

# THE ART OF THE STATE

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In this article we shall discuss two areas of logological interest in which the fifty state-names play a prominent part. No doubt the reader will be able to discover further areas for himself.

The first area of interest can be termed Stately Abbreviations. Most of the fifty state-names possess abbreviated forms. A number of the state-names possess more than just one abbreviated form. These abbreviations help us to save thousands, possibly millions, of typist-hours each year. Consider the time that is saved by typing PA one hundred times instead of PENNSYLVANIA one hundred times.

Newspapers can make fuller use of the space available to them by utilizing these abbreviations where necessary. It is much more compact to refer to KLEINFELTERSVILLE, PA. rather than KLEINFELTERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA; or to AI, N.C. rather than AI, NORTH CAROLINA. These are but two examples of the necessity of abbreviations for the state-names.

Logologists, however, view these abbreviations in a somewhat different light. Logologists, by definition, are interested in words, not abbreviations. To the man in the street, the state-name abbreviations are just abbreviations and nothing more. But the logologist points out that many of the state-name abbreviations, besides being abbreviations, are also real words. For example, ILL (from Illinois, of course) is a real word. MASS (from Massachusetts) is a real word also.

A fuller list of the abbreviations which are also real words is given in the following table:

ALA - a Sumerian drum

ALAS - an exclamation expressive of a number of emotions

ARK - a chest

CAL - wolframite

CALIF - a variant of caliph, a title of the successors of Mohammed

- COL - a pass in a mountain chain  
 COLO - a town in Story County, Iowa, between Ames and Marshalltown  
 CONN - the control exercised by one who guides the movements of a ship  
 DEL - a vector differential operator  
 FLOR - a coating on microorganisms  
 GA - a people of Ghana  
 GEO - a deep coastal inlet  
 I - the first person nominative pronoun  
 IA - a genus of African bats  
 ID - a skin rash  
 IDA - a feminine proper name  
 ILL - bad or evil  
 IND - a poetic form of India  
 IO - a shout of joy  
 KAN - a Dutch liquid measure  
 KANS - a common Indian grass  
 KAS - a Dutch cupboard  
 KEN - a rowdy resort for thieves and beggars  
 LA - the tone A in the fixed-do system  
 MASS - the Christian eucharistic rite  
 ME - the objective case of I  
 MICH - a variant of the word meech, to play truant  
 MINN - a variant of the word mind, a head ornament  
 MISS - to fail to hit  
 MO - a dialect form of more  
 MON - a family badge  
 MONT - a mountain  
 NEB - a bird or tortoise beak  
 NY - nor I  
 O - a variant of oh  
 ORE - metal in its natural state combined with some other substance  
 PA - a Maori village  
 PENN - a town in Saskatchewan, Canada  
 PENNA - a feather  
 RI - a Japanese unit of distance  
 TEX - an obsolete form of text  
 UT - the musical tone C in the French fixed-do system  
 WASH - to cleanse  
 WIS - know  
 WY - the letter Y  
 WYO - a town in Glenn County, California

In case a number of these abbreviations are unknown to the reader, he is referred to the abbreviations section in Webster's Unabridged

Dictionary, Second Edition, where all can be found.

This list contains 46 abbreviations representing 34 state-names. In other words, over two-thirds of the state-names possess real word-abbreviations. Is this not an amazing proportion?

But what of the remaining state-names? The abbreviations of these make no sense to the logologist. SC, ND, NJ, etc. are all devoid of any logological beauty. Something has to be done to remedy this situation. We begin by suggesting that SC (for South Carolina) is replaced by SCAR, which is a common enough word. Can the reader suggest replacements for the other abbreviations? Perhaps the Post Office could be persuaded to adopt them officially!

The second area of interest can be termed Stately Charades. If we take the word MONUMENTALLY we can split it into four complete words: MO, NU, MEN and TALLY. Such words are called charades. There are hosts of everyday words from which charades can be formed. A few examples are:

HESITATION - HE, SIT, AT, ION  
 MATHEMATICS - MAT, HE, MA, TICS  
 INTEGRATION - IN, TEG, RAT, ION  
 AMERICAN - AM, ERIC, AN  
 NEWSPAPER - NEW, SPA, PER  
 HISTORIES - HIS, TORIES

The regularity with which charades can be formed from individual words tends to reduce their interest. Rather than creating charades from increasingly longer words, we decided to take all of the fifty state-names and run them together. From this chain of 412 letters we would try to form charades. It was thought prudent not to allow single-letter words. Also, for esthetic reasons, we decided that two-letter words should be kept to a minimum. Even so, our list contains a considerable number of two-letter words.

ALA	a large ancient Sumerian drum
BAM	a slang word meaning <u>hoax</u>
AAL	an East Indian shrub or small tree
ASK	request
AA	a kind of lava
RIZ	dialect past participle of <u>rise</u>
ONA	an Indian of a primitive Tierra del Fuegan tribe
ARK	a place of refuge
ANSAS	a river in Arabia
CALIFORNIAC	an enthusiast for California
OLOR	a genus of swans

ADO	bustle
CONNECT	join
IC	obsolete form of the pronoun I
UT	the musical tone C in the French fixed-do system
DE	a syllable in bebization
LAW	the rules of society
ARE	100 square meters
FLO	an arrow
RID	to free
AGE	a period of time
ORGIA	orgies
HAW	a dull blue
AI	the three-toed sloth
IIDA	the name of at least two towns in Japan
HO	a dialect of the Kol language
ILL	unhealthy
INO	the wife of Athamas in Greek mythology
IS	form of the verb <u>to be</u>
INDIA	an obsolete term for America
NAIO	ngaio
WAKANS	supernatural forces in American Indian religion
AS	a Roman weight
KEN	know
TUCKY	the common spatterdash
LOUIS	à Louis d'or
IAN	a Gaelic form of <u>John</u>
AMAIN	to lower a sail
EM	a printer's unit of measure
ARY	any
LANDMASS	a large area of land
ACHU	the name of a town in Pakistan
SETT	the constitution of a burgh
SMICH	the stonechat
I-GAN	obsolete past tense of verb <u>i-gin</u> , meaning <u>to begin</u>
MINNE	love
SOT	a habitual drunkard
AMISS	faulty
IS	that which is
SIP	to taste
PI	to throw into disorder
MISS	to avoid
OUR	belonging to us
I' M	a contraction of <u>I am</u>
ON	Biblical name of Heliopolis, ancient Egyptian city
TANAN	a Siamese unit of measure
EB	a reformed spelling of <u>ebb</u>
RA S	a cape

KAN	a Dutch liquid measure
EVA	a feminine proper name
DANE	a native of Denmark
WHAMP	a wasp
SHIRE	a district
NEW	modern
JERSEY	the largest of the Channel Islands
NEW	up to date
ME	myself
XI	a letter of the Greek alphabet
CONE	a three-dimensional geometrical figure
WY	the letter Y
ORK	the grampus
NORTH	a northerly wind
CAROLIN	a Swedish coin
AN	one of the indefinite articles
ORTH	wrath
DA	ambary
KO	a type of Chinese porcelain
TAO	a peasant of the Philippines
HI	an obsolete word for <u>I</u> , <u>he</u> , <u>her</u> , <u>herself</u> , <u>they</u>
OOK	a Scottish spelling of <u>week</u>
LAHOMA	a town in Garfield County, Oklahoma
ORE	a kind of fine wool from Leominster, England
GON	a cloth measure of Annam
PENN	surname of a signer of the Declaration of Independence
SYLVANIA	a town in Lucas County, Ohio
RHO	a letter of the Greek alphabet
DEIS	a dialect spelling of <u>dais</u>
LANDS	disembarks
OUTH	over, or above
CAROL	a masculine or a feminine proper name
INA	a mother
SOUTH	a cardinal point
DAK	mail
OTA	the name of at least 3 towns in Honshu, Japan
TENNES	orangey heraldic colors
SEET	obsolete past tense of <u>sit</u>
EX	without
AS	the singular of Aesir, the chief gods of the Teutonic pantheon
UT	the first syllable of Guido's solmization system
AH	a prefix to proper names used in parts of China
VER	spring
MONT	a mountain
VIRGIN	a picture of a Madonna

IA WAS	a spelling of Iowa, an Indian tribe, which dates from the 17th century
HING	a type of gum with a strong odor and garlic taste
TON	2240 pounds
WEST	Europe and the Americas
VIR	activity
GINI	the name of a town in Nigeria
AW	an interjection of disgust
IS	a town in west-central Iraq on the Euphrates River, now called Hit
CON	in opposition
SIN	transgression of the law of God
WYO	a town in Glenn County, California
MING	a Chinese dynasty

The words in this list were taken from a number of sources. They are the Second Edition and the Third Edition of Webster's New International Dictionary, the Oxford English Dictionary, The Times Index-Gazetteer of the World, the 1967 Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide, The American Thesaurus of Slang (by Berrey and van den Bark), and The Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico (by Frederick Webb Hodge).

Perhaps the reader would care to repeat this exercise in charades using some other well-known group of names. For a start, we suggest the letters of the Greek alphabet, the surnames of the presidents of the United States, the signs of the Zodiac, or the names of the chemical elements.