

EIGHT-LETTER NUMERICAL TAUTONYMS

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If letters are assigned values according to their numerical positions in the alphabet ($A = 1$, $B = 2$, etc.), an eight-letter numerical tautonym is a word in which the sum of the values of the first four letters is equal to the sum of the values of the last four letters. For example, B, A, C and K have the numerical values 2, 1, 3 and 11, which sums to 17, and A, C, H and E have the numerical values 1, 3, 8 and 15, which also sums to 17; thus BACKACHE is a numerical tautonym.

In the November 1970 Word Ways, I presented a list of more than 500 six-letter numerical tautonyms; in this article I list approximately 1100 eight-letter numerical tautonyms gleaned from Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition. As in the earlier list, all words having the same tautonymic value are listed together.

In the February 1970 Word Ways, Darryl Francis listed a handful of eight-letter numerical tautonyms with a higher degree of balance -- each four-letter half was in turn a four-letter numerical tautonym. I found only two words of this type that he missed: CUCULLES and PETALING.

Numerical tautonyms can be used as the raw material in a word game which tests one's inductive ability. Select an unsuspecting subject (your teen-aged daughter or son, a co-worker, a bridge partner, or your mother-in-law) and ask him to determine what unusual property (based on the individual alphabet letters) the words BEWILDER, ATTITUDE, SOMEWHAT and LANGUAGE have in common. (Of course, other numerical tautonyms can equally well be used.) If (as is likely) he fails to discover the underlying property, he can be presented with the following numerical tautonyms which give increasingly broad hints:

ARACANGA, CARAGANA
TEAMMATE, REAPPEAR
OVERPETS, OVERSTEP

BEGRAVED, BEKNAVED
SNIFFERS, SNIGGERS
SEEDBIRD, BIRDSEED

(If he still hasn't discovered the tautonymic property, perhaps you'd better not give him a gift subscription to Word Ways.)

Literary types may be challenged by the limited vocabulary of numerical tautonyms. For example, consider the following playlet commenting on the creation of the numerical tautonym list:

AESOPIAN DIATRIBE

Envenomd skeptics (speaking): Oriental subtlety, tiresome busywork!

Burgeois newsboys (refuting revilers): Skillful language gymnasts uncipher fonotipe, bewilder imbecile!

(contrite filomath, captivated, applauds)

- 17 backache
- 18 beefhead
- 20 bleached, feedable
- 22 accolade, qabbalah
- 23 aracanga, baaseiah, brabbled, caragana
- 24 bilabial, chaldean
- 25 akalimba, biblical, iambical, laegenae, scabbard, tabbarea
- 26 bearhide, beglobed, beneaped, caimakam
- 27 alienage, ancience, baseball, handball, handmaid
- 28 adinidan, pachemia, saddened
- 29 bedreads, brahmana, buccinae, caudicle, cercaria, clamberd, fascicle, geelbecs, imbecile, lecideas, vaccaria
- 30 athaliah, balotade, bedstead, brainged, decrease, deforced, detailed, ecaudate, elehanan, enjailed, feraghan, gradated
- 31 alcogene, becuibas, bockland, caribeas, caveatee, demibath, fauchard, landfall, medicine, melaenic, regarded
- 32 begraved, beknaved, bepieces, blocages, cathodal, chatakas, cockered, cribbing, diarrhea, fieldman, flamberg, freckled, gallages, galliard, jailages, loadages, objected, redefeat, redemand, rheadine, saffarid, sciaenid, redened, seecatch
- 33 birdseed, bogieman, brideman, canoeman, datheman, epicedes, hawaiian, hubbaboo, keelbird, kehiallh, liegeman, menacing, salamich, seedbird
- 34 amoebids, anglaise, bezaleel, budgeted, casketed, chincer, chubbier, clencher, clodding, deterged, diatribe, hamleted, kemengeh, khandait, language, panchaet, pleacher, pleading
- 35 agricole, amatrice, besieger, billetee, blatches, blatherd, branches, carminic, choicier, colerake, disclaim, embolden, fellinic, galoches, hemiambs, ingemmed, schemata, sclaffer
- 36 arboreal, baronial, condemud, condoled, enmeshed, hariffes, jeateral, kalleges, latchman, lavatche, nangnail, natalian, paralian, parashah, ranchman

- 37 agnomina, alestake, buckshee, cloglike, dillweed, domelike, fridging, gingivae, gregales, hellweed, homaging, magpiash, manifold, pledging, remanned, seallike, sihasapa, weedlike
- 38 aiguille, ascocarp, balwarra, brocatel, cantador, cantoned, chevalet, cheville, clubbish, conflate, disfaith, disfames, dodonian, endocarp, endothia, etherean, exhalate, fireboat, flashing, gralloch, gualacum, hircarra, iguanian, lapideon, laudanin, maculate, maucacos, midlands, palinode, parching, patacaos, rejerked, ribibles, sandclub, unbaited, waggoned
- 39 aerogram, bewilder, bicycles, biplanes, bogomile, brodekin, capsulae, copemate, duckmeat, flatcaps, holdiken, ignifuge, imbosked, imparled, jockeyed, kehoeite, kipchaks, melodas, metagram, pardonee, regifuge, scapulae, teammate, uncasked
- 40 aesopian, anethole, antefixa, aquarial, arilloid, bionomic, bluegill, borehole, brashier, captived, carritch, chitralli, fenogams, grandpas, hazeline, hegtaper, heloderm, patchier, pearlash, prearmed, reappear
- 41 alismoid, aspermia, auramine, bentangs, brattled, bumelias, calycule, coercion, desmogen, diplopia, fantails, godolias, goodgeon, hiphapes, hugelias, islander, leucitic, meredith, mohegans, ragondin, recoking, remelted, scarcens, scariole, silangas, sleeking, speaking, toccatas, unearned, wheetled
- 42 abstract, aventall, bastards, bastiond, bespends, bobwhite, cartbote, centrads, centrode, collards, dimpling, doctored, doubling, duelling, eliphalu, filomath, fishling, fishtail, fiveling, forcelet, fumbling, gnathite, gnatling, gonfalon, grapelet, guggling, hansards, knelling, knobling, ladyfish, ladyling, larkling, lombards, muddling, nazarene, nectarin, occupate, percepta, petaling, phocenin, pochards, preclude, precoces, rearling, selfhood, sickener, sickling, simaruba, stabling, tangfish, tanghans, tangling, tarcelet, tatarian, teleseme, teletape, trachite, unbeseem, varanoid, wobbling
- 43 absuming, bookmark, catstick, cotesian, cyanosed, cyclenes, cyclopic, daymares, drepanis, enseraph, finnikin, gobstick, logicize, matinees, medullar, misbears, misbodes, nephilim, nucellar, payaguan, pharaohs, plantago, predelay, raucedos, rhapsode, seraglio, sneevled, speckier, stackmen, uncellar
- 44 antidote, antimask, assedats, brawning, causeful, commitje, communed, despight, despized, dislikes, divining, dizening, dynamics, enterate, ephorate, evelight, folkvang, forerank, foretalk, garroted, hewhalls, informal, keewatin, laportea, levelmen, mimicism, miscalls, obolized, oomantia, opalized, parillas, phasiant, pilgrimd, preening, rapining, reattain, refooted, relining, repeases, repeater, retailer, sebright, shapeful, shellmen, skeining, tenesmic, underdog, undereat, undergod, vanguard
- 45 actuates, anoopsia, applauds, asternal, aureates, bequalms,

- bisognio, brethren, cologens, evocates, josaphat, lucigens, marmoric, melodism, miniates, misdates, misdoing, palpates, pellates, pelliles, philbert, philomel, prefeast, qoheleth, scholasm, smidgens, warcraft, whampees, zandmole
- 46 alluvian, barylite, bestoved, brayerin, cesspipe, cuminole, daturine, depursed, diluvian, drawlink, drawoffs, enshrine, evenomd, esdrelon, etatisme, forgerer, frauders, harshens, invaders, irenicum, isochore, jaunders, kasolite, milliner, millward, miserere, napoleon, navicert, offshore, ordinals, oscitate, pamperer, parkward, pemlicos, peterman, pitarahs, prickant, ravendom, rebursed, rectoral, rubeolar, semibody, semifast, semimill, seminole, sharpening, shenazar, sindicos, slanders, succinct, tapirine, tapiroid, teatimes, tepetate, tinctile, tragopan, veneerer, venerien, vianders, wanderer, wickedly, yeldrine
- 47 acrydium, alumines, benzeins, cestoids, compeers, comperes, complant, detrects, disodium, doomsman, enmossed, enweaves, eserines, exemplar, exfects, eyelines, ferréiro, genuflex, grimoire, hartines, hassemon, helvines, hollowed, incussed, insecure, inserted, inoidium, isengrim, jesmines, kiriwina, manswear, maximite, misferes, moraines, moraller, mudirias, oreiller, oriental, piscines, pralines, refroids, reseller, rikishas, romaines, shikaris, sinecure, slighthen, spickles, tindalos, uncipher, vigilant, watchful, whiggify, wreathen
- 48 ahurewas, appointe, assisted, beutiful, burgeois, cuculles, derusted, dutchify, entiring, flooring, froideur, garvocks, grubbily, haurient, jirkinet, kithlish, kithogue, laspring, livelong, livering, longfins, longwall, mantevil, mantissa, masonite, masorete, mimmocks, nehushta, nitering, objuring, odontoid, ophiasis, orangism, palstave, pelonite, periogue, perisoma, pictured, plastein, poleaxer, priested, queenite, queering, retested, ringwall, salpetre, securing, sniffers, sphering, sugaring, swearing, teniasis, traisted, triapsal, vaudevil, vengibly, yemenite
- 49 amizilis, atomergs, blizzard, blungers, boltings, conquien, crommels, epistoma, foplings, hattings, heptylic, herrings, hippings, kirkings, lithuria, lordings, mazitias, nonflaky, oenomels, origanum, pennings, platanos, platicly, platings, ptilinum, puffings, radzimir, sahuks, sarkings, satinpod, scrimish, sergings, singings, sniggers, tennings, tellings, unamused, unmatted, volcings, whemmels, wincings, yeardays
- 50 annually, atonally, attitude, bruiting, clotting, cornette, cornuted, dormeuse, duetting, epitokes, eponymic, fauvette, festally, fonotipe, idyllion, jurassic, limpidly, lunchers, notating, pansmith, parousia, penorcon, ponerids, priggess, ravisher, refuting, reversal, reveting, sheraton, shrewder, slenting, snobbery, spannels, taxeopod, trickful, unclever,

- unclubby, unfinish, uniformd, venially, waxbirds, wetbirds, whenever, windigos, yeasting
- 51 ankylose, autistic, consoles, consuete, cynicist, dhurries, gipsires, guerezas, homogeny, humifuse, loculose, monishes, pantries, plinther, prelimit, regushes, repleves, repliers, replough, rethrill, silksmen, skatoles, skeptics, skillful, solecist, thermion, threshes, upblazes, widowman, wineries
- 52 ajutment, bowldery, contrite, cusinero, distills, distomes, diuresis, diurnule, donships, doorsill, emprises, equiform, esthesis, exeresis, exergues, formular, frompels, gruffily, guesdist, hutchets, iterativ, kokowais, martyred, mesosome, miskills, mucoitin, ordonnes, permises, pilotmen, piriform, polimorf, popelote, popeship, premerit, premises, procural, renoving, retinule, rudiment, rudistid, shipment, shuddery, somewhat, teloogoo, tirement, tiresome, trampish, tramples, tubiform, unhiving, unlearns, unpaving, veterans, vigneron, vitalize, whatsome
- 53 burliest, coothays, counites, counties, cutikins, cuzcenos, duplones, dyestuff, dyphones, flunkers, griskins, gurgeons, imponent, joewoods, leptites, loftiest, loyalism, numerant, octodont, oreodont, phitones, poschays, pugilism, quantise, rosakers, saulites, scopulas, shaysite, skinkers, steinful, tillites, trankers, unmeekly, unmewing, zarhites
- 54 convolve, corrants, crullers, curlycue, entozoal, expiator, eyestone, fewtrels, fistnote, flourish, furiosas, hyperope, mayoruna, mudproof, operants, operator, opinants, opinator, parsonet, pavonize, peropods, popglove, preopens, punctual, revilers, revivals, riverish, rumblers, salvator, sarplers, spartans, stiflers, sucklers, temporat, tinklers, vaporish, warlucks
- 55 auxillum, cloyless, colymbus, crummers, futhorcs, groomers, hornless, lessives, lintless, luminism, minstrel, moveless, nusairis, partless, passless, pentzias, prattler, quellios, skippund, soilless, songless, thrissel, thistle, trapezes, unkindly, upfloats, wapogoro, wireless
- 56 crottels, crottles, cultismo, fowlfoot, gitterns, gittiths, histrion, musculin, novelets, ovenwise, pasterns, plugrods, poetwise, spattles, spilletts, stellary, taungthu, thistles, thiswise, unfought, untaught, vetitive, waltzing, wappatto, whipwise, williwaw, yokewise
- 57 cityness, costmary, costumer, courtlet, entrymen, elusions, erosions, explores, frixions, humorful, misplays, monocots, moonglow, parvules, phoronis, quartern, resolver, rosemary, rosewood, scotinos, sensions, soreness, stockily, swankily, swiftlet, ternions, tordions, valvules, waxiness, woodness
- 58 brownest, coyotero, cruppers, forsooth, fruments, luxation, nestfuls, notition, outbrast, poringly, potgirls, presents,

pressful, presumes, pulingly, putation, sentenst, serpents,
shopfuls, shoppers, snippers, sprewler, starrify, unholily,
unhonest, vauntlay, violents, viridity, volition, votation,
wrappers, yeomanry

- 59 crowtoes, drupetum, europium, fortunes, grossify, gymnasts,
gymnuras, maytenus, nonpoets, outcasts, petreity, pinturas,
pomology, quatenus, synapses, tartarus, towardly, umpirism,
unseizes, unselths, whiskery, wishfort, wizardly
- 60 assurers, horsepox, neuterly, overglut, overholy, overjump,
overlush, overpets, overpray, oversoft, overstep, overtrim,
overwelt, overword, stiletto, stillery, stillson, stiltify,
turakoos, warranty, witherly
- 61 croysers, fooyungs, grouzers, littress, mistress, morosely,
mushroom, newsboys, newsroom, orthoepy, pirrauru, previsor,
pigmyish, ressauts, risorses, rugosely, sautoirs, smithums,
sybotism, trinkety, wanworth
- 62 crozzles, crutters, desserts, institor, instruct, mittimus,
phymosis, pivoters, pristavs, questers, quoiters, qvintins,
restrips, sequitor, shotters, shunters, sloppily, spritely,
sternons, sternson, stinkpot, stinters, stressed, subtlety,
tubsters
- 63 fluxures, piqueurs, proneurs
- 64 eutrophy, notoriously, settlers, spittoon, spontoon, surfuses
- 66 optotype, sissyism, topotype, tristily
- 67 busywork, klystron, westmost
- 68 sporonts, triunity
- 69 slowworm, textuist, unmuzzle, virtutis
- 71 hyssopus
- 72 outports, rowports, wayworts
- 73 mustours
- 75 outstunt, unsultry