOOR, BARON, BRAIN, DRAIN, SPAIN, HARBOR, PHAROS, DOLPHIN, BRAN-DISH, etc., with names like PHIL, LISA, HANS, DORIS, BRIAN, ALBIN, LINDA, HILDA, BLAIR, DINAH, SANDRO, NORRIS, SOPHIA, ISOLDA, DORIAN, ALPHONSO and ROSALIND. These can be useful in creating pseudonyms, as I have sometimes done, using ARNOLD R. BISHOP and ROSALIND PHORB.

PANGRAMMATIC SENTENCES BY COMPUTER

Herb Caen's March 31, 1977 column in the San Francisco Chronicle reports that local computer expert Cashell Farrell listed ten thousand words by parts of speech and wrote a program to generate simple sentences of 52 or fewer letters containing every letter of the alphabet. Out of nearly two thousand attempts, he rated the following three as best:

The qualmish Afghan Jew packed over sixty fez with bees
 How frog jumping razorbacks can level six piqued gymnasts
 When waxing parquet decks, Suez sailors vomit jauntily abaft