

# TEL ANAGRAMS

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To play Telanagrams, one must, like the inventor of the game, have a mind addicted to anagramatising. The game was devised at a time when no other amusements were available: while being paddled down the Sepik (Pike's kepi's spike) River in the heart of New Guinea's (we sanguine!) least explored and most tropical (part coil, carp toil) area.

One must suppose a man who likes to send telegrams based on anagrams of a single word. One of the earliest he devised purported to come from an English poet, and advised that a 19th-century lexicographer had stolen Catherine's grilled fish. It read:

SKEAT TAKES KATE'S SKATE-STEAK. KEATS.

He followed this up with an unsigned telegram, communicating the fact that the vessel of an Italian explorer was collecting together all the knotted threads on cotton-reels. This one read:

POLO'S SLOOP POOLS SPOOL LOOPS.

In self-defence, his friends took to devising definitions for the anagramaddict to construct telegrams from. The only rule here was that the definitions should unambiguously specify each item of the desired telegram, so our friend was not entirely happy when they asked him to construct a telanagram out of the definition "A nun with a past"; but it still didn't take him long to come up with:

LIVE EVIL - VILE - VEIL. LEVI.

A little trickier was the reconstruction of the brief telanagram from an Irish author, asking for his letters to be forwarded to Peru; this read:

MAIL LIMA. LIAM.

Other definitions were a snap. The statement that a movie queen had poured a bituminous substance on the rodent's paintings was immediately recognisable as:

STAR TARS RAT'S ARTS.

Some people tried to be smart and construct telanagrams that were simply strings of words, such as:

ELGAR ALGER REGAL LAGER GLARE,

but the anagramaddict always insisted that telanagrams should convey a meaning, even if that meaning were sometimes as obscure as the definitions given to pangrams and palindromes, and even though excessive punctuation was often required to make the sense clear. He rejected, for instance, and perhaps unjustly:

THERE'S ESTHER, THREE'S HESTER,

but he accepted:

RAG ON ORGAN, RANGO GROAN OR NAG - O GRAN!

with the explanation that this was obviously a congratulatory telegram sent by a man to a grandmother who was renowned not only for her jazz-playing in church and her equestrianism, but also for her grunting, which could be heard for miles around, and which for three years in succession had won her the title of Champion Grunter, Groaner and Hog-Caller Extraordinary of Rango County.

In accepting this, however, Mr. Addict realised that he had made a breakthrough. Words could be divided and recombined, as long as each unit formed an anagram of each other unit. How long could such a telanagram be? He didn't know, but then one day he came up with the following lengthy telanagram, all constructed on the word DANGEROUS. He didn't bother to provide a definition for it, as he figured the meaning would be perfectly clear to any logologist who was aware that Ng was a common Vietnamese personal name:

UNDER SAGO, AN OGRE'S DUNG AROUSED NG (SO RUDE! A SOUND RAGE!). O DEAR US! NG USED ORGAN (USA DONGER - DANGEROUS!) ON SUGARED ORANGE. SUDDEN GAS! OUR GARDEN SO UNSOURED! AGNES' GOURD A DANGER, SO USED A GROUND GROUSE. AN ANGER DOUSED ON SUGAR! SUE DRAGON!

This was signed by GRAND OUSE, whom Mr. Addict didn't know,

but whom he assumed to be the chief dignitary of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Anglian Effluences. Anyway, he thought this story of the Vietnamese who behaved so dangerously (dons are ugly, dung so early) not a bad attempt; but he still felt that much of the charm of his game lay in the shorter and neater telanagrams, often of only two words. So, next time he met his friends in the pub, he was ready with a long list of definitions, printed below. His friends, who by now were used to his tricks, solved all of these in their heads, without recourse to pencil and paper or an anagram dictionary (which the best players scorn), and before their brains had become too fuddled with alcohol to call "Oho! Ho, local!"

By far the best way to play telanagrams is over a beer. So, out with your six-packs and see how you match up on the following. The first six are two-words, just to get you started. If you give up, consult the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. The first number in parenthesis indicates the number of letters being anagrammed, and the second number the repetitions of the anagram.

1. Newly-wed's litter (6,2).
2. Stuck-up experts (6, 2).
3. A more masculine kingdom (5,2).
4. On no account the French novelist (5,2).
5. Foundation conductor (6,2).
6. Censure the Australian opera singer (5,2).
7. At the flower-show, one item attracts attention; one lady even wept, and another had to sit down to recuperate (5,5).
8. Car manufacturer advises that he can better the appropriate rubric to the religious painting, and rake in the shekels (7,5).
9. The ungrateful wretch is ripping up the rum in the famous Moroccan rock (7,6).
10. A N. Y. baseballer encountered a docile fellow-player (4,5).
11. What's it to you if I build (that is, conduct) secret societies (8,4).
12. Well, Stanley, my mother's brother, there are none of your kind in Tasmania, for Laurence Durrell's latest book is vended there (10,4).
13. Analyse the following sentence: Zoroastrian file peels pomes and turnips; a frolic knocks in a crusher, documents, an extra weapon (5,13).
14. This state gets its income from Lizzie Borden's mob (5,3).
15. This evangelist meditates on the fair sex, for it is true that an all-male creed cannot always keep its feet on the ground (17,4).
16. Thoroughgoing amelioration (an unusual wild romp!) prevented Mr. Capone from making a mistake about the crazy French policeman (13,4).
17. Father attempts a journey across Iran, while the tea demon steals a coin. Everyone walks. Father is a man of the cloth (7,10).