

NUMERO(LOGO)LOGY

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Most people think that dictionaries contain words and that words contain letters. To a certain extent this is true. However, dictionaries contain more than just words -- they contain abbreviations, symbols, prefixes, suffixes and phrases as well. For example, NATIONAL SCHOOL-BUS CHROME is in Webster's Third. So, too, is the prefix CONTRA-. To avoid continually distinguishing between words, phrases, prefixes and so on, all of which are in the dictionary, we lump them all together and refer to them as entries. We could even go so far as to call these entries lexemes -- that is, meaningful forms that belong to the vocabulary of English.

No more than dictionaries list just words are lexemes composed of just letters. Apart from the twenty-six letters of the alphabet (both upper and lower case), there are hosts of other characters used to spell lexemes. Among a multitude of these characters are the comma, the hyphen, the apostrophe, various accents, Greek letters and even digits. We propose in the remainder of this article to investigate those Websterian lexemes that use digits.

It isn't too difficult to find lexemes in Webster's Third which use each of the ten digits 0 through 9. The following list has one example for each digit:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 0. COBALT 60 | 5. LSD 25 |
| 1. CARBON 13 | 6. RHODAMINE 6G |
| 2. 20/20 | 7. FRENCH 75 |
| 3. INDO RED MV-6632 | 8. 1080 |
| 4. 4-H'ER | 9. STRONTIUM 90 |

The compilation of this short list was far too easy. Feeling that something more challenging was called for, we decided to attempt the compilation of a list where each lexeme contains a number rather than a digit. For example, the lexeme INDO RED MV-6632 in the above list contains three different digits, 2, 3, and 6, but only one number, 6632. For how many different numbers can we find lexemes? Our list is given below. Most of the entries in this

list are boldface entries taken from the main sections of Webster's Second and Third Editions. A few, however, were taken from the Addenda sections of these two editions (40, 64, 1068, 1947, 7618 and 10820 from the Second, and 137 from the Third); others were taken from the Gazetteer sections of the First and Second Editions (70 and 304 from the First, and 295 from the Second).

M-1 RIFLE	BAYER 205
A2 HORIZON	URANIUM 235
C3	TEXTILE RED WR-263
4 H'ER	HILL 295
VITAMIN K ₅	HILL 304
RHODAMINE 6G	400
ACETOPURPURINE 8B	EHRlich'S 606
ALKALI FAST GREEN 10 G	TB 1-698
VITAMIN B ₁₂	1068
CARBON 13	1080
CARBON 14	ORDINANCE OF 1787
20/20	WAR OF 1812
LSD 25	COMPROMISE OF 1820
PHOSPHORUS 32	GROOMBRIDGE 1830
20/40	COMPROMISE OF 1850
THE '45	CRIME OF 1873
COBALT 60	UNITED STATES RIFLE, MODEL OF 1903
\$64 QUESTION	CHURCH ENABLING ACT OF 1919
HILL 70	LABOR MANAGEMENT RELAT. ACT, 1947
FRENCH 75	ROMANESTA RED MT-2544
STRONTIUM 90	GINGER BROWN T-5902
IODINE 131	INDO RED MV-6632
CESIUM 137	SN 7618
DUTCH 200	10280

On this list the lexemes for 13, 14, 32, 60, 90, 131, 137 and 235 are the names of isotopes of chemical elements. The fact that the Third Edition lists just these eight isotopes is indicative of how abridged unabridged dictionaries can be. If the Third listed all the known isotopes rather than the more notorious ones, we would have lexemes for all numbers up to at least 250. Alas, it doesn't and we don't.

The fact that Webster's Second lists the geographical name HILL 295 leads us to infer that there are hills numbered up to at least 294 and that the Webster editors just haven't bothered to include them. The gazetteer of the First Edition confirms this to a certain extent, because it lists HILL 70 (and also HILL 60, which we didn't have to include in the above list). The First Edition lists HILL 304 also, which implies that there exist further hills numbered up to at least

303. Why, oh Websterian editors, did you not include those hills numbered 296 to 303?

The entries on the above list can be extensively supplemented by reference to the dye tables given in the Third Edition. For some reason, the Webster dictionaries have a near-obsession with dyes. The First, Second and Third Editions have all included special lists of dye-names, the names of each edition being more numerous than those of the preceding edition. The Third's dye tables, can be found, not surprisingly, at the entry DYE. All the supplemental names given in the list below can be found under one of two headings in dye table I: (a) Commercial Name, or (b) Part I Colour Index Generic Name. Rather than list 106 dye-names in full, we have employed a form of abbreviation. Each of the names on the left of the list below can be followed by any one of the numbers to its right.

ACID BLACK	31, 47
ACID BLUE	93, 102, 104, 109, 110, 113, 118, 120, 158, 161
ACID ORANGE	50, 52, 56, 76
ACID RED	66, 85, 88, 89, 92, 94, 106, 115, 134, 179, 182, 183, 186
ACID VIOLET	34, 49, 58
ACID YELLOW	42, 54, 63, 73, 99
AZOIC DIAZO	37, 44, 46
DIRECT BLACK	71, 78, 80, 83
DIRECT BLUE	86, 98, 126, 127, 130, 133, 136, 175
DIRECT BROWN	95, 101, 112, 132, 138, 151
DIRECT GREEN	39, 51
DIRECT RED	79, 84, 121, 122, 123, 148, 149, 152, 153, 155, 189
DIRECT YELLOW	59, 62
DISPERSE YELLOW	11, 23
FLUORESCENT BRIGHTENER	30, 41, 74
MORDANT BROWN	19, 22, 33, 61
MORDANT GREEN	17, 26
MORDANT YELLOW	36, 38
PIGMENT RED	53, 55, 57, 81, 87, 100
SOLVENT ORANGE	7, 18
SOLVENT RED	24, 48, 72
VAT BLACK	9, 27
VAT BLUE	29, 35, 43
VAT ORANGE	15, 16
VAT YELLOW	21, 28

Considering both of the above lists together, the lowest number not represented is 65. And from 65 onwards up to 100 the unrepre-

sented numbers are 67, 68, 69, 77, 82, 91, 96 and 97. Can anyone fill these gaps? Or any of the gaps higher than 100?

We can continue our investigation of number-containing Websterian lexemes if we consider those utilizing Roman numerals (I, V, X, L, C, D and M) rather than Arabic digits (0-9). We have managed to find examples from I to V in the main sections of the Second and Third Editions:

HELIUM I
 CODEHYDROGENASE II
 ORANGE III
 SUDAN IV
 PARA BROWN V

Beyond this, we have used the gazetteer and biographical sections of the Second Edition:

KING GEORGE VI FALLS
 FERDINAND VII
 KING EDWARD VIII FALLS
 FREDERICK IX
 CHRISTIAN X
 INNOCENT XI
 PIUS XII
 ALFONSO XIII
 ERIC XIV
 BENEDICT XV
 GREGORY XVI
 LOUIS XVII,
 LOUIS XVIII
 JOHN XXII
 JOHN XXIII

Can anyone fill the XIX, XX and XXI gaps? There have been popes called JOHN XIX, JOHN XX and JOHN XXI (the last two were the same person!), but Webster's Second just doesn't bother to list them. Can anyone find examples greater than XXIII?

One example has been provided by Ralph Beaman: LXX, the Roman numeral often used to designate the Septuagint. This is the Greek version of the Old Testament (originally produced by seventy scholars) still in use in the Eastern Church.