

# SIX-LETTER NUMERICAL TAUTONYMS

LESLIE E. CARD  
Urbana, Illinois

After reading the article by Darryl Francis on numerical tautonyms in the February 1970 *Word Ways*, I became interested in the possibility of building one or more word squares consisting of two-part six-letter tautonyms. Since this could not be done with the 45 words listed in his article, I began a systematic search for more, and the list given below is the result.

If letters are assigned values according to their numerical positions in the alphabet, a two-part six-letter tautonym is a word in which the sum of the values of the first three letters equals the sum of the values of the last three letters. Let us call this sum the tautonymic value. Each combination of three letters from the alphabet yields a tautonymic value. (A combination is a selection of letters without regard to order; for example, ABC and CAB are counted as the same combination.) The lowest possible tautonymic value is, of course, 3 for AAA, and the highest possible is 78 for ZZZ. The number of possible combinations increases in a regular pattern from only one combination for each of the tautonymic values 3 and 4, to 90 different combinations with a tautonymic value of 38. There are then 91 combinations for each of the tautonymic values 39, 40, 41 and 42, after which the frequency decreases in reverse order from 90 for the tautonymic value 43 to but one each for the values 77 and 78.

One might easily assume that the larger the number of different letter combinations yielding a given tautonymic value, the greater the chance of finding numerical tautonyms with that value, but this is not always true. The 73 combinations adding to 51 produced only one tautonym, and the 40 combinations adding to 59 produced none at all. The 91 combinations adding to 39 gave 35 numerical tautonyms, the largest number for any tautonymic value, but the 91 adding to 41 produced only 10.

The following tabulation of six-letter numerical tautonyms has been arranged by groups of words all having the same tautonymic value; within each group, words are listed alphabetically. The 45 words listed on page 11 of the February 1970 *Word Ways* are included

in their respective positions to make a grand total of 519. But even with this fairly respectable total, I have not yet been able to construct a 6 x 6 word square using only words chosen from this list. Can some reader do it?

- 10 facade
- 12 gadbee
- 14 kabala
- 15 balaam
- 16 alcana, calcid, cheefe, hagged
- 17 bandal, bandid
- 18 canale, canela, madiyah
- 19 belgic, bobble, flabel, pabble
- 20 aranea, chicle, galena, galibi, gidjee, lagado, lagna, pacane, pachak, packed
- 21 barasa, bardel, barhal, bendel, boddle, cembra, cochal, gamben, keeled, maggie, paddle, rabmag
- 22 archie, crance, foamed, obelia, racial
- 23 boffle, darned, daroga, fleeme, hifend, libard, libnah, maiden, sacrad, scalfe, tabard
- 24 alkene, boggle, gobian, higgle, jamnia, kalia, kaliye, kalina, paggle, pagina, saddik
- 25 bubber, caunch, causae, coghle, helped, hobber, kamboh, michel, nibber, phases, rebase
- 26 cavate, caveat, cerate, choate, cholam, cnicin, create, crenic, engaud, garuda, geneat, genipa, gracer, negate, ocheil, peenge, pianic, reckon, tearce, vacate, vaccin
- 27 alnico, budder, eschar, haraya, harder, harico, hender, hijrah, hodder, indebt, jobbet, lances, lander, nidder, offerd, redbud
- 28 faucet, fogman, glides, iodine, keloid, manjoc, mannie, pegman, picine, pickel, pickle, picoid, raioid, raised, reebok, reesed, shades, shaikh, shaman, sharia, wadman
- 29 blobby, buffer, buffin, cayuga, chroma, finnan, freath, gaufer, gaufre, hatted, hillel, hilted, isaias, moated, omagua, palais, pheese, plated, thaisa, thanan, thanna
- 30 anorak, anotia, antler, biskra, bugger, coling, czaric, duette, ginete, ginger, himmel, hogger, hoggin, iatric, karait, kenelm, kentia, kneipe, kraken, melano, melita, onager, raking, schelm, schete, teeing
- 31 cyclar, fetcht, fether, fudges, hinges, inhold, kasher, larigo, ogived, panics, panisc, pannel, ridges, seggio, skaffs
- 32 chumar, citole, disarm, dishes, distic, dollar, domini, enmesh, gadget, itches, killas, mensal, ramier, saliva, salvia, sheeve, sheuch, ticals, viatic
- 33 donsie, flocks, floran, hipple, jerome, jingko, peleth, plenar, randon, sample, seimas, smacks, talmas, talond, taluka, thebez,

- checks, thenar, thenne, tidies, zaffir  
 34 bygone, civite, copula, duiker, gazite, kerite, kinone, kohemp,  
 laughs, milker, pochay, pochok, dangir, snaker, tamkin, tamora  
 35 borrel, brotan, buller, dopant, holiya, holler, hollin, holpen,  
 lavant, liniya, mimosa, natant, parfit, pariya, parpen, parrel,  
 partan, pneuma, podler, rapeye, rappen, relift, reluck, tangis  
 36 bosket, bummer, cromer, croope, hitchy, homish, hommer,  
 ketchy, merles, merope, minish, moholi, nimmer, nimshi,  
 oilish, orchis, passel, rocket, sapota, selloi, shiels, sleaps,  
 sleekt, sleugh, spales, umbels, umbles, wheels, wheugh, widish  
 37 bottle, bungey, cizars, droner, enrapt, honord, liplet, mespil,  
 nincum, patlet, pattel, pillet, rennin, rodlet, taplet, telesm,  
 thimes, unbelt, vanner, wiener  
 38 cotoin, cotyla, impawn, kirsens, meteor, octavo, rasens, rasion,  
 sarion, sarwan, unclay, unclue, uncoin, uncore, wanion  
 39 assart, assent, assume, couper, couril, fluent, fornax, forril,  
 froggy, fulyie, hopper, kislew, netful, nipper, prefix, perten,  
 pinnet, prefix, quacky, quaggy, quarta, ratten, repart, repass,  
 repent, repose, sastra, tarten, tenent, tenpin, traiks, travel,  
 trawld, undose, wigful  
 40 doughy, fossil, groats, gropes, oxalis, pseudo, satisfy, satura,  
 scrats, slings, slipes, softas, speats, stangs, stapes, taskit,  
 uglify, upcast, whilom, whings  
 41 burrer, duplex, horkey, momism, onlook, pethor, puddly, rinkey,  
 usarin, ventil  
 42 busser, curers, curser, dowers, dowser, gunung, looser, miters,  
 overaw, payers, resins, respue, savers, savior, sermon, shoers,  
 shores, submit, tautog, timely, timers, warely  
 43 butter, cusses, druess, duress, hotter, hunter, mooter, nitter,  
 polvil, prills, prises, prisse, pshaws, queint, quells, ripsaw,  
 sawfly, sculls, scurfs, swarfs, tholls, thorax, tinter, vatter,  
 waster, xarque, xenium  
 44 estray, orkney, pomary, spiney, spinks, spites, sudary, tawney,  
 twanks, unites  
 45 revues, rollix  
 46 morris, solute  
 47 lothur, lotuko, oxhorn, sweirt, swelps, teviss, trivet  
 48 numery, reyson, skryer, snorks, stions, stirks, tewits, unmist,  
 unmoor  
 49 buzzer, hutton, mousey, mouton, mouzer, osophy, phyton,  
 plumpt, prompt, pronto, proton, pulton, seyton, thumprt  
 50 toomly, uitoto  
 51 swiftly  
 52 opulus, rumors, slushy  
 53 thymus, torsos, tropyl  
 54 stowls, tumour, utmost  
 55 sourly

- 56 outrow, pussly, tously  
 57 strows  
 58 vousts

With a few exceptions (such as DOPANT), all words have been taken from Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition.

For the sake of completeness, we also list six-letter palindromes and regular tautonyms, both of which are numerical tautonyms.

allah, hannah, kassak, redder, renner, retter, sirris, succus, terret, tirrit

ack-ack, akeake, atlatl, barbar, beebie, benben, berber, bonbon, bribri, bulbul, bye-bye, cancan, chocho, cuscus, dik-dik, dugdug, dumdum, enaena, furfur, gabgab, galgal, gangan, gee-gee, grigri, grugru, gulgul, hawhaw, humhum, iwaiwa, kakkak, kiekie, lablab, marmar, miamia, motmot, mulmul, murmur, nagnag, palpal, pawpaw, pitpit, samsam, sarsar, seese, semsem, simsim, soosoo, sousou, tartar, teetee, testes, tictic, toatoa, toetoe, toitoe, tom-tom, tortor, tumtum, turtur, tzetze, valval, wagwag, waiwai, weiwei, wou-wou, wow-wow, zenzem, zozoo, cha-cha, kuskus, maomao, tsetse, dig-dig