TRANSPOSING 4-LETTER WORDS

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
thorpeds@hotmail.com

In Transposing Rates (WW87195), Jeff Grant listed the 24 transpositions of the four letters AEST. He said “Although some of the terms and references are rather obscure, it is an accomplishment unlikely to be equalled with any other set of four letters”. This is a challenge which appears to have lain dormant for 20 years. Here, I offer other sets of 24 transpositions.

The maximum 24 words are most likely to be produced from 2 vowels plus 2 consonants. Trial and error dictated that the 2 consonants should be S and T, not least because there are words which begin with TS as well as words which begin with ST. This cannot be said for many consonant pairings. Excluding doubled pairings (aa, ee, ii, oo, uu), there are 10 different pairings possible with the 5 major vowels AEIOU: ae, ai, ao, au, ei, eo, eu, io, iu, ou. Jeff covered the AE pairing.

I found the maximum 24 words for 8 of the other 9 pairings, and 20 words for OSTO. The 4 gaps can be filled using Google but all 4 words appear to be misspellings of other words. One example is offered for each letter arrangement although more than one example may have been found. Abbreviations and acronyms are not admitted.


Locations are taken from The United States Board on Geographic Names.
Non-localational, unreferenced items can be found using Google.

AISST, a populated place in Austria
AITS, islets, especially ones on a river, as the aits or eyots of the river Thames, UK (OED)
ASIT, a’sit - to sit, settle, remain sitting (OED)
ASTI, in Piedmont, source of the sparkling white wine Asti Spumante (OED)
ATIS, vf oat n. (OED)
ATSI, a Burmese language
IAST, see gillie - a1529 citation (OED)
IATS, I’at and Ban Hui Iat are populated places in Lebanon and Thailand respectively - hence Iats
ISAT, Northumberland dial. set - see set v. 3d c1205 citation (OED)
ISTA, Punta Ista is a point in Chile
ITAS, tropical South American fan palms (OED)
ITSA, a populated place in Egypt
ITSA, a populated place in Egypt
SATI, vf. seat n. (as in a court - seat of session). See seat 3c. 1532 citation (OED)
SATI, vf. suttee - Hindu widow who immolates herself on husband’s funeral pile (OED)
SIAT, Latin makes water - see sye v. (OED).
SITA, OHG side n., either of the 2 lateral surfaces or parts of the trunk in persons or animal (OED)
STAI, vf. stay v., to cease moving, halt (OED)
STIA, a populated place in Italy
TAIS, vf. take v. - see 3b beta. c1375 citation (OED)
TASI, Tasi Bum is a mountain in Burma
TIAS, thorny Chinese shrubs (OED)
TISA, a populated place in India
TSAI, Lang Tsai is a populated place in Vietnam
TSIA, old form of tea (OED)
**AOST** John Aost Douglas is buried in Arbala cemetery, Texas

**AOTS** a surname - Mirabella Aots in Seattle

**ASOT** a wadi in Sudan

**ASTO** Antero Asto Flores - a Peruvian educator and politician

**ATOS** a populated place in the Philippines

**AOST** Oued Aost is a wadi in Chad

**OATS** a kiln for drying malt or hops (OED)

**OATS** a species of grain (OED)

**OSAT** a locality in Bosnia-Herzegovina

**OSTA** a populated place in the Philippines

**OTAS** old form of octaves (OED)

**OTSA** a populated place in Estonia

**SAOT** a populated place in Senegal

**SATRO** Takuma Sato is a Japanese Formula 1 motor racing driver

**SOAT** Maak Soat is a mountain in Burma

**SOTA** a stream in Benin

**STAO** Vetar Je Sao Pred Zoru (*Wind Stopped At Dawn*) is a 1959 Yugoslavian film

**STOA** a portico, roofed colonnade (OED)

**TAOS** a town in New Mexico (OED)

**TASO** a stream in Benin

**TASU** a varying subdivision of the *guz*, a linear measure of India (Web2)

**TSHAU** a mountain in France

**ASTU** Asut Duk Pass is in the Sudan

**ATSU** a populated place in Japan

**ATUS** see millward - 1387 citation (OED)

**AUST** old form of August (OED)

**AUTS** Aut is the name of an island and a stream, in Burma and Malaysia respectively

**SOTA** a portico, roofed colonnade (OED)

**TUAS** = Taos, (a Tigua pueblo of 2 house groups on both sides Taos R.), a trib. of Rio Grande (Hodge)

**TUSA** = tuza, a Mexican pocket-gopher or pouch rat (OED)

**USTA** alumina usta = burnt alums (see *alumen ustum* in Web3)

**UTAS** dial. clamour, din (OED)

**UTSA** Utsa Stakketjavelk is a mountain in Sweden
EIST vf. east (OED)
EITS vf. eats v. (OED)
ESIT Esit Urua is a populated place in Nigeria
ESTI Esti Tarla is a populated place in Greece
ETIS vf. eats v. (OED)
ETSI Latin: although, yet (Cassell’s Latin Dictionary)
ETIS old form of jest (OED)
ETS a form of jets v. = swaggers (OED)
SET vf. set, v. (OED)
STE a Latin pronoun emphasising the person, or thing, being referred to (OED)
ITES people or things that are, or may be, designated by nouns in -ites. See also 1926 citation (OED)
ITSE see itzebu, Japanese for one (OED)
SETI a King of Egypt (OED)
SETI vf. sit v. (OED)
SITE the place or position occupied by some specified thing (OED)
STEI vf. sty v. (OED)
STIE vf. sty n. a path or narrow way (OED)
TEIS vf. teise n., a lineal measurement of six feet (OED)
TESI see greyhound - 1b 1743 citation (OED)
TIES ‘binds, fastens, makes fast (one thing to another, or two or more things together) with a cord or the like’ (OED)
TISE old form of tice v., to entice (OED)
TSEI a populated place in Russia
TSIE Jerry Tsie, a film actor, appears in Who Am I (1998)

EOST Alan Eost is the conductor of the Sheffield (UK) Oratorio Chorus
EOTS Fungai E’ot is a river in Malaysia, and Eot Island is in Micronesia
ESTO Esot Resources Inc. is the name of an Insurance Company in Idaho
ESTO Salus populi, suprema lex esto is the fundamental principle of political science (see ‘political’ a. /n. 1794)
ETOS Greek: a year (Chambers Dictionary)
ETO a plateau in the republic of the Congo
OEST old form of host, an armed company or multitude of men; an army (OED)
OETS Willem Oets runs a photography firm in South Africa
OSET vf. osset, some kind of woven material, app. of wool (OED)
OSTE a populated place in Latvia
OTES a populated place in Bosnia-Herzegovina
OTSE a populated place in Botswana
SEOT part of the title of a 2003 South Korean film: ‘Yeo Seot Gae Uisi Seon’ (If You Were Me)
SETO a populated place in Liberia
SEOT a stream in Thailand
SOTE a populated place in Cameroon
STEO vf. sty v., step (OED)
STOE vf. stow n., to place; to put in a certain place, position, or situation (OED)
TEOS vf. these (OED)
TSEO a populated place in Ethiopia
TOES the five digits of the human foot (OED)
TOSE a creek in Fiji
TSEO the late George Tseo was Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences, Pennsylvania State, Hazleton
TSOE a populated place in South Africa
ESTU a populated place in Afghanistan

ESTUT a stream in Malaysia

ETSU a populated place in Nigeria

ETUS Etus Peterdi is a Yugoslavian actress

EUST vf. evest: envy, malice (OED)

EUTS the name of a Primary Gene of Escherichia coli

SETU a populated place in Ghana

SEUT vf. soot n. a black deposit of fine particles formed by the combustion of coal, wood, oil etc. (OED)

STEU Justin Steu Stener is a bassist in a Brookfield band

SUET the solid fat round the loins and kidneys of certain animals (OED)

SUITE vf. soot n. (OED)

TESU see teesoo: in India, the brilliant orange-red flowers of Butea frondosa and Butea superba (OED)

TEUS a section of a populated place in Romania

TSEU an island in Vietnam

TSEUT a populated place in Nigeria

TUES see tew v. II 6, 1787 citation. Means works hard (OED)

TUSE a populated place in Denmark

UEST on uest is found under 'on fest': near (OED)

UETS vf. vats: casks, or other vessels used for holding or storing water, beer, or other liquid (OED)

USET see novity, meaning used, 1460 citation (OED)

U5TE old Scottish form of host n., a consecrated wafer

UTSE members of a Shoshonean division in central and west part of Colorado & east part of Utah (Hodge)

UTSE the name of a Hotel in Nepal

IOST vf. joust v. to fight on horseback as a knight or man-at-arms (OED)

IOTS vf. jots n. the very least or very little parts, points or amounts; whits (OED)

ISOT a tribal area in Pakistan

ISTO Latin: thither, to that place (OED)

ITOS Mogila Itos is a grave in Kazakhstan

ITSO girl's first name: Itso Berend Kamies m. Wendelke Begeman in Winschoten, Netherlands in 1945

OIST 16th century Scottish form of host n., a consecrated wafer

OITS Lawrence Graham Oits is the author of Our Kind Of People: Pub. Perennial

OSIT Osit is a Point in Croatia

OSTI Villa Osti is a populated place in Italy

OTIS vf. oat, the cereal (OED)

OTSI Otsi Kok is a Point in Hong Kong

SIOT in North Wales, a cereal mash of buttermilk and crushed oat-bread (OED)

SITO site (place) in Italian (OED)

SOIT so be it (OED)

SOTI vf. sooty a. foul or dirty with soot (OED)

STIO a populated place in Italy

STOI the name of a Hotel in Innsbruck

TIOS vf. ties v. draws, pulls, drags, tugs: see tee B. 1. b c897 citation (OED)

TISO surname of Grahame Tiso: see shorty n. and a. 1972 citation (OED)

TOIS an old plural of toes (OED)

TOSI Dr Sabrina Tosi is a Lecturer in Biosciences at Brunel University, UK

TSIO surname of Fojin Tsio, Graz University, Austria

TSOI Victor Tsoi is a Russian musician
**ISTU**  Istu Chah is a well in Iran

**ISUT**  the overseer of the Pharaoh Aye's private quarters

**ITSU**  the name of a restaurant in London, UK

**ITUS**  Latin: a going, departure (Cassell's Latin Dictionary)

**IUST**  vf. joust n. - a combat where two knights or men-at-arms fought with lances on horseback (OED)

**IUTS**  old form of juts v. see jetty v. 1598 citation (OED)

**SITU**  Latin phrase: in situ: in its place, in position (OED)

**SIUT**  a populated place in Egypt

**STIU**  Sungei Stiu is a stream in Malaysia

**STUI**  the Bani Stui Gulal performance is part of the yearly Guelaguetza festival in Mexico

**SUIT**  to dress oneself up in clothing designed for a specific task or purpose (OED)

**SUTI**  vf. suty = foul (OED)

**TSIU**  Uadi Bu Tius is a wadi in Libya

**TSUI**  populated place in Papua New Guinea

**TSU**  populated place in Japan

**UTIS**  vf twice = two times (OED)

**UTSI**  a populated place in Honduras

**UIST**  the name of a Scottish Island (OED)

**VOST**  Uit is a populated place in Russia; Uit is also the name of an estate in Guyana

**VOST**  old form of used (OED)

**USTO**  Inger Utsi is an actor in the 1987 Norwegian film *Pathfinder*

**OSTU**  Takayuki Ostu is a Japanese polymer scientist

**OSTUT**  a populated place in Japan

**OTUS**  a genus of owl (OED)

**OUTS**  to eject, dispossess (OED)

**OUTS**  as in the phrase 'the ins and outs of' (OED)

**SOUT**  Rita Sotu is a member of the photo.net community (2006)

**SOUT**  to mend or patch shoes (OED)

**STOU**  old form of stow v. to place, to put in a certain place, position or situation (OED)

**STUO**  to stiffen in Greek

**SUOT**  vf. soot a. sweet-smelling, fragrant (OED)

**SUTO**  vf. Southo, a subdivision of the Bantu people and the languages spoken by them (OED)

**TSUO**  Chinese hemispherical pedestal bowls with a lid of similar shape used as a food container (OED)

**TUOS**  a Formosan language spoken on the western slopes of Mount Yu in south central Taiwan

**TUOS**  Dr Simon Tsuo is a Taiwanese scientist turned energy pioneer

**TSUOS**  old form of twos (OED)

**TUSO**  a populated place in Italy

**USTO**  a stream in Kazakhstan

**UTOS**  *Utos Ni Mayor* is a 1968 comedy/romance Philippine film

**UTSO**  Heather Utso lives in Los Angeles