



Beecroft Maskathon

see page 4



CASPA Officers



CASPA Coordinator/Mattel Liaison

Carol Johnsen (Vic)



Treasurer

Rene Chelton (NSW)



Newsletter Editor ATB

Richard Birch (NSW)



Rules Coordinator

Wayne Willis (NSW)



**CASPA Ratings Officer/
Web Coordinator/Records Officer**

Martin Waterworth (Qld)



**CASPA Youth
Coordinator**

Tony Hunt (NSW)

Aust Capital Territory

President/Public Enquiry Officer

Tim Reddan treddan@grapevine.net.au

Treasurer ~ Terry Horan

horanfamily@optusnet.com.au

New South Wales

President ~ Bob Jackman

rjackman@ozemail.com.au

0400 226 541

Treasurer ~ John Holgate

john.holgate@ozemail.com.au

0413 168 548

Membership ~ Colleen Birch

colleenbirch@gmail.com

Queensland

President ~ Jane Brown 0417 903 079

Jb.edits@bigpond.net.au

Sec/Treasurer/ Membership

Judy Mason 0481 179 636

jmasp@optusnet.com.au

Assistant Membership ~ Trish Brighton

brist@optusnet.com.au

South Australia

President - Simon Walton

simonwalton95@gmail.com

0431 967 662

Vice-President, Records, Membership

Officer - Adam Kretschmer

adam.kretschmer@yahoo.com

0458 822 933

Treasurer - Tony Miller

acc.miller@gmail.com

0402 568 552

Tasmania

President ~ Martin Rose

Martin@TheRoses.com

0427 664 342

Vice President: Jan Hill

Jhill03@bigpond.net.au

0417 058 214

Secretary: Margaret Bishop

bishopm@y7mail.com

0455 134 060

Treasurer and membership officer:

Jon Ford - King

jfordking@yahoo.com

0437 140 314

Victoria

www.scrabblevictoria.org.au

President - Nick Ivanovski

Vice President - Christie Godby

Secretary - Carol Johnsen

Treasurer - Peter Kougi

Western Australia

President ~ Graham Bell

grahambell@iinet.net.au

0427 175 699

Closing date for
contributions to next
issue of **Across the Board**
7 November 2020

COVID FACE-TO-FACE TOURNAMENTS

Thank you to those States who are going to extraordinary lengths to get us all back together again. (Victoria is very jealous!)

PRESENCE OF SLURS THAT REFERENCE PERSONAL IDENTITY

In the national media and across the internet, members may have seen the report that the North American Association of Scrabble Players (NASPA) is moving to expunge offensive words from the playing lists used by their players.

At present, over 200 words had been noted as being the subject of the debate. This was in

response to the Black Lives Matter protests which happened globally and here in Australia.

As you might be aware, the North American reference word lists already differ from the Collins Scrabble List which the rest of the world uses anyway.

Australia (CASPA) is a member of the World English Scrabble Players Association (WESPA) which includes NASPA as one of its member organisations. WESPA has not adopted the stand being promulgated by NASPA. However, it is currently undertaking due diligence under its Constitution in working with all of its 28 national member organisations in addressing this debate.

*Carol Johnsen
Coordinator*

Vale Glenys Lawrie



It was sad to hear of the passing of Glenys on 29 June 2020 after a short illness.

From a national viewpoint, Glenys was very instrumental in the formation of a national Scrabble scene in Australia and was a tireless worker for promotion of the game throughout Australia.

Glenys instigated the establishment of CASPA at the 1992 Easter Championship in Hobart and she was W.A.'s representative for 23 years, Coordinator for 9 years; Treasurer for 9 years; Schools Liaison for 3 years between 1992 and 2019.

Her discussions with Cheah Siu Hean in 2003 led to the formation of the international organisation WESPA.

At short notice, Glenys took over the role of Organiser of the successful World Championship held in Perth in 2015.

Over the years, our Association enjoyed a valuable relationship with Mattel in Australia and Glenys, with her

business nous, was able to achieve valuable financial benefits with regard to our public liability insurance, etc. also.

Glenys compiled the Tournament Directors Guidelines, National Scrabble Championship Guidelines and negotiated for the State (Team) Challenge to be part of the Australian Masters.

In her retirement, Glenys enjoyed the company of her Scrabble-playing friends.

Vale Glenys

*Carol Johnsen
CASPA Coordinator*

Around the States

New South Wales

It would be fair to say that the COVID pandemic has had a dividing effect on the Scrabble community, at least in New South Wales. There are those that are happy to play face-to-face in any size group anywhere, those that will only play face-to-face in small groups and those who will not play face-to-face no matter who is the opponent. Then there are those that refuse to play virtually on ISC or Scrabble GO, balanced against those that will only play virtually. There are those that refuse to wear masks and then those who insist upon masks being worn by their opponent.

In NSW we experienced first hand the adverse effects of the pandemic at the Beecroft Post COVID marathon at the Zetler residence. The belief was that there would be many hankering to get back into tournament Scrabble, but the reality was that only 12 rated over 1200 ventured into the fray, held on June 20th, just after the restrictions on groups in people's homes were lifted. Joanne Craig won 11 of her 13 games to emerge a clear winner from Rod Talbot and Noel Barrett, both on 8 wins. Joanne also had the high game of 598 while Sharon Sorenson was the high rating-gainer with 61 points.

A month later in mid July, Tony Hunt staged an outdoor tournament in Gunnamatta

Reserve, Cronulla and provided masks for all players. This time 16 players took part, 6 of who were juniors. Tony won all 6 games to be overall winner, John Barker ran in second with five wins while Garth Van Vliet was third. Juniot Patrick Huynh achieved High Rating Gain with 47 points.

In spite of dwindling numbers, the decision was taken to honour our long-time booking at Revesby Workers Club and stage a combined rendition of the Winter Masters and Challenge in lieu of the advertised two section event. Despite ample space being present for social distancing and all necessary COVID-safe precautions being made available, only 17 people made it to this historical two-day event. Arnold Appelhof, starved of face-to-face scrabble, made the trip down from Queensland, and prior to the event Tournament Director George Khamis showed off his Rural Fire Service gear, a qualification he had obtained during the Scrabble hiatus. We also welcomed Steven Savona back for his second event.

The tournament was fiercely competitive with Ivor Zetler holding the lead at the end of the first day. With repeat pairings Victor Tung soon took the lead on the second day, but Joanne Craig powered home to record yet another victory, albeit only by spread over Victor. Both had 13 wins of the 18 games, with



Beecroft Marathon held on June 20

Bob Jackman one win away finishing in third place. Joanne recorded High Game with 602 with Ivor Zetler gaining 91 ratings points due to his day 1 scalps.

On the club scene, one of our long-standing clubs Ramsgate Strictly Social lost their convenor in Irene Chisholm who sadly passed away in July. The ongoing status of that group is not known.

It has been pleasing to see many renewals come through as it is considered that a healthy membership is necessary for keeping organised Scrabble in New South Wales going post pandemic. Those of you reading this who have not renewed are asked to do so at your earliest convenience, upon receipt of this magazine.

Annual General Meeting

At this stage it is intended to hold the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 4th October on day 2 of the NSW Championships, probably at Revesby Workers Club. All positions will be declared vacant and a new committee will be elected. Members wanting a matter discussed at the meeting should send their agenda item to the Secretary, Liz Jackman, by email to lizjackman04@hotmail.com

Queensland

While the Covid Virus put a halt to Scrabble clubs and tournaments it didn't stop avid Queensland Scrabblers from finding ways to

play their favourite game. Many continued playing online but as soon as regulations permitted, groups began to get together to play in each other's homes. From Townsville to Toowoomba, Redcliffe and West End to Southport and many more places, we still managed to get our face to face Scrabble fix. How good it was though to play a real tournament on August 2nd when after jumping through lots of hoops, we finally got the go ahead to resume tournaments at our regular venue in Brisbane. Everyone was great about keeping all the rules re distancing and sanitizing and wearing masks when playing. See if you can identify some of us from the photos; I am still trying to work out who one of the players is! A great day was had by all who came and we are looking forward to doing it again in Toowoomba on 5th September. In the meantime a few are travelling north to join with Townsville players for some games, and hopefully a rated tournament or two. October should see us back in Brisbane again and after that we shall wait and see. Clubs too are starting to resume and we had our first meet in Toowoomba on 6th August. We feel for members in other States who have not been able to start playing again yet and are especially thinking of our friends in Victoria. Stay safe everyone.

Jane Brown



Queensland tournament August 2

Victoria

"With the increased restrictions in Victoria due to COVID impacting Scrabble in this state, it has been a frustrating time for those of us who enjoy Face to Face Scrabble.

That is not to say that we have been unable to provide something to members at this time. June featured the first ever Virtual Victorian Open, played over three Saturday afternoons, at a time when we would have had our flagship event. Played using Scrabble Go, we were able to secure in app rewards from the Scrabble Go developers, Scopely. This generosity has been hugely appreciated!!!

Dianne Brumby secured the title with Trevor Halsall the best performing Victorian.

July saw us complete the Virtual Sessions, an online equivalent to our popular face to face events. Congratulations go to Norma Fisher, Geoff Shepheard and Tania Millen for winning their respective divisions.

I am forever proud of the way our Committee has been focused on finding activities for our members during COVID. August sees the introduction of Member Zone, providing our members with free activities that will continue even when COVID restrictions ease.

Online Rated Tournaments, Duplicate Scrabble and (eventually) the Scrabble How-Tos (virtual web presentations to help players improve their game) are all there to show our appreciation for the support members give in renewing with us during these unprecedented times.

I am looking forward to presenting results in subsequent ATBs (as well as reports from some of the upcoming events). All that aside, I am equally looking forward to be able to share photos of actual face to face play in a (covid-safe) tournament in the nearish future."

Nick Ivanovski

Western Australia

Passing of Glenys Lawrie

I am saddened to announce that Glenys Lawrie passed away on 15 July following complications that arose from a pancreatic illness.

Glenys founded ASPA(WA) along with representatives from the Bassendean, Yokine

and Rockingham Scrabble clubs in 1988. She served as our President from 1988-2012 and in other committee roles during that time and was our Treasurer for several years under my Presidency. Glenys was awarded life membership of ASPA(WA) in 2015.

Glenys played a pivotal role in establishing our national body, CASPA, which commenced in 1992 and served multiple terms both as its Coordinator and also as WA's State representative.

At an international level Glenys successfully organised the 2015 World Youth Championship and WESPA Championship in Perth, the largest scrabble event ever to be held in Australia.

At a competitive level Glenys was a formidable player. She represented Australia in the inaugural World Scrabble Championship in London in 1991. Glenys was runner up in the 1991 Australian Scrabble Championship in Melbourne and came 3rd in the 1994 Australian Scrabble Championships held in Perth. Glenys also won the WA Championship on seven occasions between 1994-2008 and was a minor placegetter on ten other occasions.

Glenys will not only be missed by our Western Australian Scrabble community, but also by the many people across Australia and internationally who had the opportunity to meet her.

Postponement of WA Championship and AGM

Our last tournament was held early in March. Due to COVID-19 we have postponed our WA Championship and our AGM tournament and hope to be able reschedule both of these events for later this year.

Graham Bell
Chairperson ASPA(WA)

Upcoming Tournaments

WA Championship: 27-28 September (TBC) – Carol Hudson – 9370 5692

Club Directory is on page 12

Discussion Topic

War over words: U.S. Scrabble leader overrules panel to ban slurs

Matthew Lavietes, Oscar Lopez

NEW YORK (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - North American Scrabble competitors will no longer be able to play racist and homophobic slurs from the “N-word” to “bumboy” and “poofs”, the head of the players’ association has said, in an 11th-hour ruling that went against his own advisory board.

John Chew, chief executive of the North American Scrabble Players Association (NASPA), said he was overturning a vote by the board against the proposed change, and would remove a list of more than 230 offensive words from the game.

“We cannot ... continue to look only inward or think that how we feel about our vocabulary is more important than broader social issues,” he said in an emailed statement late on Thursday.

“Accordingly, on behalf of the executive committee, and with the consent of our board of trustees, I am ... overturning the advisory board’s ruling and ensuring that the offensive slurs will be removed from our NASPA Word List by September.”

Language has become a hotly debated topic after protests against racism following the death of George Floyd in U.S. police custody on May 25, with bands, consumer brands, and buildings and roads named after slave traders renamed.

NASPA represents competitive players in the United States and Canada and its list of permitted words also features on many popular Scrabble apps.

The decision came after a poll of its about 2,000 members and the general public showed members were split over removing the “N-word”, but the public in favor of doing so.

Stefan Fatsis, a U.S.-based Scrabble player and author of “Word Freak” a non-fiction narrative of competitive Scrabble, was against the removal of the offensive words.

“Language is different from a statue. You can take down a statue of a confederate general,

but you’re not going to make the ‘N-word’ disappear by saying you can’t play it in a board game,” Fatsis told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“I’d rather people understood why these words are so damaging than to get rid of them altogether and start purging lists of words.”

In a letter to NASPA’s advisory board, published online last month, Chew had argued strongly for the removal of the “N-word” from its word list, saying, “I don’t think that this is the time for us to be contributing divisively to the world’s problems.”

Hasbro, the American toy company which owns the U.S. and Canadian trademark for the popular board game, had previously said that it was changing the official rules to make clear that slurs are “not permissible in any form”.

The company has not allowed offensive slurs in Scrabble’s dictionary since 1994. However, technically, Hasbro does not have control over the nearly 200,000 playable words used by the independent association.

Scrabble, invented in 1933 by unemployed American architect Alfred Mosher Butts, is played competitively in North America by almost 15,000 people, Chew told the Thomson Reuters Foundation earlier.

The World English Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA), which runs international tournaments, is talking to its dictionary’s publisher, Collins, about whether to remove the slurs, chairman Chris Lipe said.



*... and from David Sutton
WESPA - World Scrabble*

So far in this slurs debate I have sought only to listen and understand. What the Americans do with their own word list is their business, and far be it from me to suggest that the road to Scrabble hell is paved with John Chew’s good intentions. But now that it is, apparently, becoming a matter for serious consideration by WESPA as well as NASPA, it seems only fair that as a member of the (CSW) Dictionary Committee, and hence one more intimately involved than most with the Collins word list, I

should clearly set out my own views on the subject.

Words have only such power as we choose to give them. A word becomes offensive if it is used offensively. There is no need to ascribe offensiveness to it otherwise. So, for example, the word NIGGER can be used in a vile way, no doubt about it.

It can also, I am assured by friends in the BAME community, be used in a more or less affectionate way, though I should certainly never presume to use it in such a way myself.

And it can be used in a perfectly neutral way, as on a Scrabble board. The offence is in the intent, and it seems to me simply perverse to look for offence where none is intended.

Whilst I appreciate that some countries have a far bitterer experience of discrimination than my own, I all the same find it hard to achieve a meeting of minds with those who seem determined to construe the mere presence of words on a Scrabble board as an attack on their personal identity, and who are prepared to label as a closet racist or homophobe anyone taking a different view.

When I play LEZ with the Z on a triple letter score, do they seriously believe that I am likely to be thinking 'Aha, up yours, filthy lesbians' rather than '32 points!'? When I play WOGS from a rack of BCGGOSW, do they seriously believe that I am likely to be thinking 'My God, that feels good to exercise my white privilege and keep those lesser breeds in their place' rather than 'Well, that gets rid of the W and one of the Gs, just hope to God I pick up a vowel or two next time'?

I have never seen or heard of any examples or racist or discriminatory behaviour in all my years of playing Scrabble, and I note that this view is shared by colleagues of mine on the Dictionary Committee with far more experience of the international scene than I.

I would say to those who are uncomfortable about seeing offensive words on a Scrabble board, fine, set an example by not playing them yourself, that is your moral choice and I will respect you for it. In a democratic society, we always have the right to police ourselves.

But that does not mean we should always have the right to police others. Of course, you will lose a bunch of points now and then when

playing others who may not share your moral scruples, but you should view that as the rent you pay to your ideal. After all, if you are sincere in your belief that the issues here far transcend a mere board game, you shouldn't be too worried about sometimes losing the said board game for the sake of your principles.

The pro-censorship lobby are trying to persuade us that banning the words they propose would not be a slippery slope. I do not believe them. There is no end to the taking of offence if one is determined to take offence, and how long before other lobbies would get in on the act? Pro-lifers wanting to ban the word 'abortion'? Gender-neutralists wanting to ban the word 'gender'?

In short, I do not wish to see the innocence of our beautiful and already perfectly inclusive game tarnished by what I see as the politicization of our word list, and I would not wish to be party to it.

In fact this whole debate reminds me uncomfortably of a book I read some years ago. What was it called now? Ah yes, '1984', by some chap called Orwell. It's about a utopian future in which one of the social improvements involves the removal from the dictionaries of all words that the powers-that-be do not approve of.

The idea was that if you took the bad words away people would be simply unable to have bad thoughts, or commit 'thoughtcrime' as it was called. I can't remember why Orwell thought this was a bad idea, but I guess he just wasn't woke enough. Anyway, here is the relevant passage for your possible interest: a character called Syme is expounding the principles of 'Newspeak' to our hero Winston Smith.

'It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words... Don't you see that the whole aim of Newspeak is to narrow the range of thought? In the end we shall make thoughtcrime literally impossible, because there will be no words in which to express it... Already, in the Eleventh Edition, we're not far from that point. But the process will still be continuing long after you and I are dead. Every year fewer and fewer words, and the range of consciousness always a little smaller. Even now, of course, there's no reason or excuse for committing

thoughtcrime. It's merely a question of self-discipline, reality-control. But in the end there won't be any need even for that. The Revolution will be complete when the language is perfect'.

I anticipate, from having seen previous postings on this subject, that there will now be talk of 'white male privilege'. I appreciate that feelings run high on these matters, but would

mildly observe that to smear in such a racist and sexist way people who may feel exactly as you do about all forms of bigotry and discrimination, but simply think that politicizing a board game's word list is not a useful or relevant way to tackle them, does not strike me as a debating tactic worthy of this forum.

David Sutton

Vale Lyndee Hill

It was shock to all of us that Lyndee Hill died on Monday.

Lyndee was a lively character and was playing Scrabble in SA until recently. She was a key member of the Henley & Grange Scrabble Club and played many interstate games.

She was a regular player at the Australian Championships and the SA/Victoria Border Challenge. She was a generous member for the Scrabble SA committee and was treasurer for several years.

She reached a peak rating of 1163 in 2011 but was always capable of winning against the better players. Lyndee will be remembered for her happy outlook on life, her fun approach to scrabble, her devotion to family and her enjoyment of the pokies.

*Antony Kimber
Scrabble SA Committee*

Manx Champs Update

All being well for travel, the inaugural Manx Scrabble Championship has been postponed by one year and is booked to take place at the historic Sefton Hotel, Harris Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man on 8&9 May 2021. This will be an ABSP (British) and WESPA (world) rated tournament.

Please send expressions of interest to receive updates to manxscrabble@gmail.com.

You can also call me within Australia on 0413 147 449."

Many thanks ~ Gillian Street

Vale Alan Weinstein

Sadly Alan Weinstein passed away last week. He was sixty three.

Alan was known to many players since he first became involved in the Scrabble scene in the 1990's. He was also a personal friend with an excellent mind and a sharp wit.

Alan had his moments of eccentricity in the Scrabble world. I remember an incident in the early nineties when at a tournament in the Balmain Leagues Club he was drawn to play Vic Langsam. A squabble developed at the start and both refused to draw to play first. Alan won the game but in the coffee break Vic confronted him and stood on the toes of his shoes and the pair had to be separated like a couple of boxers. A few weeks later I was directing the ACT Championships and Alan drew Vic in the first round. I kept a close eye on the game which Alan eventually won. I approached the table and asked them if all was well. Vic announced "I love this man" and the two embraced in a bear hug.

John Holgate

I was saddened and surprised to hear of the passing of Alan Weinstein. Alan was on the scene when I first started. Mostly he would drop into the Chatswood Club but the last time I saw him was about three years ago when he popped into the newly formed Lane Cove Club. I was surprised to see that he had dyed his hair green.

I played him one game and he beat me comprehensively, but when I suggested he play someone else next he left. That was Alan. He was a consummate player who could beat anyone with pure skill, as he was not a studier of words. It was a shame we didn't see more of him over the years.

Bob Jackman

20 Word Quiz

Some tasty sevens and eights. Some might have multiple anagrams, but we are looking for a specific line of commonality.

Level = Expert

Solutions on page 16

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. ABBBIIMP | 11. AEFIJLRZ |
| 2. ACCEEILR | 12. AAACCHM |
| 3. ACEHOTY | 13. EIIMOPRX |
| 4. CEHLNOT | 14. AILNOOPT |
| 5. AADHKNS | 15. EELLNOR |
| 6. AAEFFLL | 16. AAABGRTU |
| 7. AADEFIJO | 17. AIIKKSUY |
| 8. AEFKLNN | 18. AEMPRTU |
| 9. AAFIRTTT | 19. EILLORTT |
| 10. AGHLOSU | 20. EIMMSTZ |

Receiving ATB

Our magazine, *Across the Board (ATB)* is produced in an electronic format as well as a hard copy. If your membership is up-to-date, you will receive your hard copy every quarter as usual. If you have requested an electronic copy, it will be emailed to you by your State's Membership Officer.

To read this version and take advantage of navigation tools, you will need a recent version of Adobe Reader, which is a free download from <http://www.adobe.com>.

If you wish to receive the ATB via email, please notify your State Membership Officer.

Contacts for Membership Officers appear on the website and on page 2:

<http://www.scrabble.org.au/about/states.htm>

Editor: Richard Birch richardbirch@me.com

WORD BUILDER

Collins 2019 words shaded for ease of identification

All core words by length to 9 letters, with part of speech and hooks designated for each word.

343 pages - A5 format

\$40 including postage ~ Mail cheque to:

Bob Jackman, 31 Gwandalan Crescent,

Berowra NSW 2081

MAGNIFICENT SEVENS

A new word book from

Bob Jackman

The complete guide to seven-letter words (*soon to be updated to CSW19*) with part of speech and hook status designated for each word.

Nearly 5000 definitions of unusual verbs, adjectives, gerunds and heavy letter sevens, now at your fingertips

174 pages – A5 format

\$22.00 includes postage

Mail cheque to: Bob Jackman

31 Gwandalan Crescent

Berowra NSW 2081

Contributions to Across the Board

We are always looking for items of interest to publish in your magazine. If you have an idea but not sure how to go about getting it included, just email the Editor outlining what you have in mind. We are happy to include high resolution photos of Scrabble related events, short stories, annotated games, puzzles, articles on strategy or word power. When submitting by email, be sure to include "ATB" in the subject line. richardbirch@me.com

New App

iOS only, and untested by this column

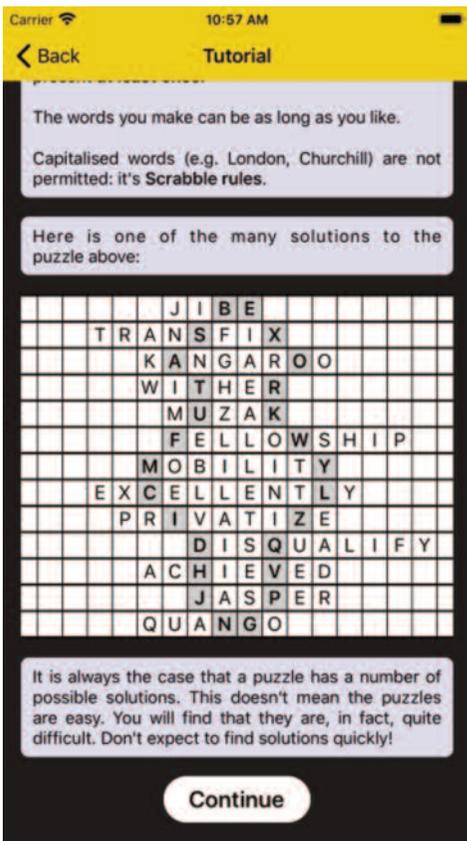
Hi there. My name is Graham Smith. I'm from Reading in England. I'm useless at Scrabble, but I have devised a challenging word puzzle which involves thinking of (Scrabble) words 'that will fit'. It may well be of interest to your community.

The puzzle is now available as a not-for-profit app – free to download and free of adverts. I've called it Lazy Dog ('The quick brown fox ...') because its theme is the alphabet. All 26 letters come into play.

The app is for iPhones and iPads, so it is on App Store. Here is a link to it: <https://tinyurl.com/lazydogpuzzle>

Alternatively, find it by searching for 'Lazy Dog Word Puzzle'.

Graham Smith



Collins Offer

To order and received a 30% discount on the Collins Official Scrabble Words paperback visit [Collins.co.uk](https://collins.co.uk/products/9780008320133)

<https://collins.co.uk/products/9780008320133>

*and quote **ScrabbleWords30** at the checkout**

**Offer valid until 31st December 2020.*

Delivery charges apply.

Best wishes

Victoria Goodhew

Campaign Manager

**THE NEWS BUILDING
HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS
1 LONDON BRIDGE STREET
LONDON
SE1 9GF**

PHONE: +44 (0) 208 307 4291



Club Directory

Any changes to this club directory should be made to the Editor editor@scrabble.org.au as well as your State representative. Club information to be limited to name of club, time of operation, club contact and contact phone number. Full details can be obtained by visiting <http://www.scrabble.org.au/clubs/index.htm>

ACT (area code 02)

Woden Weds 7pm Tim Reddan (02) 6179 5000

Woden Thurs 9am ~ Barbara Magi ~ 0419 820 437

Gungahlin Sunday (Under 18s only) 12:30pm ~ John Hamilton ~ 0400 650 349

New South Wales (area code 02)

Banora Point ~ Fri 1-3pm ~ Anne Bennett ~ 5513 0319

Baulkham Hills~Tue 7pm~Chris Ostrowski~0410 448 286

Belmont ~ Mon pm ~ Bob Burr ~ 0431 887 087

Blacktown ~ Thur 9.30am-3pm ~

Jan Pincott ~ 0421 103 910

Bomaderry ~ Wed 10:30am-4:30pm ~

Margaret Neal 0428 429 077

Bondi ~ Wed 7.30 pm ~ Owen Fisher ~ 0412 931 440

Bowral 2nd & 4th Fridays, Sylvia Carless 0419 165 293

Brisbane Waters~Wed 6.30-9.30pm ~ Trish Windhurst ~ 4341 9929

Brunswick Valley, Tues 1-4pm, Barbara Hancock ~ 0479 183 183

Bundanoon, 1st-3rd Wed ~ 10am-4pm Sandy Mackenzie 0423 518 947

Cessnock ~ Thurs 9.30-1.00 pm. 4990 9599,

Coffs Harbour ~ Wed 1-4pm ~ Keith Bancroft ~ 0421 334 216

Empire Bay ~ Tue 9.15-12.30 ~ Shirley Crocker 4369 2634

Inner West Day (Marrickville) ~ Tues 9.30-13.30, Sue Tuckett, 0401 644 096

Kiama ~ Tues 4pm ~ 8pm ~ Marie Dalton ~ 4233 2778

Lake Macquarie ~ Thurs ~ 10-1.00pm ~ Morisset Library, 39 Yambo St Morisset 4921 0573

Lane Cove 2nd-4th Thur, 6.00 ~ Anne Hrovat 0414 560 536

Lismore ~ Wed 11-3 pm ~ Ademiyi Johnson ~ 6622 0649

Macarthur, 2nd&4th Wed 7pm, Tony Hunt 0417 470167

Maitland ~ Tue 10-2pm ~ Pam Rowlands ~ 0421 111 253

Mittagong 2nd-4th Tues, 10am-4pm, George Khamis 0405 201 552

Moulamein ~ Tues 7.30 pm ~

Josef Peeters ~ 0497 001 284

Newcastle ~ Sat 11.30-3.30pm ~ Julie Russell 4956 3008.

Nowra ~ Sat from 12.30 ~ Rodney Wallace 0412 931 780

Oatlands ~ Wednesday 9.30am-4pm ~

Lauraine Overton 9626 9359

Orange ~ Alt Sun from 2pm ~ Audrey Ferris ~ 6362 0068

Ourimbah ~ Thurs 10 ~2pm ~ Sandra Elliott 0410 438 525

Port Macquarie, Tues 1-3pm, Wayne Willis 0415 572 017

Ramsgate ~ Thurs 1-4.30 ~ TBA

Revesby ~ Tue from 7pm ~ Peter Griffiths 0432 638 994

Sanctuary Point ~ Thurs 12.30 - 4.30 ~ Margaret Hille 0437 708 672

South West Rocks ~ Alternate Thurs 10am ~ 4pm ~ Shirley Winkler ~ 6566 7220

St George ~ Tues 10-3pm ~ Jo Anne Deady ~ 9718 4069

Sutherland ~ Thur 10.30-4.00 ~ Ann Fiddler-9589 0128

Sydney ~ Monthly Sunday Comp 11.30am ~ Cheryl Michler, 0408 595 219

Sydney's West ~ All Fri ~ Frances de Lange ~ 9671 7336

Tahmoor ~ Mon from 1pm ~ Murray Hamer 4655 6755

Terrigal ~ Mon 10am~2pm ~ Mike Oxby ~ 4332 6485

Tumut ~ Fri 10am ~ 3pm ~ Bev Sutton ~ 6947 6505

Turrumurra ~ Tues 6pm ~ Nanette Reynolds ~ 9487 3912

Ulladulla ~ Mon 1pm ~ 5pm ~ Gary Pollard ~ 4456 5139

Umina Beach ~ Wed 9-12pm ~ Doreen Picker 0407 297 713

Wagga Wagga ~ Wed 7pm ~ Norm Byng 0418 293 453

Waverley ~ Tue 1 pm ~ Devorah Ullman ~ 0434 190 396

Wollongong ~ Mon evening and Friday daytime ~ Rene Chelton ~ 4283 2442

Woy Woy ~ Thur noon-4pm ~ Denise Smith ~ 4365 5645

Queensland (area code 07)

Albert & Logan, Mon 12-4.30p.m., Marilyn Smith 040 3205 040

Banora Point, Fri 1-3 pm, Anne Bennett 5513 0319

Bargara, Thu 1.30pm Virginia Christian 4159 1935

Brisbane City, Fri 11am-3pm ~ Bronya Todd 0414 185 746

Brunswick Valley, Tues 1-4pm, Barbara Hancock 0479 183 183

Bundaberg, Liz Blanch 4155 2231

Cairns ~ Caroline Polak Scowcroft ~ 0400 427 627

Coominya, Tues 6.30pm, Matthew Forno 0417 446 556

Coorparoo, Tues 9am-1pm, Benita O'Neill ~ 3398 4494

Lismore, Weds 1pm, Ademiyi Johnson, (02) 6622 0649

Logan City, Tues noon ~ 4.30pm,

Karrin Henderson 3133 3204

Palm Beach, Fri, Rita Humphrey Mobile: 0400 843 548

Redcliffe, Weds 1pm, Trish Brighton 0402 736 532
Redcliffe, Thurs 7pm, Trish Brighton 0402 736 532
Southport, Weds 1pm ~ Diana McManus 0419 022 520
Sunshine Coast ~ Nambour RSL ~ Fridays 2-4pm ~
Anna Palmer ~ 07 5457 3116 or M: 0401 799 650.
Toowoomba, Thurs 6.30pm, Jane Brown 0417 903 079
Townsville, 2nd Weds of month ~ 5.30-8.30 p.m., Julie
Walder. 4740 4175, Mob 0408 011 185.
Underwood, Tues 1-6pm, Marilyn Smith 040 3205 040

South Australia (area code 08)

Adelaide Pub Scrabble
Mondays and Wednesdays
6-10pm Adam Kretschmer 0458 822 933
Adelaide Pub Scrabble
most Sat 12 noon Adam Kretschmer 0458 822 933
Blackwood Wed 12 noon ~Margaret Gibson 8381 4570
Brighton Thu 12.30 pm Joan King ~ 8443 9410
Campbelltown - Sat 11am - Alison Hall - 8366 9358
Henley and Grange ~ Fri ~ 12.30pm ~ Lyndee Hill ~
0423 207 650
Maslins Beach Wed 1pm ~ Rosemarie Mitchell
0448 948 224
Noarlunga ~ Wed 7.30pm Robyn Davill - 0401 364 019
Nuriootpa Tuesday ~ 1.30pm Judith Bailey 8562 1107
Port Adelaide Library - Monday 2:30-5:30 -
Rachel Telfer - 8405 6584
Prospect - Tue 1:30pm - Louisa Atsas - 0432 907 646
Seaside (Yankalilla) ~ Mon ~ 1pm ~ Lorraine Downes ~
8558 2549
Seaford ~ Fri ~ 1-4pm ~ Eileen Baldwin 8386 3319
Victor Harbor Wed 1pm ~ Betty Mitchell ~ 8554 2191

Tasmania (area code 03)

Beaumaris ~ Sun 2pm ~ Marion Merickel ~ 6372 5337
Bellerive ~ Thu 7pm ~ Margaret Bishop ~ 6244 5545
Glenorchy ~ Tue 1pm ~ Jill Norton ~ 6228 1861
Kingborough ~ Tue 7.30pm ~ Khen Meering ~ 6229 5840
Ulverstone ~ Wed 9.30am ~ Jan Hill ~ 6425 5415

Victoria (area code 03)

Ballarat ~ Tues 10m ~ Marjorie Clark ~ 0456 098 982
Balwyn ~ Mon 1pm ~ Marj Miller ~ 9850 2366

Bentleigh - Mondays 1pm-4pm (during School terms) -
Carol Johnsen 0476 639 195
Box Hill ~ 1st& 3rd Tue 1pm ~ Marj Bloom ~ 9808 1386
Cranbourne ~ Monday 9.30am-1pm ~ Cranbourne
Library ~ Katie Rowe ~ 0420 934 176
Essendon ~ Tue 7pm ~ Rob York ~ 0417 512 535
Fairfield/Northcote ~ Mon 7-9pm ~
Rob York ~ 0417 512 535
Fitzroy - Occasional - Nick Ivanovski - 0412 175 251
Frankston ~ Wed 1pm ~ Brenda Thurgar ~ 5971 5686
Frankston North ~ Sat 1-5pm ~ Ray Alford ~ 5977 0819
Geelong ~ Sat 1.30pm ~ Marlene Ellis ~ 5275 0363
Golden Age (Mt Waverley) ~ Mondays - 9.30-3pm and
Wed 9.30am-3pm ~ Christiane McCann ~ 0432 290 880
Greensborough Tue 12.30pm ~
Marisa Nuccitelli ~ 9459 4529
Langwarrin ~ Tue 7pm ~ Dorothy Rice ~ 9775 6150
Mt Martha ~ Tue 1pm ~ Marjorie Barnes ~ 0402 081 466
Paynesville ~ Tues 10am ~ Sylvia Galloway ~ 5156 7443
Rosanna ~ 2nd & 4th Thurs ~ 6.30pm ~
Rob Hutchinson ~ 0407 533 525
Sunbury ~ Mondays 3-6pm ~
Norma Fisher ~ 0450 356 407
Watsonia ~ Wed 12-3pm ~ Angie Winkler ~ 9439 1634.
Welshpool ~ Mon 7pm ~ Jeanette Swann ~ 0429 702 122
Wodonga ~ Thur 1st & 3rd 5-8pm ~
Ruth Grogan ~ 0448 989 833

Western Australia (area code 08)

Albany ~ Mon 10am ~ Jane Taylor ~ 0429 448 666
Bassendean ~ Wed 9am ~ Anne Stewart ~ 0410 346 849
Bunbury ~ Fri 9am ~ Marie Cross ~ 9721 5704
Darlington ~ Tue 9am ~ Carmelita Maxwell ~ 9299 6713
Esperance ~ Sat 1pm ~ Ann Wallace ~ 0412 942 205
Floreat ~ Tues 12.30pm ~ Wendy Naunton ~ 9446 3108
Hammersley ~ Tues 1pm ~ Joan Dye ~ 9345 4275
Hammersley ~ Sat 1pm ~ Mike Clarke ~ 0438 606 617
Mandurah ~ Wed 8.30am ~ Marg Fisher ~ 9581 6852
Manjimup ~ Wed 1 pm ~ Pat Parkinson ~ 9771 2882
Melville ~ Mon 10am ~ Alan Mathews ~ 0400 330 615
Nedlands ~ Tues 9.45 am ~ Chris Hassell ~
0428 846 325
Perth ~ Thurs 9 am ~ Anne Stewart ~ 0410 346 849
Rockingham ~ Mon 9.15am ~ Dee Harrison ~
0431 345 139
Spearwood ~ Tues 10 am ~ Jenny Coetzee ~ 9434 9349

Records 2020 so far...

| | | |
|---|-------------|---|
| <i>Highest game score</i> | 682 | Joanne Craig (NSW) 25.01.2020 |
| | 653 | Bob Jackman (NSW) 25.01.2020 |
| | 647 | David Eldar (Vic) 27.01.2020 |
| | 642 | Graeme Lock Lee (NSW) 02.02.2020 |
| | 641 | Joanne Craig (NSW) 02.02.2020 |
| | 629 | Andrew Fisher (Vic) 27.01.2020 |
| | 617 | Norma Tracey(NSW) 01.03.2020 |
| | 607 | Edward Okulicz (Vic) 04.01.2020 |
| <i>Largest game margin</i> | 444 | Bob Jackman (NSW) vs Arlene Williams (ACT) at 25.01.2020; 653-209 |
| <i>Highest drawn game</i> | 415 | Chris May (NSW) vs Graeme Lock Lee (NSW) 13.01.2020 |
| <i>Highest combined score</i> | 1041 | Esther Perrins (NSW) 547 vs Chris May (NSW) 504; 27.01.2020 |
| <i>Highest losing score</i> | 504 | Chris May (NSW) vs Esther Perrins (NSW) 547; 27.01.2020 |
| <i>Highest word</i> | 176 | WHITT LER, Dawn Boyle (Tas) 15.03.2020 |
| <i>Highest opening play</i> | 92 | JIT TERS, Antony Kimber (SA) 11.01.2020 |
| <i>Highest play, non-bonus</i> | 135 | s(WITC HER, Emanuel Atsas (SA) 11.01.2020 |
| <i>Highest play, non-triple-triple</i> | 134 | QUIN IES, Karen Richards (Qld) 23.02.2020 |
| <i>Longest word</i> | | |
| <i>Most consecutive bonus words by individual in a game</i> | 3 | Joanne Craig (NSW): AUDI ENT, HAN DLIK(E), BAND IES; 25.01.2020 |
| <i>Most bonus words in a game</i> | 6 | Joanne Craig (NSW): SCAL IER, ETA ErIO, ELOIN ER, AUDI ENT, HAN DLIK(E), BAND IES; 25.01.2020 |
| <i>Highest average margin</i> | 494 | David Eldar (Vic) 23.02.2020 (7 games) |
| | 493 | Michael Cameron (SA) 08.02.2020 (5 games) |
| | 479 | Cameron Farlow (Qld) 12.01.2020 (8 games) |
| | 475 | Jeffery Lam (NSW) 04.01.2020 (9 games) |
| | 473 | David Vanzyl (WA) 16.01.2020 (5 games) |
| | | David Eldar (Vic) 25.01.2020 (9 games) |
| <i>Longest winning streak</i> | 255 | Jeffery Lam (NSW) 04.01.2020 (9 games) |

| Category | Record | Details |
|----------|------------|--|
| | 144 | Jenni Henderson (WA) 02.02.2020 (5 games) |
| | 133 | Cameron Farlow (Qld) 12.01.2020 (8 games) Michael Cameron (SA) 08.02.2020 (5 games) |
| | 132 | David Eldar (Vic) 23.02.2020 (7 games) |
| | 130 | David Vanzyl (WA) 16.01.2020 (5 games) |

Longest winning streak

20 Years Ago

10 YEARS AGO

ATB September 2000

Page 1

Important Advice. This is the most important advice you'll ever get.

Always keep a balanced rack: a few vowels, a few consonants, and a few blanks.

Albert Hahn, Canadian WSC rep

Page 10

Having a bad spell – Graeme Lock Lee (NSW)

In a Wollongong Club tournament in March, I drew a highly improbable first rack which prompted me to start changing 5 tiles. The rack was **GSWXY?**. As I reached for the bag I realised there was a bingo in there pronounced “wizzy-wig”. Down went **WYSYWiG***. A challenge ensued and I regathered the letters. Scouring my memory for inspiration, I re-arranged the letters to **wiSvWYG*** and tried again. Another challenge saw me recall the letters again. Amazingly, a hook was still available, so finally I tried **wYSivYG** for 93 points. Suddenly I realised that there should have been no excuse for misspelling the word since the letters stand for “*what you see is what you get*”.

Moral of the story: If at first you don't succeed, don't try, try again, just stop to think.

Editor's note:

I promise not to use this a 4th time in 2030



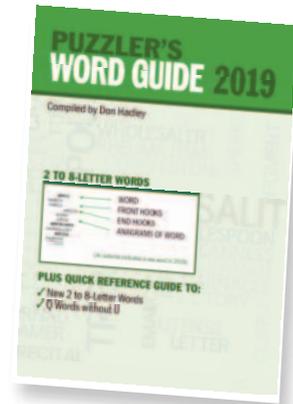
Need a missing tile?

We may have what you want – no cost to you.

Contact Carol Johnsen
caroljscrabble@gmail.com
0476 639 195

A photo of a tile from the set would assist.

The WORD GUIDE



available from **Don Hadley**,
 10 Barnard Street, Gladstone NSW 2440
 email dh101187@gmail.com
 \$40.00 plus postage and packing

Results Roundup

A smattering of events to report. Results Roundup will sometimes include ISC events as well as regular tournaments. Enjoy anyway. Editor

ACT

No conventional tournaments in this period

22.07.2020 ISC #3 (Hypothetical Results)

OPEN: 1 Ronnie Bennett; 2 Karen Richards; 3 Noel Barrett; **HG** Julie Brice 621; **HW** Heather Long **TRUCKING** 212

NSW

20.06.2020 BEECROFT POST COVID19

OPEN: 1 Joanne Craig; 2 Rod Talbot; 3 Noel Barrett; **HG** Joanne Craig 598

25.07.2020 Winter Masters

A SECTION: 1 Joanne Craig; 2 Victor Tung; 3 Bob Jackman; **HG** Joanne Craig 602; **HW** Joanne Craig **SERRANOS** 149

QLD

Winter 02.08.2020

OPEN: 1 Cameron Farlow; 2 Roberta Tait; 3 Jane Brown; **HG** Cameron Farlow 513; **HW** Karrin Henderson **SEQUINS** 108

SA

12.07.2020 SA July

A: 1 Daniel Piechnick; 2 Carmel Dodd; 3 Michael Cameron; **HG** Daniel Piechnick 529; **HW** Michael Cameron **CISTVAEN** 101

B: 1 Antony Kimber; 2 Jane Taylor; 3 Tracey Kneebone; 3 **HG** Antony Kimber **HW** Antony Kimber **BOASTER** 103

C: 1 Julie Robins; 2 Judy Mansfield; 3 Karyn Crease; **HG** Julie Robins 459; **HW** Julie Robins **INFLAME** 85

D: 1 Elana Jaremyrn; 2 Baheej Al Kassem; 3 Paula Brown; **HG** Baheej Al Kassem 475; **HW** Baheej Al Kassem **JOISTED** 110

02.08.2020 SA August

A: 1 Daniel Piechnick; 2 Adam Kretschmer; 3 Michael Cameron; **HG** Jane Taylor 569; **HW** Simon Walton **EVICTEES** 102

B: 1 Judy Mansfield; 2 Francoise Finlayson 3 Antony Kimber; **HG** Judy Mansfield 514; **HW** Antony Kimber **ROTATED** 99

C: 1 Victoria Gates; 2 Julie Robins; 3 Baheej Al Kassem; **HG** Louisa Atsas 479; **HW** Victoria Gates **COOINGS** 102

TAS

20.06.2020 Belljun

OPEN: 1 Stephen Mooney Pursell; 2 Martin Rose; 3 Khen Meerding; **HG** Martin Rose 552; **HW** Penny Wells **STANDBY** 93

VIC

No conventional tournaments in this period

WA

No conventional tournaments in this period

20 Word Quiz

Solutions from page 10

All Food related and some quite obscure.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. BIBIMBAP | 8. FLANKEN | 15. RELLENO |
| 2. CELERIAC | 9. FRITTATA | 16. RUTABAGA |
| 3. CHAYOTE | 10. GOULASH | 17. SUKIYAKI |
| 4. CHOLENT | 11. JALFREZI | 18. TEMPURA |
| 5. DHANSAK | 12. MACHACA | 19. TORTELLI |
| 6. FALAFEL | 13. MIREPOIX | 20. TZIMMES |
| 7. FEIJOADA | 14. NOPALITO | |

I've received some feedback after the Cronulla and the Revesby tournaments concerning measures in place as a result of Covid-19

Some players said one problem with wearing a mask is fogging. I had to deal with this one early on in Uber driving - it's one thing having a mask fog up when you're in charge of scrabble tiles, another when you're in charge of driving passengers around Sydney roads.

Easy fix - I find if I spray with lens cleaner prior to wearing mask, fogging greatly diminished - also I've found you can also slightly modify breathing technique - but if that sounds too hard - lens cleaner. Keep breathing.

Discomfort - frankly, a pretty crap excuse. I find them a bit uncomfortable nowadays but maybe I'm used to them. The point to remember is that they are there to prevent aerosol transmission of the virus - not to fulfill a legal obligation to wear them (at the moment anyway, but watch this space, Sydney).

Which is why I mandated that players at Cronulla were to wear masks ONLY when playing. Sustained face to face with another person at less than 1.5 metres. I've never been on a ventilator - never want to be - but I believe they are less comfortable than masks - and scarier.

I also suspect it was easier for people to wear masks because everyone else was - you would have stood out if you didn't have your mask on at Cronulla. This was helped by me making it a condition of entry.

By contrast, at Revesby, masks were optional. There George and I stood out as we were the only ones wearing them.

This virus is not going away soon, so I feel we all need to do our bit to normalise safe behaviour.

My advice to anyone running a Scrabble tournament during this pandemic - make wearing of masks compulsory.

Don't create a situation where you put people in the awkward position of having to ask you to wear a mask..

Another thing- I was never advised to recommend gloves. The advice for Revesby was that the use of gloves and masks was to be highly recommended. My combining a measure that is ineffective with a measure that is highly effective sends a strange message.

And diminishes the important message

A bit like saying that you need to wear purple socks and a seat belt when driving.

Hand sanitiser - a real hit! Everyone seems to love it and even spotted a few players deeply inhaling with cupped hands after applying. Fantastic for killing the dreaded virus if it got on your tile-pickers, not so great for stopping the hitchhikers on the aerosol droplets. If it's on every table, people seem to use it.

I'd like to hear how Coorparoo goes - some nutjobs that came up from Victoria have been running around Brisbane and not isolating after testing positive.

Stay safe, Tony

WINNING WORDS (Updated for Collins 2019)

All the twos, threes and fours logically grouped into hooks and part of speech, with definitions of all unusual words, new words italicised, large font for easy reading.

The perfect word study tool for new players. 138 pages - A5 format

\$20 includes postage: Mail cheque to:

Bob Jackman, 31 Gwandalan Crescent, Berowra NSW 2081

One of my favourite suffixes is LIKE, as it is not surprising as to how often it appears on our racks. Here are the 7- and 8-letter ones.

ANIMALS

ANTLIKE
 APELIKE
 BATLIKE
 BEARLIKE
 BEELIKE
 BIRDLIKE
 CALFLIKE
 CARPLIKE
 CATLIKE
 CLAMLIKE
 COCKLIKE
 COWLIKE
 CRABLIKE
 CROWLIKE
 DEERLIKE
 DOGLIKE
 DOVELIKE
 EELLIKE
 FAUNLIKE
 FAWNLIKE
 FISHLIKE
 FROGLIKE
 FOXLIKE
 GNATLIKE
 GOATLIKE
 HARELIKE
 HAWKLIKE
 HERDLIKE
 HENLIKE
 HIVELIKE
 HOGLIKE
 KIDLIKE
 LAMBLIKE
 LIONLIKE
 LYNXLIKE
 MOLELIKE
 MOTHLIKE
 OWLLIKE
 PIGLIKE
 PUSSLIKE

RATLIKE
 SEALLIKE
 SLUGLIKE
 SWANLIKE
 TOADLIKE
 WASPLIKE
 WOLFLIKE
 WORMLIKE

BODYPARTS

ARMLIKE
 ASSLIKE
 BEAKLIKE
 BONELIKE
 CLAWLIKE
 COCKLIKE
 COMBLIKE
 EARLIKE
 EYELIKE
 FANGLIKE
 FINLIKE
 FURLIKE
 FOOTLIKE
 GUTLIKE
 HAIRLIKE
 HANDLIKE
 HEADLIKE
 HIPLIKE
 HOOFLIKE
 HORNLIKE
 HUMPLIKE
 JAWLIKE
 KNEELIKE
 LAMBLIKE
 LENSLIKE
 LEGLIKE
 LIPLIKE
 LOBELIKE
 LUNGLIKE
 NECKLIKE
 NOSELIKE

PALMLIKE
 PUSLIKE
 RIBLIKE
 SKINLIKE
 TAILLIKE
 TEARLIKE
 TITLIKE
 TOELIKE
 TUSKLIKE
 VEINLIKE
 WARTLIKE
 WINGLIKE
 WOMBLIKE

PEOPLE

AUNTLIKE
 BABYLIKE
 ELFLIKE
 GODLIKE
 HAGLIKE
 KINGLIKE
 LADYLIKE
 LIFELIKE
 LORDLIKE
 MANLIKE
 NUNLIKE
 POETLIKE
 POPELIKE
 SERFLIKE
 SONLIKE
 WAIFLIKE
 WIFELIKE

FOOD

BEANLIKE
 CORMLIKE
 EGGLIKE
 FIGLIKE
 HERBLIKE
 HUSKLIKE
 LARDLIKE

MILKLIKE
 MINTLIKE
 NUTLIKE
 OATLIKE
 PEALIKE
 PIKELIKE
 PITHLIKE
 PLUMLIKE
 PODLIKE

HORTICULTURAL

BARKLIKE
 BUSHLIKE
 FERNLIKE
 FLAXLIKE
 GUMLIKE
 HEMPLIKE
 IVYLIKE
 JADELIKE
 JUTELIKE
 LEAFLIKE
 LILYLIKE
 MOSSLIKE
 OAKLIKE
 PINELIKE
 REEDLIKE
 ROOTLIKE
 ROSELIKE
 SALTLIKE
 SEEDLIKE
 SOUPLIKE
 STEMLIKE
 TEALIKE
 TREELIKE
 TURFLIKE
 TWIGLIKE
 VINELIKE
 WEEDLIKE
 WHEYLIKE

GENERAL

ADZELIKE
 AIRLIKE
 AGUELIKE
 ARCHLIKE
 AXELIKE
 BAGLIKE
 BALMLIKE
 BANDLIKE
 BARNLIKE
 BEADLIKE
 BEAMLIKE
 BEDLIKE
 BELTLIKE
 BIBLIKE
 BOATLIKE
 BOLTLIKE
 BOOKLIKE
 BOWLLIKE
 BOWLIKE
 BOXLIKE
 BUDLIKE
 BURLIKE
 CAGELIKE
 CAPLIKE
 CAPELIKE
 CAVELIKE
 CLAYLIKE
 CLUBLIKE
 COATLIKE
 COKELIKE
 CONELIKE
 CORDLIKE
 CORKLIKE
 CUBELIKE
 CULTLIKE
 CUSPLIE
 DAWNLIKE
 DICELIKE
 DISCLIKE
 DISHLIKE

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| DISKLIKE | HOELIKE | MOATLIKE | RUFFLIKE | TANKLIKE |
| DOMELIKE | HOMELIKE | MOONLIKE | RUGLIKE | TAPELIKE |
| DOORLIKE | HOODLIKE | NESTLIKE | RUNELIKE | TENTLIKE |
| DOWNLIKE | HOOKLIKE | NETLIKE | RUSHLIKE | TIDELIKE |
| DROPLIKE | HOOPLIKE | NIBLIKE | SACLIKE | TILELIKE |
| DRUMLIKE | HOSELIKE | NOOKLIKE | SACKLIKE | TINLIKE |
| DUNELIKE | HUTLIKE | NOVALIKE | SANDLIKE | TOMBLIKE |
| DUSTLIKE | HYMNLIKE | OARLIKE | SAWLIKE | TOYLIKE |
| CUPLIKE | ICELIKE | ORBLIKE | SCABLIKE | TRAPLIKE |
| DISLIKE | INKLIKE | OVENLIKE | SCUMLIKE | TUBLIKE |
| EPICLIKE | IRONLIKE | PANLIKE | SEAMLIKE | TUBELIKE |
| FADLIKE | JAMLIKE | PARKLIKE | SHEDLIKE | UNALIKE |
| FANLIKE | JAZZLIKE | PEAKLIKE | SICLIKE | URNLIKE |
| FATLIKE | JETLIKE | PEGLIKE | SIGHLIKE | VANLIKE |
| FELTLIKE | JIGLIKE | PENLIKE | SILKLIKE | VASELIKE |
| FILMLIKE | KILTLIKE | PIPELIKE | SKYLIKE | VEILLIKE |
| FLAPLIKE | KITELIKE | PITLIKE | SLABLIKE | VESTLIKE |
| FOAMLIKE | KNOBLIKE | PLAYLIKE | SLITLIKE | VICELIKE |
| FORKLIKE | KNOTLIKE | POMELIKE | SNAGLIKE | VISELIKE |
| FUMELIKE | LACELIKE | POSTLIKE | SNOWLIKE | VOLELIKE |
| FUSELIKE | LAKELIKE | POTLIKE | SOAPLIKE | WANDLIKE |
| GAMELIKE | LATHLIKE | PUMPLIKE | SONGLIKE | WARLIKE |
| GATELIKE | LAVALIKE | QUAYLIKE | SOULLIKE | WAVELIKE |
| GEMLIKE | LAWLIKE | RAKELIKE | SPARLIKE | WAXLIKE |
| GERMLIKE | LINELIKE | RASHLIKE | SPURLIKE | WEBLIKE |
| GLENLIKE | LOFTLIKE | RAYLIKE | STARLIKE | WHIPLIKE |
| GLUELIKE | LOOPLIKE | RINGLIKE | STEPLIKE | WIGLIKE |
| GOADLIKE | LUTELIKE | ROBELIKE | STUDLIKE | WIRELIKE |
| GONGLIKE | MAPLIKE | ROCKLIKE | SUCHLIKE | WISPLIKE |
| GULFLIKE | MASKLIKE | RODLIKE | SUITLIKE | WOOLLIKE |
| HALOLIKE | MASTLIKE | ROOFLIKE | SUNLIKE | |
| HATLIKE | MAZELIKE | ROPELIKE | SURFLIKE | |
| HOBLIKE | MISLIKE | RUBYLIKE | TAGLIKE | |

... and as prefix

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| LIKEABLE | LIKELY | LIKENS | LIKEWAKES |
| LIKEABLY | LIKENED | LIKERS | LIKEWALK |
| LIKELIER | LIKENESS | LIKEST | LIKEWALKS |
| LIKELIEST | LIKENING | LIKEWAKE | LIKEWISE |

Here is a board towards the end of a game, and curiously, many of the words have become all too familiar over the last few weeks.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | I | F | | |
| 2 | | | G | | | Z | | B | | | | | R | | |
| 3 | | | L | | | O | P | E | N | | Q | U | I | E | T |
| 4 | G | | O | | | O | R | D | | | U | | E | | |
| 5 | R | V | | | | M | O | | | | A | | N | | |
| 6 | A | R | E | | | | T | | V | | R | | D | I | E |
| 7 | P | A | | | | | E | | I | | A | | | | |
| 8 | H | I | | M | | | C | O | R | O | N | A | | | |
| 9 | | N | | A | | I | T | | U | T | | | | | |
| 10 | | B | | S | | S | | | S | | I | | | | |
| 11 | L | O | C | K | D | O | W | N | | | N | | | | |
| 12 | | W | O | | | L | | | | | E | L | | | |
| 13 | | | U | | | A | | | | | | I | | | |
| 14 | | | G | | S | T | A | Y | | S | A | F | E | | |
| 15 | | | H | | | E | | | | | | E | | | |

The two blanks are **O**, making **GLOVE**, and **S** making **ISOLATE**. Your rack is **DEEITXY**. Your opponent has a **J**.

It is your turn to play, and you need to:

- ascertain whether your opponent's **J** can play;
- and, if it can, block the position.

You then have to play your (remaining) tiles to accrue the highest score. To do this you may decide to play off the tiles slowly ... or quickly.

Hint: Playing tiles slowly is likely to score you more points. For example, playing **YEH** in the bottom left-hand corner will score 27. But if you played **EH** for 5, then **YEH** for 27, you will score 32.

Can you score 80 or more points? Is 100 points possible? The words you lay needn't be in keeping with the theme of the puzzle.

This puzzle was sent to East Berks Members late May 2020, with a week to find the highest outplay. There were lots of very good plays on our coronavirus-inspired board, with everybody scoring 100 or at least close to it. Well done!

SPOILER

The trick was blocking the **J** (onto the **A** of **QUARANTINE**) ... but with what? **YA** or **EA** both do the trick, as does **AIN**.

So it's a matter of optimising the remaining six tiles making sure either **Y**, **E** or **I** is left.

Lots of players went for moves using h15 **EXED**, and several players also played **YEH** (a15), some forgetting to play **EH** first!

The third-best set of moves was from Player M — scoring 118. Well done, Player M. Here are her moves:

| | | | |
|---------|-------------|------|-----------|
| Move 1. | AIN | K5a | 3 points |
| Move 2. | EH | B15a | 5 points |
| Move 3. | YEH | A15a | 27 points |
| Move 4. | EX | F15a | 18 points |
| Move 5. | EXED | F15a | 51 points |
| Move 6. | TAX | G13d | 14 points |

Player M was narrowly pipped by Player W, who utilised the **Y** and **E** in a different way to accrue one extra point (**RAINBOWY** and **BEDE** scored 33, to **EH/YEH** 32). Player W's total was 119!

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------|-------|-----------|
| Move 1. | AIN | K5a | 3 points |
| Move 2. | AX/EX | G15 | 18 points |
| Move 3. | AT/TAX | G13ad | 14 points |
| Move 4. | EXED | F15a | 51 points |
| Move 5. | BEDE | H2d | 12 points |
| Move 6. | RAINBOWY | B6d | 21 points |

But the winner was Player R, who originally sent in the 118 score above, but then found a total of 126 by using the triple word score at O15, and building up the word **YEXED**. Here are his words:

- Play the **I** at L5 to block the **J** and make **AIN** for 3
- Play the **X** at M15 making **EX/EX** for 18
- Play **Y** at K15 to make **AY/YEX** for 18
- Play **T** at M13 making **IT/TEX** for 24
- Play **ED** at N15a making **YEXED** for 48
- Play **E** at H15 making **YE** for 15

Total: 126

Well done, Player R — a brilliant score which in a real game would involve a swing of 142

points (126 + 8 (J)), and your opponent would lose 8 points (J). Imagine being 140 points down and winning this game. Here is his board:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | I | F | | |
| 2 | | | G | | | Z | | B | | | | | R | | |
| 3 | | | L | | | O | P | E | N | | Q | U | I | E | T |
| 4 | G | O | | | | O | R | D | | | U | | E | | |
| 5 | R | V | | | | M | O | | | | A | I | N | | |
| 6 | A | R | E | | | | T | | V | | R | | D | I | E |
| 7 | P | A | | | | | E | | I | | A | | | | |
| 8 | H | I | | M | | | C | O | R | O | N | A | | | |
| 9 | | N | | A | | | I | T | | U | T | | | | |
| 10 | | B | | S | | S | | | S | | I | | | | |
| 11 | L | O | C | K | D | O | W | N | | | N | | | | |
| 12 | | W | O | | | | L | | | | | E | L | | |
| 13 | | | U | | | | A | | | | | | I | T | |
| 14 | | | G | | | S | T | A | Y | | S | A | F | E | |
| 15 | | | H | | | E | | E | | | Y | E | X | E | D |

This article is reproduced courtesy of Graham Harding, East Berks Scrabble Club, UK, and OnBoard, the publication of the Association of British Scrabble Players.

WORD STUDY PUBLICATIONS

All updated for Collins 2019

- * **Winning Words**
(all threes and fours)
- * **Fabulous Fives**
- * **Super Sixes**
- * **Magnificent Sevens**
- * **Word Builder**

all available online from Lulu store at www.lulu.com/spotlight/winningwords

Enquiries to:

rjackman@ozemail.com.au

or 0400 226 541

Eureka!

Hanne Marks

So, for my eightieth birthday I gave myself the four volumes of *The Masks of God* by Joseph Campbell, and consequently discovered that a **JOSEPH** is “a caped overcoat worn by women in the 18c for riding”, and that the Campbells may well be coming, but best not on a Scrabble board.

VOLUME 1 (unexpected end hook, ¹) is Primitive Mythology, first published in 1959, and again in 1969 ... and on page 5 of his **PROLOGUE** (identical unexpected end hook ²) he lists some **-OLGY** words.

So I checked Zyzzyva and learned a) that **OLGY** and **OLOGIST** are both acceptable and b) that there are 497 matches for words ending in the former, and 301 ending in the latter ... of use to us is the fact that **OLGY** has 1 front hook (³) and that word has 2 front hooks (⁴); look up for yourselves the 13 seven

letter and 64 eight letter words that end in **OLGY** if you so desire.

On page 6 I came across the word **PROTASIS** for the first time: it means “the conditional clause of a conditional sentence”, and/or “the first part of s dramatic composition” and it has 3 anagrams! (⁵); its plural, **PROTASES**, also has 3 anagrams (⁶)

Not including the Index, there are 482 pages to go, and then another three volumes ... should keep me going till well after I become a nonagenarian just as well I’m fascinated.

- 1 **VOLUMED**
- 2 **PROLOGUED**
- 3 **OOLOGY**
- 4 **NOOLOGY ZOOLOGY**
- 5 **AIRPOSTS AIRSTOPS PROSAIST —S**
- 6 **ESPARTOS PORTASES SEAPORTS**

August 2020

Being locked down doesn't mean staying indoors for us a least. We try to go for a walk most days and keep a respectable distance from anyone we encounter.

An annual skin cancer check took me to Sydney recently to look for BCCs (**BASAL CELL CARCINOMA**), (Anagrammable to **BALSA** cell **MACCARONI**), **SQUAMOUS** cell **CARCINOMA** (SCC) or **MELANOMAS**.

I asked the Dermatologist if tattoos presented any problem in detecting any of the above. "Just a bit, but the main problem is if we have to excise" he told me. "I had a guy with an expensive tattoo of a dolphin on his arm. After I had cut out a melanoma and stitched him up again, all that was left of the dolphin was the head and tail joined together".

A couple of **BIOPSIES** required another trip to get BCCs cut out. Most prominent one right in the middle of my forehead.

He warned me that my eye area might get bruised as a result of blood flow being interrupted. Sure enough, when I got out of bed up a couple of days later, my iPhone refused to recognise me and I had to go to the 6 digit code.

And later that day when I removed the dressing it looked like I had been attacked by a dyslexic Zorro with a sort of inverted T staring back at me. *(See Michael Vnuk's Forty 40-31 May 13 attached to the digital version of this ATB)*. [Allowable **ZORRO** means a kind of South American fox].

We try to keep distanced but when a local invitation for a game of cards comes it is hard to resist. Some still want to hug and shake hands which I find mystifying.

And a Friday cycle recently was cancelled because of rain. So we decided to just do the breakfast bit. In the end four of us in one car feeling very nervous but trying out our various face masks. We must have looked like bank robbers come out of retirement to do one last **BLAG**, (i am sure that plot has been used repeatedly as a means of getting retired **BRIT** actors onto Netflix).

We have had a couple of trips in our caravan recently. Within NSW of course. Up to the

Bylong Valley for a bit of free camping. Then across to Mudgee. (I seem to remember a possible tournament being mooted at Mudgee, hope it is possible one day).

During a day trip to Gulgong I started to wonder If my life was as complete as it could be. I seemed to have everything one could wish for. What was that elusive element that would make it all seem worthwhile? You guessed it. I bought a ukelele.

Stock phrases like "... my ambition far exceeded my talent" swirled through my head. But over the next few days, far away from talent scouts I honed my skills. "My Bon..." (pause) "My Bonny ..." (pause) (further pause) "... lies ..." (lengthy pause, twang) "... lies over ..." You get the idea. But I do aim one day to join GLL and Monica Dwyer in a strumfest.

Elsewhere in NSW we found a mix of affluent towns and, sadly, a few run down burbs with empty shop fronts. Cafe owner in Mudgee, however, told us that all accommodation in that area is booked out up to Christmas.

Caravan sales are increasing. Car sales in our area at least are skyrocketing. All those Cruise Ship dollars are being diverted elsewhere. Grey Nomads everywhere (I tend to shorten the term to **GONADS**). And I am told pianos (as well as Ukeleles) are being purchased in record numbers. And pushbikes.

Our trip didn't yield many anagrammable towns, and we didn't feel like diverting to DUNGOG (**DUGONG, GUNDOG**) just to satisfy that need.

Another Covid induced (cliché) skill I am hoping to perfect is making my own **SOURDOUGH** bread. I must admit it is not my idea but stems from Melbourne siege family member who is also doing it with great results. So far, I am making the starter which is quite simple and each day it is smelling a bit more like a farmyard which Google says is success.

When all else fails, read the instructions is applicable here.

Anyway, Please stay safe. Covid is a real thing and it won't go away anytime soon no matter how much it is debated.

Ratings Snapshot

Top 200 at 3 August 2020

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|------|-----|--------------------------|------|-----|----------------------|------|
| 1 | David Eldar | 2124 | 68 | Ivor Zetler | 1459 | 135 | Natalie Tadday | 1302 |
| 2 | Andrew Fisher | 2026 | 69 | Kashi Thiris | 1457 | 136 | Karrin Henderson | 1299 |
| 3 | Chris May | 1985 | 70 | Trish Brighton | 1456 | 137 | John Rider | 1292 |
| 4 | Peter Kougi | 1966 | 71 | Phillip Hamilton | 1453 | 138 | Sue Gergelifi | 1290 |
| 5 | Cameron Farlow | 1946 | 72 | Dianne Davis | 1450 | 139 | John Barker | 1284 |
| 6 | Edward Okulicz | 1919 | 73 | Alex Boiko | 1449 | 140 | June Valentine | 1283 |
| 7 | Esther Perrins | 1919 | 74 | Anne McGinnes | 1446 | 141 | Anne Schick | 1280 |
| 8 | Naween Fernando | 1918 | 75 | Alan Burn | 1445 | 142 | Gary Pollard | 1278 |
| 9 | Anand Bharadwaj | 1913 | 76 | Margaret Neal | 1444 | 143 | Lorraine Thomas | 1276 |
| 10 | Trevor Halsall | 1901 | 77 | Michael Vnuk | 1443 | 144 | Cheryle Jerram | 1276 |
| 11 | Jakob Teitelbaum | 1897 | 78 | Julie Brice | 1437 | 145 | Lynn Weaver | 1275 |
| 12 | Daniel Piechnick | 1855 | 79 | Sheryl Davidson | 1436 | 146 | Rod Casey | 1271 |
| 13 | Joanne Craig | 1842 | 80 | Ronnie Bennett | 1433 | 147 | Jacqui Pearce | 1267 |
| 14 | Michael Cameron | 1828 | 81 | Khen Meerding | 1431 | 148 | Susan MacGillivray | 1264 |
| 15 | Ryan Sutton | 1765 | 82 | Julie Belle | 1430 | 149 | Judy Jones | 1262 |
| 16 | David Vanzyl | 1753 | 83 | Jyoti Chandna | 1423 | 150 | Teresa Dean | 1260 |
| 17 | Graham Bell | 1738 | 84 | Greg Pinchbeck | 1416 | 151 | Felicity Devitt | 126 |
| 18 | Rael Hayman | 1735 | 85 | Adam Kauschke | 1411 | 152 | Janine Whittaker | 1259 |
| 19 | Ron Baginski | 1724 | 86 | Jon Ford-King | 1410 | 153 | Deborah Dwyer | 1259 |
| 20 | Mythili Rudra | 1715 | 87 | Antonios Syrigos | 1404 | 154 | Larrie Strautmanis | 1258 |
| 21 | Wayne Jones | 1713 | 88 | Gwen Lampre | 1403 | 155 | Rob Hutchinson | 1256 |
| 22 | Victor Tung | 1707 | 89 | Kerry Constable | 1397 | 156 | Shaun Donnelly | 1256 |
| 23 | Derek McKenzie | 1703 | 90 | Therese Nichols | 1395 | 157 | Glenys Logan | 1255 |
| 24 | Geoff Wright | 1688 | 91 | Barry Harridge | 1391 | 158 | Carol Colwill | 1255 |
| 25 | Tim Mason | 1685 | 92 | Martin Waterworth | 1379 | 159 | Richard Birch | 1254 |
| 26 | Russell Honeybun | 1684 | 93 | Geoff Shepheard | 1379 | 160 | Francoise Finlayson | 1254 |
| 27 | Trevor Tao | 1680 | 94 | Shirley de Silva | 1374 | 161 | Jan Hill | 1253 |
| 28 | Carmel Dodd | 1675 | 95 | Malcolm McNulty | 1372 | 162 | Margaret Gibson | 1253 |
| 29 | Stephen Mooney Pursell | 1672 | 96 | Gillian Kinder | 1369 | 163 | Robin Andersen | 1251 |
| 30 | Rod Talbot | 1663 | 97 | Pam Bennett | 1365 | 164 | Tracey Kneebone | 1250 |
| 31 | Tony Hunt | 1660 | 98 | Ros Wilkinson | 1361 | 165 | Ian Hoffman | 1246 |
| 32 | Andrew Hamblin | 1651 | 99 | Margaret Webb | 1360 | 166 | Sue Quirke | 1244 |
| 33 | Adam Kretschmer | 1650 | 100 | Arnold Appelfhof | 1358 | 167 | Robyn Cameron | 1243 |
| 34 | Bob Jackman | 1648 | 101 | Trish Reynolds | 1357 | 168 | Joyce Browett | 1241 |
| 35 | John Holgate | 1644 | 102 | Monica Dwyer | 1354 | 169 | Christie Godby | 1235 |
| 36 | Rocky Sharma | 1627 | 103 | Olga Visser | 1353 | 170 | Rowena Vnuk | 1234 |
| 37 | Noel Barrett | 1626 | 104 | Colleen Birch | 1350 | 171 | Frank Csarics | 1233 |
| 38 | John Hamilton | 1608 | 105 | Louise Love | 1350 | 172 | John Hayes | 1233 |
| 39 | Nick Ivanovski | 1605 | 106 | Charles Quartey | 1350 | 173 | Moana Nepia | 1232 |
| 40 | Simon Walton | 1605 | 107 | Caroline Polak Scowcroft | 1349 | 174 | Julie Pampling | 1232 |
| 41 | Karen Richards | 1600 | 108 | Keith Bioletti | 1349 | 175 | Jenny Schafer | 1224 |
| 42 | John Spaan | 1595 | 109 | Liz Blanch | 1349 | 176 | Yvette Copley | 1219 |
| 43 | Tony Miller | 1589 | 110 | Lexie Neale | 1347 | 177 | Janet Bau | 1218 |
| 44 | Chris Hall | 1588 | 111 | Sharon Sorensen | 1346 | 178 | Yvonne Edwards | 1216 |
| 45 | Jane Taylor | 1586 | 112 | Chris Ostrowski | 1345 | 179 | Rob York | 1216 |
| 46 | Graeme Lock Lee | 1584 | 113 | Lindy Lawson | 1345 | 180 | Anne Stewart | 1213 |
| 47 | Natasha Podesser | 1566 | 114 | Anne Zion | 1339 | 181 | Bernice Jonathan | 1210 |
| 48 | Norma Fisher | 1565 | 115 | Keri Heart | 1335 | 182 | Paula Messer | 1209 |
| 49 | Eddie Mueller | 1556 | 116 | Margaret Griggs | 1331 | 183 | Sandra Masel | 1207 |
| 50 | Roberta Tait | 1551 | 117 | Susan Rayner | 1331 | 184 | Nancy Sparling | 1207 |
| 51 | Barry Jordan | 1541 | 118 | Angie Pearse | 1330 | 185 | Mal Eden | 1206 |
| 52 | Ian Ting | 1537 | 119 | Kris Howat | 1326 | 186 | Diane Stoyan | 1206 |
| 53 | Antony Kimber | 1534 | 120 | Trish Windhurst | 1325 | 187 | John Parker | 1196 |
| 54 | Heather Long | 1521 | 121 | Hailey Sutton | 1325 | 188 | Peter Bauer | 1195 |
| 55 | Dianne Ward | 1517 | 122 | Neil Leow | 1325 | 189 | Judy Mansfield | 1194 |
| 56 | Paul Richards | 1510 | 123 | Tony Williams | 1324 | 190 | Duncan Smith | 1193 |
| 57 | Martin Rose | 1506 | 124 | Boots Moon | 1323 | 191 | Christina Linwood | 1192 |
| 58 | Carol Johnsen | 1504 | 125 | Faye Williams | 1321 | 192 | Evelyn Goh | 1191 |
| 59 | Ray Alford | 1497 | 126 | Penny Wells | 1321 | 193 | Norma Tracey | 1187 |
| 60 | Jane Brown | 1492 | 127 | Marj Miller | 1317 | 194 | Jan Chapman | 1187 |
| 61 | Peter Shaw | 1490 | 128 | Tim Reddan | 1317 | 195 | Cheryl Michler | 1186 |
| 62 | Dianne Brumby | 1484 | 129 | Benjamin Lee | 1314 | 196 | Khwanjai Thammapping | 1185 |
| 63 | Jeremy Yip | 1476 | 130 | David More | 1311 | 197 | Wayne Stoyan | 1182 |
| 64 | Jegatheva Jegathesan | 1466 | 131 | Hanne Marks | 1310 | 198 | Alan Mathews | 1181 |
| 65 | Mark Smith | 1464 | 132 | Lainie Chojna | 1308 | 199 | John Salmon | 1178 |
| 66 | Garth van Vliet | 1461 | 133 | Noel Coulter | 1306 | 200 | Dianne Gibson | 1177 |
| 67 | Tony Loui | 1460 | 134 | Jenny Brysha | 1304 | | | |

The Joy Deans Memorial Open was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Wishing to honour Joy's memory I conducted a simulated event instead containing the 24 players who originally registered.

The National Website contains the final scores from every ratable game played since 1998. I used a spreadsheet function to generate a random number between 1 and the total number of games they played and matched that number to the corresponding game from their personal statistical record to produce a "score".

Repeating this process seven times (for each "round") and for the remaining 23 players I produced a set of game scores for the entire tournament. A standard AUPAIR draw determined round-by-round "pairings".

In round 1, the random number generator selected Anne Zion's 338th game, a game from 2004 where she defeated the current #7 WESPA ranked player giving her a substantial win and initial outright lead.

The random number generator was rather unkind to our players in round 2 and scores were relatively low across the board. For example, our #2 and #4 seeds had a combined score of 613 in their game. Anne Zion retains her lead.

Round 3 featured a clash between Floreat clubmates Faye Williams and Jenni Henderson which Jenni won by 8 points. Fortunately for me, Faye graciously accepted her loss without requesting a recount of the move by move scores! Anne Zion defeats international "visitor", Gillian Street to stay in front.

In round 4 Tanissha Suppiah's randomly selected 38th game and Alan Mathews' 898th

game were both played in Tasmania! Ian Ting scored 534; the high game of the event.

For round 5 Jenny Coetzee's randomly selected 174th game was played in 2000, however Pauline Coulter's 227th game was her last tournament game. Judy Jones defeats Dianne Ward to take outright lead.

In round 6 Louise Love's 288th game and Anne Zion's 667th game were both actually played against Joy! Ian Ting scores another 500+ game to defeat Judy Jones to take outright lead.

Dianne Ward defeats Ian Ting in the last round to win the Joy Deans Memorial Simulation Open from Gillian and Ian. Chris Hall narrowly defeats Chris Sanders in the battle of the two Chris'.

Dianne Ward anagrams into "End in a Draw" but on this occasion was our well deserved winner. Commenting briefly on her victory, Dianne said that this was a much easier way to win a tournament!

Final Results:

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|------|
| 1 | Dianne Ward | 6 | +326 |
| 2 | Gillian Street | 6 | +201 |
| 3 | Ian Ting | 5 | +316 |
| HG: | Ian Ting | | 534 |

Hopefully readers enjoyed this "tournament" report even though none of the games were actually played - either face to face or online. One round was held each week allowing ASPA(WA) to engage with our membership in a light-hearted fashion when Covid-19 restrictions in WA were at their most severe.

Hopefully a face to face, rather than simulated competition can be held in 2021.

Graham Bell

Stop Press

News came in shortly before publication that 2 Scrabble stalwarts had passed away. Meg Henderson of Victoria and Arie Holla from New South Wales. Both were well known in their respective states (and beyond). Obituaries will be published in the next edition of ATB.

Michael Vnuk (a past editor of ATB) has been busy compiling these 40 teasers. These have appeared on the OzScrabble List at the rate of one per day in the early days of the pandemic and now published here as a supplement to ATB with thanks to Michael. One to Twenty were attached to the June 2020 edition of ATB the remaining 20 are here.

40-0

Although the subject line looks like a tennis score, it's not what's happening here. The number indicates the **ZEROth** (yes, that is a word) post in a series of 40 over 40 days. The first post is numbered '40-1', then '40-2', and so on, which will help you find them or ignore them, depending on your preference.

Our current period of isolation reminded me that **QUARANTINE** is derived from the Italian word for 'forty' – the number of days that a ship had to remain outside a port to prevent disease being transferred on landing – so a series of 40 posts seemed apt now. It will give me something to do, and, hopefully, it will provide some distraction for readers. Perhaps our isolation will be over before my series finishes.

The puzzles and questions are of variable difficulty, length and interest.

Some puzzles may have hints, which will be mentioned in the question and then included in the answers.

All answers will be checked as far as possible. In the case of answers concerning words allowed in Scrabble, I will use Zyzzyva with CSW19.

The number in the post's title will not necessarily be related to the puzzle or its answer.

Some of the puzzles may be familiar, either because I am recycling them from my previous posts or ATB articles, or because I have taken them from another place that you have seen.

Michael Vnuk ~ 12 April 2020

40-21 May 3

While looking at number words, I noticed the weird word **ELEVENSES**, which looks like a double plural. As most of you know, **ELEVENSES** refers to a snack taken at around 11 o'clock – cake, biscuit, coffee, tea, whatever. (**ELEVENSES** is also referred to as **ELEVENS**, which is new to me.)

Two other allowed Scrabble words look like double plurals of number words:

One word is a dialect term for a snack at a different time of the day.

The other word is unrelated to snacks or numbers – it just looks like a double plural of a number word.

What are the two words?

By the way, if I eat anything at 11, which I sometimes do, I don't call it 'eleveneses', I call it 'early lunch' and I make a proper meal of it.

40-22 May 4

What letters do not appear in the names of the standard counting numbers from **ONE** to **ONE VIGINTILLION** (which is a good enough place to stop!)?

For this question, hyphenated forms and multiword forms are allowed, such as **TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE** (2345). Remember that some number words can't stand on their own in formal usage; eg it is **ONE MILLION**, not just **MILLION**.

40-23 May 5

'Word squares' are words arranged in a square, which is not a very helpful description, so here's an example (all examples from Wikipedia):

C A R D
A R E A
R E A R
D A R T

In the example, the square shape is made of four words written horizontally on successive lines, but reading the words vertically also forms valid words. In this particular case also, the words are the same both horizontally and vertically. Another version of word squares, the 'double word square', has different words in each direction, for example:

L A C K
I R O N
M E R E
B A K E

Double word squares are harder to construct, but I think they are more interesting.

A 4x4 square is called an 'order 4 square'. The bigger the square, the harder it is to find solutions. Here's an order 6 double word square:

A D M I T S
D E A D E N
S E R E N E
O P I A T E
R E N T E R
B R E E D S

This word square is a good one because most of its words are relatively common. Of course, to make it easier to find solutions, you could widen your choice of words beyond a particular dictionary by including, say, geographical names, proper names, hyphenated words, archaic words, foreign words, short phrases, and so on. And that is what people have often done to create the higher-order word squares. However, we'll just stick to allowed Scrabble words, because that's our game. Nonetheless, one could still aim for more common words or no S plurals to make any solutions more 'elegant'.

Here are some puzzles concerning word squares that contain number names, starting with order 3 double word squares.

1. Find a solution for the missing row in the square below. What allowable Scrabble word (not a number word) can fit in the square so that all 3 vertical words formed are valid? (Multiple solutions exist.) (Repeated words are not allowed in the square.)

T W O
? ? ?
O N E

2. Another easy one to find a solution for the missing row. (Multiple solutions exist.)

O N E
? ? ?
T W O

3. This puzzle has only 1 solution. Fill in the missing row. (Repeated words are not allowed.)

O N E
S I X
? ? ?

4. Another one with just 1 solution. Fill in the missing row.

? ? ?
S I X
O N E

Using 3-letter number names (**ONE, TWO, SIX, TEN**), it is impossible to fit all 4 in an order 3 square (3x3). (Proof: SIX shares no letters with the other 3 words, so when SIX is entered – either horizontally or vertically – none of the other 3 words can go through it, and it is not possible to fit those 3 words into the 2 remaining parallel slots.) **SIX** also doesn't even work with 2 other words, which you can determine by checking possible configurations.

However, the 3 remaining words (**ONE, TWO, TEN**) can be arranged in an order 3 square. There is no solution for the 3 words being all horizontal (or all vertical), so there must be intersections between the words.

5. Can you find and order 3 double word square that includes the words **ONE, TWO** and **TEN** in any position? All other words formed must be allowed in Scrabble.

Turning to 4-letter number names, I tried to fit all the 4-letter number words (**FOUR, FIVE, NINE**) into a square, but it is impossible if they have to intersect each other. Perhaps a word square is possible for some combination when the 3 words don't intersect (ie all are in the same orientation), but I'll leave that for others to investigate.

6. Looking at just 2 number names, can you make a word square given the following start? There are multiple solutions.

F O U R
I ? ? ?
V ? ? ?
E ? ? ?

7. Finally, there are the 5-letter number words (**THREE, SEVEN, EIGHT**). I found an arrangement where all 3 words intersect. Can you fill in the rest of the square?

E I G H T
? ? ? R ?
S E V E N
? ? ? E ?

Examples (but not the puzzles) come from a Wikipedia article (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Word_square). Jeff Grant, a prominent New Zealand Scrabble player, is mentioned in the article because of his contributions to word squares.

40-24 May 6

Take a standard set of Scrabble tiles, including the blanks.

Start writing the numbers with the tiles in order: **ONE, TWO, THREE**, and so on.

When do you run of tiles, and what tile do you need at that point?

40-25 May 7

In post 40-0 that introduced this series, I mentioned that last year I played the word **FORTY** for 40 points (see that post for more details). I also recently played **TEN** for 10 points. I was not deliberately aiming for 10 points; rather, I just wanted to balance my rack by getting rid of excess consonants (here **N** and **T**), and my strategy paid off, as I played **SNORKELS** from an S for a bonus in the next turn.

Of course, it is possible to create all sorts of positions where the score is the same as the word, but let's just confine ourselves to examining whether it can be done for the first word played on the board, because it's easier to check.

Here are a few conditions and considerations:

This is the first word played on the board.

For this puzzle, blanks are allowed.

Maximising the score is not relevant; we just want to match the score with the word.

The word does not have to be positioned in the best place strategically.

As this is standard Scrabble, no word can exceed 7 letters in length (which also effectively excludes any hyphenated numbers or multiword numbers).

Playing a 7-letter word will gain the 50-point bonus, as usual.

Because this is the first word, its score will involve doubling, and therefore the score will be even, which means odd numbers can be ignored.

We will consider only standard number names from **TWO** to **NINETY**; anything more is not going to score enough anyway.

What number names can be played as first word on the board so that the score equals the word?

40-26 May 8

I wondered whether number names can go before the names of time periods, that is, **SECOND, MINUTE, HOUR, DAY, WEEK, MONTH, YEAR**. I could certainly think of examples. For instance, we say or read the following:

'A two-second gap' – the recommended minimum safe gap for your car when driving behind another.

'The five-second rule' – the fictional rule (based more on hope than science) that allows one to eat food dropped on the ground, provided that it is picked up within 5 seconds (the number and wording varies, which shows just how scientific the rule is).

'A thirty-second commercial' – 30 seconds is a common length for TV commercials, although they often seem longer.

'Two-minute noodles' – also called 'instant noodles', but that's false advertising (unless you eat them straight from the packet).

'Three-minute eggs' – I don't know much about this term, as I don't like eggs; I'll stick to two-minute noodles.

'The four-minute mile' – first achieved in 1954 by Roger Bannister, although his famous achievement was that he actually ran a mile in under 4 minutes (and he probably ate both eggs and noodles).

'A five-minute break' – 5 minutes is a common time for breaks, but whatever the number of minutes (2, 10, 15, 20, 30, etc), it never seems to be long enough.

'Fourteen-hour days', 'six-day weeks' – what some people claim to work; numbers do vary, but be careful of anyone claiming more than about 16 hours in their day or more than 7 days in their week – they're either lying or attempting to imitate the Four Yorkshiremen sketch (made famous by Monty Python).

'The eight-hour day' and 'the forty-hour week' – working conditions fought for in the past.

'A four-day working week' – what some people think should be a working condition of the future.

'A four-day weekend' – such as Good Friday to Easter Monday (inclusive), which is even better than a four-day working week.

'A one-day sale' – usually displayed in capitals, and often with 'crazy' before the 'one', although numbers vary.

'The Six-Day War' – which occurred in the Middle East and actually lasted for 6 days (5–10 June 1967), as opposed to 'the Hundred Years' War', which was a series of conflicts between England and France that extended for well over a hundred years (24 May 1337 to 19 October 1453, ie 116 years, 4 months, 3 weeks and 4 days, according to Wikipedia).

'A nine-day wonder' – if you wonder where the expression comes from, no one knows for certain, but the expression (also written as 'a nine day wonder' and 'a nine days' wonder') is centuries old.

'Ninety-day bank bills' ; – these bills, usually rendered as '90-day bank bills' or '90 day bank bills', are mentioned in the finance news, but I've never seen one, perhaps because, according to the internet, they have a nominal value of \$1 million on the Australian stock market.

'A six-month suspension' – or any other length of suspension or sentence or guarantee or term of office or contract or holiday (for days or weeks or months or years).

'The seven-year itch' – the purported problem that affects marriages after about 7 years, famously portrayed in the 1955 film *The Seven Year Itch*; if you've never watched the film, you would have seen the image from the film of Marilyn Monroe's dress billowing up as she stands over a subway grate (the dress even has its own Wikipedia article! – see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_dress_of_Marilyn_Monroe).

'The thirty-year rule' – the informal name for laws in Australia, the UK and other places that certain government documents, such as cabinet papers, will be released publicly 30 years after they were created (although some other restrictions may still apply); in recent years, the time period has become 20 years.

'A hundred-year flood' – a flood that has a 1 in 100 chance (1% probability) of being equalled or exceeded in any given year, which, being a probability, is surrounded by many layers of uncertainty.

Note that all cases, even for common phrases, are never closed up to make single words. They are usually hyphenated or sometimes they have a space and no hyphen. In fact, when I checked Zyzzyva for **SECOND, MINUTE, HOUR, DAY, WEEK, MONTH** and **YEAR**, I found only one number name that can go in front of one of these words to make a new word.

[1] What is the word formed from a number name (between **ONE** and **TWENTY**) placed in front of one of the seven words for periods of time listed above?

If we extend our time periods to **NIGHT**, there are still no number words that can go in front, although we get close with expressions derived from numbers.

The commonest word is **FORTNIGHT**, which means 'two weeks' and is derived from an Old English expression meaning 'fourteen nights'. The Americans rarely use 'fortnight', which may be why we are allowed **NITE** (as a colloquialism for **NIGHT**) in Scrabble, but there is no equivalent allowed for **FORTNIGHT**. (The popular internet-based game 'Fortnite' is, of course, capitalised and not allowed.) Interestingly, **TONITE** (pronounced 'toe-night') is a blasting explosive, but other dictionaries say that **TONITE** can mean **TONIGHT** (and it is then pronounced the same way), but the use is generally confined to some forms of advertising.

[2] There is an archaic word for 'week', which is formed somewhat similarly to **FORTNIGHT**. What is the word?

There is also a word from baseball, **TWINIGHT**, which describes a game played in two parts (afternoon and evening). The word is based on **TWILIGHT**, for which the 'twi-' part means 'two', although the exact etymology is obscure.

As this line of investigation has proved rather uninteresting (from the point of view of Scrabble), I've turned to the names of days and months.

You all know our names for days of the weeks and months of the year. They seem simple enough, although one could ask things like what is the first day of the week (Sunday or Monday?), why is Wednesday pronounced like 'wenz-day', why does February sometimes have 29 days, why is the tenth month called 'October' which looks like it has something to do with 'eight', and so on. Some of these questions are harder to answer than others. In fact, calendars can be surprisingly complex, as they depend on mathematics, astronomy, religion, tradition, and more. Reading about calendars is certainly a rabbit hole if you let it be so.

For instance, the early English Quakers did not like the names of the days and months, because most are derived from the names of pagan deities or people, and so they simply named days in order: First Day (which I think would just be confused with Thursday), Second Day, Third Day (which might also be confused with Thursday), etc, with their First Day being everybody else's Sunday. The naming of months followed a similar pattern – First Month, Second Month, etc – starting with March. They started with March because the year then in England started on 25 March (yes, not even at the start of a month!). However, England changed its calendar to the Gregorian calendar to align with most of western Europe in 1752, and, among such things as skipping some days, 1 January became the start of the year. So the Quaker months changed, and First Month was then equivalent to January. Such usage declined in the 20th century. (The changeover to the Gregorian calendar happened in different years in different countries; for example, 1582 in some Catholic countries (because it was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII), 1610 in Prussia, 1752 in England, and 1918 in Russia (which is why the October Revolution of 1917 actually happened in November, according to the calendars of most of the Western world). I told you calendars can be complex.)

Another weird thing I read about is the traditional (although often now archaic) names of the months in Slavic languages, eg Russian, Polish, Croatian, Bulgarian and Slovak (my father's native tongue, for which I only know a few words). Names are based on things like weather patterns or agricultural conditions, but they vary across the area. For instance, Listopad (with slight spelling variations), meaning something like 'leaves falling', is obviously an autumn month. However, it is equivalent to October for Russians and Croatians, but November for Slovaks and Poles. And other month names have similar problems. (See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavic_calendar.)

Struggling out of the rabbit hole, I'll finish with 4 questions relating to the standard English names of days and months.

[3] None of the days of the week are allowed in Scrabble, as they are capitalised (although one could argue that you often see them uncapitalised – certainly more often than you see most of Spenser's weird spellings in daily use! – so perhaps they should be allowed). However, there is one allowed word that is pronounced the same way as the name of a day. What is that word?

[4] Only one day of the week has an allowable anagram. In fact, it has two anagrams, although one is common and the other is rare. What are the two anagrams?

[5] What month names are allowed in Scrabble?

[6] Which of the answers to [5] can take an **S**?

40-27 May 9

A **SCORE** can mean 20. Reliable sources I checked said that it's apparently because many centuries ago people marked a piece of wood for every 20 sheep or whatever that they were counting, and their word for 'notch' or 'mark' (being something like 'score') was then also used for the number. It's known from much evidence that counting by 20s was a big thing in some cultures of western Europe. However, none of the sources I checked was definitive about this stick-based etymology, which is not surprising – if people are only marking sticks for counting, they're hardly likely to be also writing down their counting technique in clear expository prose for future lexicographers, especially if those pesky sheep keep running off in the wrong direction.

SCORE has many other meanings, all probably directly or indirectly related to 'mark'. (Surprisingly, **SCAR** has a totally different etymology, even though it looks similar to **SCORE** and overlaps with **SCORE** in some meanings. **SCAR** comes via Latin and French from a Greek word for 'hearth', which may reflect how Greeks got many scars, from burns.) The number meaning of **SCORE** is not always precisely 20 either. If 'scores' of people read this, then it just means a vaguely large number of readers, not an integral multiple of 20 readers. **SCORE** can also mean 20 or 21 pounds when weighing certain animals, or 20 or 21 (or more!) tubs of coal when coal was dug by hand. It sounds to me like shonky operators were trying to cheat farmers or miners.

Today's task is (1) to list all the allowed words formed from a number name in front of **SCORE**, and (2) to identify which of these **-SCORE** words takes an **S**.

40-28 May 10

The letter **Q** is not present in the lower numbers of the standard English counting system, or even anywhere close. In fact, even if you could count one number per second, it would take you over 30 million years to get to the first number containing a **Q**, that is, **ONE QUADRILLION** (1 followed by 15 zeros; 1,000,000,000,000,000). And this calculation is using the short-scale definition of the number. For the long-scale definition of a quadrillion (1 followed by 24 zeros), you would have to count one number per second for a length of time which is way in excess of the known life of the universe since the Big Bang. In contrast, the French have it is easy – to reach **Q**, it's just *un, deux, trois, quatre*.

However, because we English speakers have taken some of our words from Latin, directly or indirectly, the Latin words for **FOUR** and **FIVE**, *quattuor* and *quinque*, show up, especially in the modified forms **QUADR-** and **QUINT-** with various linking vowels to the rest of a word.

For instance, we can **DUPLICATE** and **TRIPPLICATE** and also **QUADRUPPLICATE** and **QUINTUPLICATE** (and even further).

PLICATE is a word on its own, meaning 'to pleat'. So, you could wrap a fantastic **Q** bonus around it, such as **QUADRUPPLICATES** or **QUINTUPLICATED**.

In words like **QUADRUPLET** and **QUINTUPLET**, the shortened forms **QUAD** and **QUIN** don't take all of the prefix with them, but the shortened forms are common enough that they have become allowable words in their own right. (In addition, **QUAD** is a shortened form of other similar words, such as **QUADRANGLE** and **QUADRICEPS**.)

And I must mention one of my favourite words containing a **Q**: **SQUINCH**. Although **SQUINCH** looks like something that Dr Seuss might have created (if the Grinch had a pet cat, say), I encountered it in *The Road to Oxiana*, a highly regarded travel book by Robert Byron published in 1937. Byron visited places such as Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, and often described the architecture. A **SQUINCH** (in its architectural meaning) is 'an arch or other support across a re-entrant or interior angle'. That's what Chambers Dictionary says, and if it means as little to you as it does to me, then use Google to find pictures of a **SQUINCH**. By the way, the **QUIN** part of **SQUINCH** has nothing to do with the number 5.

Here are some questions about words containing **Q** and a number word in one form or another.

1. What words start with a **Q** and end with a number name? Consider only the number names from **ONE** to **TEN**.

2. What word starts with **THREE** and contains a **Q**?

3. Can you work out the following anagrams? Most words are reasonably common.

ONE+Q+CRU

TWO+Q+YOUR+THE

THREE+Q+AUA+K

FOUR+Q+TORE

FIVE+Q+ALoud+IRE

SIX+Q+EE+TUI

SEVEN+Q+LA+TUI

EIGHT+Q+BUN+AE

NINE+Q+AR+TAU

TEN+Q+AI+OU

4. The following words all contain the internal sequence **QUIN**, but are unrelated to the number 5. Can you work them out from the definition? The bracketed number is the word length. For example if the definition was 'an arch or other support across a re-entrant or interior angle (7)', the answer would be **SQUINCH**. Some of the words are common.

to look at with eyes partly closed (6)

an occasion when the day is equal in length to the night (7)

arousing anger or resentment (7)

a type of shelly limestone (7)

a contagious disease of horses (7)

causing to twist (8)

a swimming costume (variant spelling) (8)

decorated with spangles (8)

making something look old (9)

40-29 May 11

Let's look at the international SI system of units (I'm being deliberately tautological because SI is *Système international* (d'unités) – sorry!), specifically the prefixes to form names for units of measurement of differing sizes.

Over the years, more prefixes have been introduced (eg 'giga-' in 1960), some prefixes have been discarded (eg 'myria-', meaning 10,000), and the use of other prefixes has been discouraged (eg 'deca-'). Some of the modern prefixes (all of which are listed below) look like they could be additional Marx Brothers (joining Groucho, Chico, Harpo and Zeppo, but not Karl), and others might be Marx sisters or cousins or aunts. (In fact, their mother was known as Minnie Marx.)

Most of the prefixes are derived from Latin or Greek in some way, although 'femto-', for example, is derived from the Danish word for 'fifteen'.

If they were starting again, I'm sure that they would do things somewhat differently, especially with consistency of naming and symbols.

For the list I have used scientific notation, which is shorter. (For example, 'mega-' = $10^6 = 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 1,000,000 = 1$ million; 'milli-' = $10^{-3} = 1/(10 \times 10 \times 10) = 1/1000 =$ one thousandth.) I hope everything is correctly rendered on your screen. And I have deliberately shown the prefixes in lowercase with a hyphen so that you don't remember them as allowed words. (I have also ignored some spelling variants and other complexities.)

| | |
|------------|--------|
| 10^{24} | yotta- |
| 10^{21} | zetta- |
| 10^{18} | exa- |
| 10^{15} | peta- |
| 10^{12} | tera- |
| 10^9 | giga- |
| 10^6 | mega- |
| 10^3 | kilo- |
| 10^2 | hecto- |
| 10^1 | deca- |
| 10^{-1} | deci- |
| 10^{-2} | centi- |
| 10^{-3} | milli- |
| 10^{-6} | micro- |
| 10^{-9} | nano- |
| 10^{-12} | pico- |
| 10^{-15} | femto- |
| 10^{-18} | atto- |
| 10^{-21} | zepto- |
| 10^{-24} | yocto- |

Today's question: Which 5 prefixes are also allowed words in Scrabble? The meanings of the words need not relate to the meaning of the prefix.

A few more thoughts on SI prefixes.

Although potentially all the prefixes could be used with all the units, a variety of rules, conventions, preferences and practical considerations lead to only certain combinations of prefixes and units being used. For example, there are lots of 'kilo-' words allowed (eg **KILOGRAM**, **KILOMETRE**, **KILOWATT**), but only one 'yocto-' word, **YCTOSECOND** (and its plural).

And even if people use a word, it may not have reached the Scrabble list. For example, if you've heard discussions about water in the Murray-Darling Basin, they often refer to big volumes of water. A **MEGALITRE**, meaning a million litres (very roughly the amount of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool), is a big volume but not a big enough volume to discuss water when dealing with river systems, so you would have heard them mentioning the next unit up, the 'giga-' one. Unfortunately, that word is not allowed.

The SI prefixes get used for other units, such as bits and bytes in computing (eg **MEGABIT**, **GIGABYTE**), although neither is an SI unit (and I won't go into the complexities of computer people usually meaning 1024 (not 1000) when they refer to 'kilo-', etc). But talk of 'bits' allows me to end this post with this 'bit' of computer wisdom from some years ago:

Windows 95 was a 32-bit shell on top of a 16-bit operating system designed for an 8-bit computer based on a 4-bit chip, designed by a two-bit company that doesn't care one bit about its users.

40-30 May 12

I happened to hear the song 'Mellow Yellow' on the radio recently. It's one of Donovan's hippy-trippy numbers from 1966 which starts with 'I'm just mad about Saffron / Saffron's mad about me'. The second verse is very similar, but with a different name that is not as clear. The name has baffled me for years (since 1966, actually). I thought the name was something like 'Vaulting', but what would 'I'm just mad about Vaulting / Vaulting's mad about me' mean? However, this is the age of the internet, with instant information at our fingertips, so, because I wasn't doing something important – like driving a car, or working, or talking to my wife, or preparing dinner – I checked it. Most sources agree that the word is 'Fourteen'. Unfortunately, sources couldn't be sure whether 'Fourteen' was his girlfriend or his cat or something else, and I decided not go any further as there are a number of weird things in the song, not the least being the possible drug references to do with bananas.

But **FOURTEEN** leads me to the **TEEN** numbers: **THIRTEEN**, **FOURTEEN**, **FIFTEEN**, **SIXTEEN**, **SEVENTEEN**, **EIGHTEEN**, **NINETEEN**.

Not much can be done with these words, as they only have a few extensions, and no front hooks. And there are hardly any anagrams of the words or related words, unless you add a lot of other letters.

Interestingly, **FOURTEEN+SIR+AG** has 2 anagrams, which are both geological in nature: **ARGENTIFEROUS** ('bearing silver', as of some ores or minerals) and **GARNETIFEROUS** ('bearing garnets', as of certain rocks). I may have even written the words myself in the past, as I was once a geologist (decades ago). And if I didn't write the words, I probably read them somewhere.

[1] What is the anagram of **SIXTEEN**?

[2] Which of the 7 **-TEEN** words can take **-ER** on the end?

[3] In earlier printing, large sheets had multiple pages printed on them and then the sheets were folded, bound together, and cut to produce books (I'm sure I've oversimplified the technical details and the technical terms). The number of folds led to a range of names, eg **FOLIO**, **QUARTO**, **SIXMO**, **OCTAVO**, **TWELVEMO**, which were applied to book sizes. Which **TEEN** words can take **-MO** on the end?

[4] What is the anagram of **FIFTEEN+ACE+DAD**?

[5] What is the French word for **FOURTEEN** that is allowed in Scrabble because it is a term from a card game?

I couldn't work how those cards tally to 14, but Wikipedia helped. In piquet, a set of 3 of a kind, eg 3 queens, is worth 3 points, but a set of 4 of a kind is worth 14 points, hence **QUATORZE**. Although piquet is not played with a full deck ... I'll rephrase that: The game of piquet is played with a 32-card deck, ie one where the 20 cards valued from 2 to 6 are removed. Sets only of 7s, 8s or 9s do not have any worth.

40-31 May 13

A popular television show when I was in primary school in the 1960s was Zorro. As you probably know, Zorro is a fictional character in numerous books, films and TV series. Don Diego de la Vega is the son of a rich landowner in Spanish California in the late 18th century. However, he has a secret life as Zorro, a dashing masked vigilante who defends the commoners and indigenous peoples of California against corrupt and tyrannical officials and other villains. He is never caught and his secret is never exposed. (In the series I saw, Zorro's black mask covered the upper part of his face, with holes for his eyes. His debonair moustache was not covered, and yet no one noticed how he looked like Don Diego. Even I could see the resemblance. But that's television for you.) Zorro is skilled with all sorts of weapons, and he often uses his rapier to carve the initial 'Z' where he has been.

Of course, Zorro's action was copied by, seemingly, every young boy who watched the show. The Z was always done with a flourish of three quick strokes. If there was a piece of chalk on the ground, next there would be a Z on a nearby wall. Or you would find a Z scratched on a chair back, or inside a cupboard, or on some other blank space. Sometimes you knew who did it (I might have occasionally done some myself), but usually you didn't know who was responsible – you only had the mark of Zorro to know that he had been there.

The Zorro I watched was the late 1950s Disney version with the suitably suave Guy Williams, who did his own fencing. I have just found out that, without the mask and the moustache, Williams was the rather uninteresting father in the sci-fi series *Lost in Space* a few years later. In fact, he was so uninteresting that I can't remember anything about him, although I watched many programs in that series. However, he was competing against another Z, the cowardly, villainous and skilled with words character of Dr Zachary Smith.

Another thing I didn't know about Zorro until a few years ago was the origin of the name. **ZORRO** is a Spanish word for fox, which fits the cunning, secretive, often night-time activities of Zorro. **ZORRO** is also, like many words of Spanish origin used in America, absorbed into English and thus allowed in Scrabble. Another animal, the **ZORILL**, which is related to the skunk, gets its name from its resemblance to a fox. It is also known as a **ZORILLA**, **ZORILLE** or **ZORILLO**. And because of the skunk link, the fur of a skunk when used for clothing is sometimes called **ZORINO**, which certainly sounds more exotic than **SKUNK**.

Despite **Z** being such an exciting letter to write (Where did I put my rapier?), **Z** isn't always treated respectfully. One of the few bits of Shakespeare that I have remembered (because it pops up in discussions about letters) comes from *King Lear*. The Earl of Kent is telling the servant Oswald that, as a servant, he is not important, although he expresses it more forcefully: 'Thou whoreson zed, thou unnecessary letter!'

Shakespeare's line reflects the fact that **Z** is rarely used. (The additional fact that **Z** is the last letter of the English alphabet may also influence the scorn that attaches to it.) Most surveys show that **Z** is the least frequently used letter in the English language. Occasionally it will be **Q** or **X** or **J**, depending on the length or subject matter of the text in question. As an editor, I can vouch for **Z** being infrequent. For one of my jobs a few years ago, I was editing lots of small documents (approximately 3 to 8 pages) that had been created by many different authors but which had to be adjusted to a consistent style. One of the first things I would do in each document was to search for **Z**, as the organisation's style was '-ise', not '-ize' (and similarly for '-isation', '-ising', etc). If the author had already used our spelling preference, sometimes the entire document would be **Z**-less, and if there were any **Zs**, they were few, such as in **SIZE**. People often think that '-ize' is purely an American thing, but some reputable English writers and publishing houses use it. Of course, documents with '-ize' will inflate the **Z** count, but rarely is **Z** far from the bottom in terms of frequency. Other languages differ, naturally. Some of you may have heard, because it often appears in Scrabble-related trivia, that **Z** is much more common in Polish and so the **Z** is worth only 1 point in Polish Scrabble.

For a rarely used letter, **Z** has more names than any other letter in the English alphabet (assertion based on my cursory check). **Z** can be called **ZED**, **ZEE** and **IZZARD**. The last is not very common as a name or as a word played in Scrabble. (**IZAR** and **IZARD** are unrelated words meaning an item of clothing and an type of ibex, respectively.)

And **Z** is rare in number words. As you may recall from post 40–22, **Z** never appears in the standard counting numbers. However, it shows up in **ZERO** and also other words for **ZERO**, such as **ZILCH** and **ZIP** (but the **Z** word rhyming with **NOT** is not allowed, even though it is an American slang word meaning **ZERO**, besides other meanings). **Z** occurs in **DOZEN**, a word which, in my perception, is used less these days. **Z** is common among the fictional numbers, appearing in **ZILLION**, **BAZILLION**, **GAZILLION** and **KAZILLION**.

Z hardly goes with any number names, but it is productive with **ONE**. Just think of **ZONE** and **OZONE**, for starters. There are several drugs with names ending with **-ZONE**, including **SULFINPYRAZONE** and **AMINOPHENAZONE**, plus the famous **OXYPHENBUTAZONE**, for which someone has constructed an extremely unlikely scenario in which the word could be played as a 27-timer for 1778 points, provided that all the stars and planets have aligned and everything (including linking words) is in the right place. I wasn't able to establish quickly whether the score has been bettered using linking words from the latest dictionary.

On that unlikely note, let's turn to some questions.

(1) What words start with **Z** and end with **ONE** (besides **ZONE**, of course)?

(2) There are 4 words that include **NINE** as a sequence and also include the letter **Z**. Ignoring the 2 plurals, what are the other 2 words?

(3) What literary term allowed in Scrabble comes from German and starts with **TEN** and ends with **Z**?

(4) Here are some collections of letters that include both a number name and the letter **Z**. Find the single allowable word in each collection.

ONE+Z+B
ONE+Z+AA
ONE+Z+BI
ONE+Z+RR
ONE+Z+LAC
ONE+Z+JAR
TWO+Z+O
TWO+Z+HA
TWO+Z+ISO+E
THREE+Z+IO
FOUR+Z+EN+N
FIVE+Z+ER+TOILER
SIX+Z+OI+ED
SEVEN+Z+O
EIGHT+Z+RAG
NINE+Z+FA
NINE+Z+OCA
TEN+Z+R
TEN+Z+BA
TEN+Z+HULA
TEN+Z+RICY+I

(5) **SEVEN+Z+IN+IT+I+C**

NINE+Z+VICE+SIT
TEN+Z+INCISIVE

(6) What letter comes after **Z**?

Hint for (2): One word starts with **Z**, while the other contains 2 **zs**.

Hint for (6): It's a trick question, and you will need to look further afield than the English alphabet.

40-32 May 14

I mentioned **DOZEN** in passing in yesterday's post, but today **DOZEN** has a post of its own.

A **DOZEN** means a group of 12, which is a useful size because a group of 12 can be divided into groups of 2, 3, 4 or 6, as compared to, say, a group of 10, which can only be divided into groups of 2 or 5.

A 'baker's dozen' is a group of 13, supposedly (and I say 'supposedly', because no source I consulted was prepared to be definitive about the origin of the phrase) from the former practice of bakers adding a thirteenth loaf of bread to a batch of 12 loaves in order to punishment for accidentally selling underweight bread. No baker has ever given me 13 of whatever I was buying, but, then again, I have never had a reason to ask for a dozen of anything in a bakery, especially a dozen loaves of bread (whether white, brown or artisanal sourdough). The mathematically minded among you (actually all of you, in this case) will notice that 13 can't be divided neatly into any groups of the same size, which makes me wonder why a dozen being 12 was so special anyway.

I spotted a few other interesting words when consulting dictionaries. Near 'baker's dozen', I came across 'baker-feet', 'baker-legs', 'baker-knees', and 'baker's knee', which are all 'names of deformities incident to bakers'.

Although I had heard of problems like 'housemaid's knee' and 'writer's cramp' (arising from kneeling on a floor and scrubbing hard, and holding a pen and writing for long periods, respectively), I had never heard of these problems for bakers. The more familiar name for these problems appears to be 'knock-knee', which bakers apparently acquired from standing so long in one position kneading bread. In fact, the condition was so common among bakers that people assumed becoming a baker was the appropriate occupation for someone who was already knock-kneed. According to one source I started to read, there were many specific deformities or diseases or injuries associated with particular occupations in the past. I did not read any further, as it was too sad.

Not far from **DOZEN** is **DOZER**, which dictionaries tell me can be colloquial for **BULLDOZER** or **CALFDOZER**. **BULLDOZER** has quite a complex etymology, but **CALFDOZER** seems to have a simple origin. A **CALFDOZER** is just a small **BULLDOZER** - geddit!

Questions

[1] What are the 2 anagrams of **DOZEN**?

[2] Here are a few short anagrams to solve:

DOZEN+K
DOZEN+L
DOZEN+T+H
DOZEN+AI
DOZEN+EN
DOZEN+SO

[3] What word can be created by wrapping 7 letters around **DOZEN**? It is not very common.

40-33 May 15

A bonus today: Two unrelated questions in the one post.

(1) What is special about these sentences, besides the fact that they are mathematically correct?

Zero plus nine equals nine.

One plus eight equals nine.

Two plus seven equals nine.

Three plus six equals nine.

Four plus five equals nine.

(2) What is the most commonly played number word in Scrabble?

40-34 May 16

Firstly, many people (well, a small subset of people concerned with speaking, writing or editing) have long argued about whether introducing multiple points in speech or writing should be done with 'firstly', 'secondly', 'thirdly', etc, or the simpler 'first', 'second', 'third', etc. (Some other variants need not concern us here.)

Secondly, both styles are in significant use, so there is no dominating use that can be declared the 'winner'.

Thirdly, many arguments about use seem to rely on personal preference rather than any sound reason.

Fourthly, most, but not all, people who have discussed the issue, prefer consistency. That is, they recommend avoiding mixing the two forms. Thus 'firstly' followed by 'second' is a no-no. (As a working editor, I agree with this suggestion.)

Fifthly, a fairly reasonable argument is made that using 'first' and its followers is better because the words are shorter. This argument sounds like something dreamed up by a penny-pinching publisher, but it finds favour among the 'Omit needless words' crowd (who probably should also have an additional motto such as 'Omit needless letters').

Sixthly, by logic, just as 'first' and its followers could continue to infinity (except that we don't have words in our standard dictionaries to make the extremely large numbers), 'firstly' and its followers should continue as far. In fact, neither sequence has many entries in our Scrabble word list, because dictionaries don't list all the words and some would be multiword or hyphenated, and so are not allowed in Scrabble anyway. But 'firstly' and followers do run out earlier. I suppose it's because we have less need to be enumerating so many points, whereas 'first' and followers have uses that not need refer to intermediate values. For example, it is unlikely that anyone would need to write '60thly' (which is not an allowed word, so I am not writing it all in letters) to introduce another point after 59 previous points (and no one would read it), whereas 'sixtieth' pops up more regularly in common expressions like 'sixtieth anniversary' and occasionally in sentences like 'He did well to come sixtieth in his first marathon.' Furthermore, 'sixtieth' and other words do double duty by also referring to fractions (eg 'a second is a sixtieth part of a minute').

Seventhly, 'firstly' and followers are adverbs (like many other words that end with **-LY**), but, oddly, one word in the series is also a noun and can take a plural.

So that brings me to a few questions, which are, I'll admit, hard.

[1] Anagrams of 'firstly' and its followers are almost non-existent. What is the anagram of **SECONDLY**?

[2] **FIRSTLY** is the first word in the series, which continues with **SECONDLY**, and onwards without a break until which word?

[3] Which one of 'firstly' and its followers is also a noun and can be pluralised? Trevor Halsall (and some other Scrabble players) might remember this word, as he pointed it out in an email on the Ozscrabble list (9 August 2019) as one of the many new 2019 words. His article was repeated in the September 2019 ATB.

40-35 May 17

What is the largest of the standard counting numbers that has no repeated letters in its name?

And what is the second largest?

Hyphenated and multiword forms can be considered. For instance, **ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE** would be considered, but it has way too many repeated letters to be an answer.

40-36 May 18

When I was living in Brisbane in the 1980s, some friends and I arranged to go to a camping spot north of Noosa for a few days' holiday. After the camping, they were going to continue northwards (and around Australia) and I was returning to Brisbane (for work), so we needed two vehicles. They had been to the spot before and knew the way, but it was hard to describe, and we had no detailed map and couldn't get one quickly.

Our first plan was for me to drive behind them, but that was not appropriate for the nearly 2-hour drive to Noosa, so I suggested that we meet somewhere and drive only the last few kilometres together. We checked the maps we both had and decided on a creek crossing near Noosa, Six Mile Creek. Whoever got there first would just wait for a while until the other vehicle showed up. (To those who ask why we didn't use the internet or mobile phones to help with planning and coordinating, remember that this was before the internet and mobile phones. At least we had vehicles and did not have to saddle up horses for the trip!)

I arrived at the designated spot first, and, once my friends arrived, we drove on to the camping spot. We had a good time over the few days, and I now recall that I rang in 'sick' from a public phone box (I told you it was before mobile phones) so that I could spend an additional day with my friends. Later, my manager had words with me about not being actually sick, but I claimed, quite truthfully, that the personnel manager had recently advised me (not in an official capacity, it seems) that I might as well be using more of my sick leave.

But back to Six Mile Creek. I thought that the name of the creek would be distinctive enough to be our meeting point, and yet, on the Bruce Highway, before I'd even driven halfway to Noosa, there was another Six Mile Creek! I had a terrible thought that my friends would end up stopping there while I would be waiting at the correct spot, and we would never meet up, and my holiday would be ruined before it had properly begun. (And, of course, we had no mobile phones to help sort out such misunderstandings.)

However, I quickly reassured myself that there was nowhere that they could stop on the freeway safely, and that they had understood our discussion over the map. In fact, I found out later that they never even noticed the incorrect Six Mile Creek as they drove through to the correct Six Mile Creek.

That's a problem with place names – they're often the same. The list of Australian geographical names (accessible at <https://placenames.fsdf.org.au/>) has 76 creeks called Six Mile Creek in Queensland alone, scattered across the state. And there are other creeks with names such as Four Mile Creek, Five Mile Creek and Ten Mile Creek. (I presume that, for example, 'Six Mile' in a creek's name does not refer to the length or breadth or depth of the creek, so it must be that each of the Six Mile Creeks is about 6 miles along a road from somewhere (moderately) important, like a town or an intersection or a pub.) Other names repeated across Australia include Sandy Creek (hundreds of them), Shelly Beach, Black Hill and so on. Even when we look at the postcode listing (<https://auspost.com.au/postcode>), which has towns or suburbs or localities of some size, there are 5 places in Australia with the name Sandy Creek (postcodes 2338, 2835, 3695, 4515 and 5350). And then there all the places named after famous people (Victoria, Wellington, Cook, etc) or named after towns, usually in England (eg Brighton can be found in postcode 3186, 4017, 5048 and 7030).

One of my favourite place names in Australia (up there with Grong Grong (2652) and Goodnight (2736) and Manangatang (3546)) is Humbug Scrub (5114). It's not far from Sandy Creek (the Sandy Creek in South Australia that actually has a postcode). In the 1970s, when the cool kids wore T-shirts with university names on them, such as Yale or Harvard or Oxford, I saw some people wearing T-shirts with Humbug Scrub University on the front. I thought of listing it on my resume later and seeing who would notice, but naturally I didn't do so.

Today's puzzles start with identifying the Australian state or territory in which the following number-related places are located. Not all states will necessarily be represented. All but one are from the postcode listing (but you don't have to supply any postcodes). A few places were unfamiliar to me. I have included them just to show the diversity of place names. I have tried to track down some information about each place in the answers.

Question 1

One Tree Hill

Two Wells

Three Moon

Four Corners

No. 4 Branch

Five Dock

Sevenhill

Eight Mile Plains

Twelve Mile Peg

Seventeen Mile Rocks

Twenty Forests

Eighty Mile Beach

Ninety Mile Beach (no postcode)

Seventeen Seventy

And now for some Scrabble content.

I could not find any place in Australia named Scrabble, so there's an opportunity for you if you have a few hundred million to spare and you're developing a housing estate with lots of suburbs. You could name the suburbs Scrabble Gardens, Scrabble Vale, Upper Scrabble, Scrabble Hills, East Scrabble or Scrabble East, and so on. And what about the streets? Retsina Road, Qat Court, Zyzzyva Boulevard, Etesian Esplanade, Aioli Avenue, Stonier Street, Squinch Square, Triple Word Square – the possibilities are endless. Build more suburbs, or perhaps the houses could have names too. I'm imagining a street with all the houses having names that are anagrams of **RETSINA**.

Scrabble is the name of a small area in West Virginia. Hardscrabble is the name of a few towns and other localities in the US.. Presumably, most of them got that name from a description of the land, as 'hardscrabble' means rocky or poor quality. (Both **SCRABBLE** and **HARDSCRABBLE** are allowed in Scrabble.) Although Australia does not have any places named Hardscrabble, we do have Hardtimes Dam and Hard Struggle Dam (both in SA), plus Hardstruggle Gully in Tasmania.

I've been wanting to write 'place name' in this post as one word, but although the one-word version is common enough in real life, and it is listed in the Macquarie Dictionary, and it is even accepted by the spelling checker for this email, it is not yet allowed in Scrabble.

The technical term for a place name, especially one derived from a geographical feature, is a **TOPONYM** (based on Greek words for 'place' and 'name'). As a typical English noun, **TOPONYM** forms its plural as **TOPONYMS**.

Question 2

What other letter can go on the end of **TOPONYM**?

Question 3

What are the seven 7-letter words starting with MAP?

Question 4

What is the anagram for each of these sets of letters? Each set has a single anagram, except where indicated. Most words are fairly common.

ONE+MAP+HEN

ONE+MAP+HE+G

TWO+MAP+ER (2 words, one of which is common)

THREE+MAP+A+HIT (2 words, slight spelling variants)

SEVEN+MAP+T

NINE+MAP+OU

TEN+MAP+Y

TEN+MAP+ART

Question 5

Here are two longer anagrams to solve. Neither answer is common.

PLACE+NAME+I+HUB

I+GOT+A+PLACE+NAME

40-37 May 19

In post 40–33, I mentioned **PI**. As you all no doubt remember from school, pi is the name of the specific number from mathematics that is approximately equal to 22/7 and which can be written more accurately as 3.14159, although the numbers after the decimal point just go on for ever.

You probably also remember that the symbol for pi is actually the Greek letter called 'pi' (pronounced as in 'pie'), which is equivalent to the English P. The symbol used is the lowercase version of the letter, π (depending on the font). Meanwhile, the uppercase version, Π (depending on the font), has its own mathematical uses, which need not concern us here. Although the number has been known since antiquity, the letter pi began to be used in the 1700s because it is the first letter of 'periphery' or 'perimeter' in Greek, and pi can be used to calculate the perimeter (or circumference) of a circle given the diameter. The number appears in many other mathematical formulas and applications.

Pi is an irrational number. 'Irrational' is used here in its specific mathematical sense meaning that the number cannot be expressed as a common fraction (although 22/7 is close and 355/113 is closer). This also means that its decimal fraction goes on forever with no pattern. However, some mathematicians have developed formulas that can work out the decimal digits of pi for as far as you've got computer resources to do so – in fact, trillions of digits! Very few people need more than 10 digits of pi in their calculations. And very, very few people need to work out zillions of digits, although it can be a good test of a computer or its programs. Nonetheless, some people try to memorise the digits of pi. A song on YouTube can help you remember the first 100 digits (I couldn't bear to watch it), and people try to remember the first 1000 or 10,000 digits of pi, or more. That's what I call 'irrational' (in a non-mathematical sense).

(1) What letters can form end hooks of **PI**?

(2) **PIPI** has several meanings, one being 'any of various edible shellfishes of Australasia'. It rhymes with 'hippy'. The word is derived from the Maori language, not 'Mauri' as in the Chambers Dictionary I am currently looking at. Apart from **S**, what is the only letter that can go at the end of **PIPI**?

(3) **OCTOPUS** is a scientific Latin term based on Ancient Greek and means 'eight foot'. The plural, because **OCTOPUS** has been around long enough in English to be counted as a standard English word, is **OCTOPUSES**. Case closed, except that the plural is sometimes given as **OCTOPI** (see how I've linked this to Pi), but nearly everyone authoritative agrees that this is a case of mistaken identity. Because people recognise that **OCTOPUS** is from an ancient language like Greek or Roman (which is fair enough), they assume that it might pluralise like one of those (which is a not unreasonable assumption, given examples such as appendix/appendices, criterion/criteria, maximum/maxima and radius/radii which get variably used). Unfortunately, people have taken the wrong model to create **OCTOPI**, but enough people have done so that the word is listed in dictionaries (often with a comment, eg Chambers Dictionary just says it is 'wrong') and it has become allowed for Scrabble. If we were true to the Ancient Greek, what would be the plural of **OCTOPUS**? The answer is allowed in Scrabble, but most authorities say that the word is pedantic, and they prefer **OCTOPUSES**. (People still argue over this subject, so my discussion may not accurately represent all points of view.)

(4) What number names from **ONE** to **TEN** can go in front of PIN?

(5) This question, which I found on the internet in various versions, is for mathematical fun (which does seem oxymoronic):

I buy my pizzas from Perfect Pizza. The name is what the shop does: their pizzas taste perfect, and the pizzas are also perfectly circular and perfectly uniform in thickness. When I buy a pizza with thickness a, and radius z, what is its volume?

40-38 May 20

In the 1980s, I lived for a few years in Henflov. Although it looks like the name of a Bulgarian village, it was an inner suburb of Brisbane. Actually, Henflov was the name on the sign for the railway station nearby. Actually, all signs bar one said 'Auchenflower', with all letters in uppercase. The one sign that I'm referring to had been damaged: the left end had lost A, U and C, while the right end had lost half the W, and E and R, leaving only 'Henflov'.

You may not have heard of the suburb of Auchenflower, but you have probably heard of the adjacent suburb, Milton, because of three landmarks, all of which I could see from the balcony of where I lived.

About half a kilometre away was the Milton Courts (or Milton Tennis Centre), a famous tennis venue that hosted some Davis Cup finals and the Australian Open over the years. Above the courts was a 7m tennis racquet that was installed by one of the sponsors, Stefan Ackerie, a Brisbane hairdresser usually just known as Stefan. (Stefan was a celebrity hairdresser, which could mean he was a hairdresser to celebrities, or a celebrity himself, or, in his case, both.) The courts closed in 1999 due to financial problems and the centre was sold and demolished. A new, but smaller, tennis centre has been built there, called Frew Park, and Stefan's racquet has returned.

Lang Park was about 1.5km away. You may also know it from its names after later redevelopment: Suncorp Stadium and Brisbane Stadium. The stadium hosts many rugby league games, other sports and other events. In particular, it is the site of numerous intensely contested State of Origin matches (rugby league, Queensland versus NSW, in case this is all new to you). I wasn't the least bit interested in any of the sport, but I could hear the roar of the crowd from my place when big events were on.

The final Milton landmark was the Milton Brewery situated about 1km away. It is a large redbrick building on a rise near the Milton Railway Station. The building is often featured on the labels of the beer produced there. Various trains are sometimes on the labels. Not only could I see the brewery, but when the wind was in the wrong direction (or the right direction, if you like that sort of thing), I could even smell the brewery.

However, it was some years before I realised that the terrible yeasty pong I could occasionally detect was actually coming that far from the brewery. On the other hand, I made the connection immediately between another Brisbane smell and its factory source. Just outside the suburb of Milton and closer to the city was an Arnott's Biscuits factory (later set up in new premises elsewhere in Brisbane), and there was often a lovely aroma coming from it. I don't think it drifted as far as my place, but I certainly remember smelling the aroma when I was in the bus on my way to work in the city.

The bus was usually packed, and, because I lived only a few stops from the city, I usually had to stand. It would be uncomfortable, because the bus didn't have air conditioning. It was often hot and humid, because Brisbane is like that. And in summer, because Brisbane doesn't have daylight saving, the sun is up really early and the temperature climbs rapidly. The bus was crawling along in the traffic or just stationary for long periods. I was sometimes a little late and hadn't had breakfast and was heading to work that I didn't fully enjoy. But at least there was the aroma of the biscuits wafting in.

But back to beer. Castlemaine Perkins is the company that makes the beer at the Milton Brewery, although it is wholly owned by the Japanese-controlled Lion company. The most famous beer from the Milton Brewery is XXXX, sometimes known as Fourex. I don't drink alcohol, and so I know little about beer. I don't think I had even heard of XXXX until I moved to Queensland in 1979, probably because South Australians were very parochial at that time about their own beers. But there was no escaping XXXX in Queensland, and even less so from my balcony, because the Milton Brewery has a large XXXX red neon sign on the top of the building (also shown on the label). XXXX was always visible at night-time, except during blackouts or heavy rain (or both).

And all those **x**s lead me to some **x** questions.

- (1) What allowed word sounds like **XXXX** ('Fourex')?
- (2) Is there an allowed word with more than two **x**s anywhere in the word?
- (3) Short words with 2 **x**s include **XEROX**, **PAXWAX**, **MAXIXE** and **EXOTOXIN**. Which word (and its plural) contains a double **x**, that is, adjacent letters?
- (4) Some anagrams for you to solve that contain an **x** and a number word. Most are common words.

ONE+X (2 answers)

ONE+X+N

ONE+X+ST

ONE+X+HIP

ONE+X+PENT

ONE+X+BE+HOP

THREE+X+P+T+Y

SEVEN+X+TIE

EIGHT+X+US+IN

NINE+X+DIG

TEN+X

TEN+X+AM

TEN+X+GIT

TEN+X+REAL

(5) Some more anagrams to solve. These feature **SIX** and other **SIX-y** numbers.

SIX (besides **SIX**)

SIX+A

SIX+ET (3 answers)

SIX+LEP

SIX+FEAT

SIX+FLOAT

SIXTEEN (besides **SIXTEEN**)

SIXTY (besides **SIXTY**)

(6) What word is an anagram of **ONE+SIX+TEN**?

(7) You will know that the letter **x** represents the number 10 for Roman numerals (see post 40-13). Are there any pairs of allowed words where you could replace an **x** in one word with **TEN** to produce the other word of the pair?

40-39 21 May

I know that **ISH** is an allowed word, and I thought I knew its meaning and use. For example, I imagine the following entirely fictional conversation between two chocoholics (yes, **CHOCOHOLIC** is allowed, and so is **CHOCAHOLIC**). I'll call them Cocoa and Cacao.

Cocoa (grumpishly): 'Hey, where did all the Easter eggs go? The packet was half full this morning and now it's nearly empty. How many did you eat?'

Cacao (sheepishly): 'Um ... ah ... eight.'

Cocoa (peevishly): 'Eight!?'

Cacao (weakishly): 'Ish.'

I found several items on the internet discussing this slang or colloquial use of **ISH**, but it does not appear to have reached our source dictionaries, because, when I looked it up, the only meaning given for **ISH** is a term from Scottish law related to tenancies and similar things.

Nevertheless, **-ISH** is a very common ending for words. Zyzzyva lists 886 words ending with **-ISH**, ranging from **WISH** to **TRAINSPOTTERISH**. And we can recognise some groups.

First, there are verbs which have come to us via a particular route from Latin, such as **VANISH**, **DISTINGUISH**, **ESTABLISH** and **PUBLISH**.

Second, there are all the words that are actually **-FISH** words and there are well over a hundred of them. (My next series of posts could be about fish: **LEMONFISH** ('shark meat sold as food in New Zealand'); **SILVERFISH** and **CRAYFISH** and **JELLYFISH**, which are not actually fish; **CATFISH** and **BATFISH** and **RATFISH**; **ALEWIFE** and **SEAWIFE** and **OLD WIFE**, which are all fish; **DOLPHINFISH**, which is not a **DOLPHIN**; **SARDINE**, a name applied to many species; **GUITARFISH** (a ray, roughly shaped like a guitar); **SQUIRRELFISH** (named not because it is shaped like a squirrel but perhaps because it makes a noise like a squirrel); **STOCKFISH** ('unsalted dried hake, cod, etc, commonly beaten with a stick before cooking'); and so on.

However, I would feel compelled to do 153 posts because, according to the Gospel of John, that is the number of fish that were caught by the apostles when Jesus directed them to try one more cast of the net after a long period of unsuccessful fishing (often known as 'the miraculous catch of fish'). I edited something a few years ago where the number 153 in the gospel was discussed. Since the number is so precise, some people think that it must have great significance, but no one over the centuries has worked out the significance, despite much time and energy being spent on it. Coincidentally, 153 is the sum of the numbers from 1 to 17, but so what. And 153 is one of very few 3-digit numbers where the sum of the cubes of the digits equals the number (ie $13 + 53 + 33 = 1 + 125 + 27 = 153$), but so what again.)

Third, there are words which are unrelated to other concepts, eg **HORSERADISH**, **SOAPDISH**, **ARRISH** (dialect for 'a stubble field'), **BAKSHISH** (in some Middle East countries, 'a tip'; variably spelled), **BLEMISH**, **EISH** (a South African interjection), **PISH** (another interjection), **NEBBISH** (from Yiddish) and **HASHISH**.

Fourth, there is the biggest group of words, the ones where the **-ISH** modifies the meaning of the base word to mean 'approximately', 'somewhat', 'roughly', 'in the manner of', and so on. For example, with colours, we have **REDDISH**, **PURPLISH**, **BROWNISH** and **PINKISH**. Commonly, but certainly not always, **-ISH** words are deprecatory or derogatory, eg **OAFISH**, **CLOWNISH**, **DOLTISH**, **LOUTISH** and **FOOLISH**. Sometimes the **-ISH** makes otherwise neutral words more negative. **CHILDISH** is usually not complimentary, although **CHILDLIKE** often is; **MANNISH** applied to a woman is not complimentary, **WOMANISH** applied to a man is not complimentary (whereas a man described as **MANLY** or a woman as **WOMANLY** would be complimented). On the other hand **BOYISH** and **GIRLISH** can be complimentary at times, eg 'boyish good looks', 'girlish charms'. This big group of **-ISH** words are adjectives, and many can be converted to adverbs by the usual English method of adding **-LY** (see examples in the fictional conversation above).

Within this last group, **-ISH** can be added to numbers. For instance, although I am 62, I was described by someone recently as 'fiftyish', meaning that I look to be around fifty or in my fifties. (I offer this example purely for educative purposes.) The **-ISH** means 'approximately'. Besides ages, **-ISH** can be applied to other numbers such as times of the day or the numbers of people or counted objects.

Today's question is: What number words from **ONE** to **NINETY** can take **-ISH** at the end to form a valid word in Scrabble? Ignore any hyphenated number words.

40-39.9

I'm nearly at the end of my 40 posts, so this interpolated post (hence its number of 40-39.9) is a thank-you to those who have read them, and especially to those who have commented, either publicly or privately, to add material or to correct a few minor items. All feedback has been gratefully received, and I hope I have responded to all.

I must also thank the many people who have put together the internet, Google, Wikipedia, Zyzzyva and a variety of dictionaries and other references. It would have been impossible to do the posts without such resources at my fingertips.

I've enjoyed preparing the posts and I'd like to think that you got some value from them too. My original intention was to prepare short posts of a paragraph or two, but I often got carried away. Despite my mention (my threat?) in post 40-39 of doing 153 posts on fish, I was only teasing and I have no plans to embark on another series on any topic. I do have some unused ideas and material from this series which I may eventually work on and post sporadically.

In my introductory post (40-0), I wrote:

The idea for doing 40 posts came to me a while ago ... However, our current period of isolation reminded me that 'quarantine' is derived from the Italian word for 'forty' ... so a series of 40 posts seemed apt now. It will give me something to do, and, hopefully, it will provide some distraction for readers. Perhaps our isolation will be over before my series finishes.

It is good that restrictions are gradually reducing now and I look forward to seeing you at Scrabble tournaments soon.

Michael Vnuk

40-40 21 May

This final post has two parts. The first part is a story that I've wanted to include somehow, but I couldn't find a way to justify linking it to anything, so now I'm just throwing it in. It does at least mention numbers. The second part is about numbers and words (and birds), and ends with some questions.

Part 1 concerns a story that was made up, for reasons that will become obvious.

I read about the story in The Bulletin in the 1980s where it was claimed to be the invention of a British journalist. I couldn't find anything quickly on the internet that was earlier, and The Bulletin piece is not found by Google, so I can't vouch for the source. I have also seen a few later variations of the story, so what I present here is my interpretation of the story based on my memory. However, the key features are unchanged.

At a tench-eating contest in Scotland (a tench is a fish), the finals pitted a Mr Hicks from Fife against a Swede named Sven. In the deciding round, Hicks lost a tooth and Sven went on to win by consuming nine fish. The local paper reported the contest under the following headline:

One tooth free for Fife's Hicks, Sven ate nine tench

Part 2 is about the **TWONIE**, the Canadian \$2 coin.

The **TWO-** in the name **TWONIE** seems obvious, but even if we know that the name is usually spelled **TOONIE**, and sometimes **TWOONIE**, the origin of the **-NIE** part is obscure.

We need to go back to the 1980s, when Canada was introducing a new \$1 coin, as part of the phasing-out of the \$1 note, because, as in Australia, it was cheaper in the long run to produce long-lasting coins rather than notes that deteriorated faster. There was already a \$1 coin, but it didn't have wide use, so the plan was to make a smaller coin from different metal, while keeping a similar design.

However, the dies for the new coin disappeared in transit. Later inquiries showed that the Royal Canadian Mint didn't have good procedures for shipping dies securely, that it had lost other dies before, and that it used a local courier for this particular shipment to save \$43.50. The dies were never located. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police considered that the dies were lost, but the Mint believed that they were stolen.

Meanwhile, to avoid the risk of someone using the missing dies to create counterfeit coins, a totally different design was approved for the new \$1 coin, a common loon (a waterbird) floating on water. The coin was quickly nicknamed the 'loonie' and eventually became popular, with the name becoming widely used. Most designs of the \$1 coin have stayed with the loon, and, of course, the Queen is on the other side.

A \$2 coin was introduced in Canada in 1996 because the \$2 note was then being phased out. Although this coin features a polar bear (except in various later commemorative issues), it was quickly and almost inevitably called a 'toonie', a blend of 'two' and 'loonie', and the name has stuck. As mentioned above, it can be spelled **TOONIE**, **TWONIE** or **TWOONIE**, depending on exactly how you combine the spelling of **TWO** and **LOONIE**, although the pronunciation is the same for all. Canadian newspapers and the Mint use the **TOONIE** spelling.

I was telling this story to my son, and I was surprised that he knew both **LOONIE** and **TOONIE**, because I didn't. It turned out that he had been watching Canadian videos on YouTube. (Note to self: Never assume that your knowledge or lack of knowledge of a word is the same as that of other people.)

(Ornithological interlude.) Loons are waterbirds, the size of large ducks. There are several species of loon that live in the northern hemisphere. (We don't have loons in Australia.) The species on the Canadian coin is the common loon (*Gavia immer*) which is often seen on lakes and other waterbodies across much of Canada, although it migrates to warmer areas during winter. The common loon is also known as the great northern diver and can dive as much as 60m deep to catch fish, its main food. It is an excellent swimmer, but is ungainly on land.

(Words interlude) I happened to see that a former genus name for the loons is Urinator. It turns out that **URINATOR** is listed in Zyzzyva as 'one who dives under water in search of something, as for pearls'. And loons are also known as 'divers' because of their diving abilities. Other sources tell me that **URINATOR** is obsolete (in the 'diver' meaning, although it has other meanings), but it is from Latin and, as a Latin word, it has been applied to a number of other animals, eg *Gyrinus urinator*, an aquatic whirligig beetle, and *Pelecanus occidentalis urinator*, the Galapagos subspecies of the brown pelican. **URINATOR** ('diver') and **URINE** are related etymologically, but I couldn't quickly find the details.

(Ornithological words interlude.) While we're talking about loons, it's interesting to note that many bird names are uncomplimentary when applied to people. Besides **LOON**, here are 10 that I found, and there may be more:

BOOBY
CHOOK
COOT
CUCKOO
DRONGO
GALAH
GOOSE
JAY
NODDY
TURKEY

But back to money.

I found the story about **TOONIES** and **LOONIES** when I was looking up **TWONIE**, which I had decided would make a good example to explain today's puzzle.

The following list contains allowable words. For each word, what number word can go in front to create another allowable word?

An example word is **NIE** (meaning 'to approach', also spelt **NIGH**, **NY** and **NYE**). The only number word that can go in front is **TWO**, producing the allowable word **TWONIE**.

For each word in the list, only one number name is valid as a front extension. The choice of number names is from **ONE** to **TEN**. Some number names may be solutions more than once, and not every number name may be used. Created words need not have anything to do with the number word or the base word. Some words are common.

ANT
DON
EYED
FER
FINGER
FOOT
MO
PEAT
POUNDER
REC
SEATER
SELF
SQUARE
STROKE
TIME

SOLUTIONS TO TEASERS 21-40

40-21 May 3

FOURSES is the dialect word, the time referred to being 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

TENSES is the unrelated word. Note that **TENS**, the plural of **TEN**, is pronounced as 'tenz', according to the usual English pattern. The plural of **TENS**, if it existed, would be something like 'tenz-iz'. **TENSES**, on the other hand, is pronounced 'tense-iz'. The pronunciation difference might be a reason why some of you didn't cotton on to the answer as quickly.

40-22 May 4

The three letters that do not appear are **J**, **K** and **Z**.

The list of letters, in order of first appearance, is below. You might recall that the first part of the list was the subject of post 40-9.

1. **O** in **ONE**
2. **N** in **ONE**
3. **E** in **ONE**
4. **T** in **TWO**
5. **W** in **TWO**
6. **H** in **THREE**
7. **R** in **THREE**
8. **F** in **FOUR**
9. **U** in **FOUR**
10. **I** in **FIVE**
11. **V** in **FIVE**
12. **S** in **SIX**
13. **X** in **SIX**
14. **G** in **EIGHT**
15. **L** in **ELEVEN**
16. **Y** in **TWENTY**
17. **D** in **ONE HUNDRED**
18. **A** in **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE** or **ONE THOUSAND**
(see post 40-11)
19. **M** in **ONE MILLION**
20. **B** in **ONE BILLION**
21. **Q** in **ONE QUADRILLION**
22. **P** in **ONE SEPTILLION**
23. **C** in **ONE OCTILLION**

Note that **Z** does appear in **ZERO** and **DOZEN**, but these are not considered 'standard' counting numbers.

Note also that **J**, **K** and **Z** all appear in fictional number words, such as **JILLION**, **KAZILLION** and **ZILLION**.

Extra questions

If all the counting names from **ONE** to **ONE VIGINTILLION** are listed in alphabetical order (using the same rules about names as in the main question, and ignoring spaces and hyphens for alphabetisation), which number comes first? And which number is second?

First is **EIGHT**.

Second is **EIGHT BILLION**.

40-23 May 5

1. A solution:

TWO
HAD
ONE

Note that if we had inserted WAN, WEN, WIN, WON or WYN, the square would have been symmetrical, for example (using WIN):

TWO
WIN
ONE

But the instructions asked for a double word square with no repeated words.

2. A solution:

ONE
FOG
TWO

3. The only solution:

ONE
SIX
EMO

(**EXO** in the bottom line is against the question's requirement of no repeated words.)

4. The only solution:

ITA
SIX
ONE

5. The solutions I came up with use the following framework of number words:

TWO
E ? N
N ? E

As far as I can work out, replacing the blanks leads to 7 different solutions:

TWO
EAN
NIE

TWO
EAN
NEE

TWO
EAN
NYE

TWO
EEN
NEE

TWO
EEN
NYE

TWO
EON
NEE

TWO
ERN
NYE

6. Here are a couple of solutions that I found:

FOUR
INTO
VEAL
ESSE

FOUR
IDLE
VEES
EAST

Presumably there are other solutions.

7. Here is my solution. I was happy enough to find one solution, so I stopped.

BLOTS
EIGHT
AFIRE
SEVEN
TREES

40-24 May 6

TWELVE, and you need a **V**.

The first blank used is for the **V** in **ELEVEN**, because the 2 **Vs** are used in **FIVE** and **SEVEN**.

The second blank used is for the first **E** in **TWELVE**, because the 12 **Es** are used earlier (**ONE, THREE, FIVE, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN**).

Then, when you come to the **V** in **TWELVE**, there are no more blanks available.

Up to **TWELVE**, all other letters don't get used beyond their limits. Here are the numbers, with lowercase representing a blank:

ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX
SEVEN
EIGHT
NINE
TEN
ELEVEN
TWEL...

Optional question

What is the first of the counting numbers that cannot be written individually with a standard set of Scrabble tiles? For example, **NINE BILLION FIFTY-FIVE MILLION EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOUR** (9,055,086,79 4) contains 4 **Fs**, 3 **Hs**, 10 **Is**, 10 **Ns** and 3 **Ys**, and so cannot be written from a Scrabble set, because it would need 9 blanks. I have not worked out the answer.

40-25 May 7

Only a few number names succeed, and all require at least one blank to work. Below is the full list of even numbers from **TWO** to **NINETY** that I considered. (Blanks are indicated by lowercase letters.)

2 (**TWO**), eg as **Two**; the **W** must be one of the blanks.

4 (**FOUR**), eg as **four**; the **F** must be one of the blanks.

6 (**SIX**), not possible.

8 (**EIGHT**), eg as **EIGHT**, provided that the word does not cover a DLS, or if it does, that a blank is on the DLS; the **H** must be a blank, the **G** must not be a blank.

10 (**TEN**), not possible.

12 (**TWELVE**), not possible,

14 (**FOURTEEN**), word is too long.

16 (**SIXTEEN**), not possible, because word would be a bonus, thus scoring 50+ points.

18 (**EIGHTEEN**), word is too long.

20 (**TWENTY**), eg **TWentY**, provided that the word does not cover a DLS, or if it does, that a blank is on the DLS.

30 (**THIRTY**), eg **THIRtY**, provided that **H** or **Y** is on a DLS.

40 (**FORTY**), not possible.

50 (**FIFTY**), not possible.

60 (**SIXTY**), not possible.

70 (**SEVENTY**), eg **SEvENTY**, provided that a 1-point letter is on a DLS; the 50-point bonus is key.

80 (**EIGHTY**), not possible.

90 (**NINETY**), not possible.

40-26 May 8

[1] **TWELVEMONTH**, which means, as you might have guessed, 'twelve months' or 'a year'. Not in common use now.

[2] **SENNIGHT**, from 'seven nights'. Another version is 'se'nnight'.

[3] **SUNDAE**, the exact origin of both the word and what it names are disputed.

[4] **DYNAMO** and **NOMADY** ('living as or like a nomad').

[5] **MARCH, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER**.

I knew the first three, but I was surprised at **NOVEMBER**, especially because other surrounding months are not allowed. It turns out that **NOVEMBER** became allowed a few years ago not because it is a month but because it is the code word for the letter **N** in international radio communication (the alphabet being **ALFA, BRAVO, CHARLIE, DELTA, ECHO**, etc). **X** in that alphabet is **XRAY**, which explains why **XRAY** is also allowed in Scrabble. For more information, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO_phonetic_alphabet.

[6] **MAYS, AUGUSTS, NOVEMBERS**.

Having just learned **NOVEMBER** in the previous question, I would have guessed that it takes an **S** (which it does). And I would have said that **MARCH** doesn't take an **S**, because the standard English way of adding an **S** gives **MARCHES** (which is correct). I thought that **MAY** was only an auxiliary verb (eg 'You may use a calculator'), but **MAY** is also a proper verb in its own right meaning 'to gather flowers in [the northern] spring'. It can also mean a maiden. Both forms allow an **S**. And I thought that **AUGUST** was only an adjective, meaning 'dignified', 'important', etc, but it can also be a type of clown (usually spelled **AUGUSTE**).

40-27 May 9

(1) **THREESCORE** = 60

FOURSCORE = 80

SIXSCORE = 120

EIGHTSCORE = 160

NINESCORE = 180

(2) **THREESCORES**

SIXSCORES

EIGHTSCORES

NINESCORES

I have no idea why some words are allowed and others are not.

I was confident that **THREESCORE** would be allowed (which it is), because I vaguely knew something about the Bible mentioning 'threescore years and ten' as one's allotted span, or something like that. The internet says that **THREESCORE** was often used for 60 in English translations of the Bible, which probably reflects the fact of the word being in common use for the translators. One passage referring to age is in Psalm 90, which has been translated as follows (King James Version):

*The days of our years are threescore years and ten;
and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years,
yet is their strength labour and sorrow;
for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

I was also confident that **FOURSCORE** would be allowed (which it is), because Abraham Lincoln started the Gettysburg Address in 1863 with the word. The first paragraph is:

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth
on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and
dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.*

It gets complicated because there are actually several slightly different versions of Lincoln's speech in his own hand. Wikipedia shows some of them (i sn't the internet wonderful!), and 'Four' and 'score' are separate, but the report in the next day's New York Times (also viewable on Wikipedia) begins with 'Fourscore'.

I imagine that there is no **FIVE** word with **SCORE**, because **ONE HUNDRED** or **A HUNDRED** is good enough, and **A SCORE** is probably better than a **ONE** with **SCORE**, but it is odd that there is no **TWO** with **SCORE**, or **SEVEN** with **SCORE**. I've also checked and you cannot put **SCORE** in front of **SCORE** for 20x20. (I don't know whether I am disappointed or relieved.)

It's weird that **FOURSCORE** does not take an **S** like the other four allowed words. However, even more weirdly, there is a word **FOURSCORTH**, which means 'eightieth', although it is obsolete.

And I can't restrain myself. The discussion of sheep-counting reminds me of this old question: What is the best way to count sheep?

Count their legs and divide by four.

40-28 May 10

1. **QUINONE** ends with **ONE** (and also **NONE**, but I didn't ask for it).

QUININE ends with **NINE**.

QUIETEN ends with **TEN**.

In addition, four other words start with **Q** and end with **ONE**:

QUADRICONE, **QUERNSTONE**, **QUINALBARBITONE** and **QUINOLONE**. But finding **QUINONE** is good enough.

2. **THREEQUEL** and **THREEQUELS**.

A **THREEQUEL** is a work (such as a film, play or book) that is a sequel to a first sequel. The word has been in use since the late 1990s.

3. **ONE+Q+CRU = CONQUER**

TWO+Q+YOUR+THE = QUOTEWORTHY

THREE+Q+AWA+K = EARTHQUAKE

FOUR+Q+TORE = ROQUEFORT

FIVE+Q+ALoud+IRE = OVERQUALIFIED

SIX+Q+EE+TUI = EXQUISITE

SEVEN+Q+LA+TUI = EQUIVALENTS

EIGHT+Q+BUN+AE = BEQUEATHING

NINE+Q+AR+TAU = QUARANTINE

TEN+Q+AI+OU = EQUATION

EXQUISITE usually has the meaning of 'excellent', 'attracting admiration', 'of intricate workmanship' and other positive ideas, so, when I broke a bone in my hand several years, which led to pain and inconvenience and cost and everything else, I consoled myself ever so slightly by the fact that the specialist described the break as 'exquisite'. I may have broken a bone, I thought, but it was a more impressive break than those suffered by the other poor souls in the waiting room. Only later did I discover that **EXQUISITE** has additional meanings, including one used by the medical profession, meaning 'extremely intense, keen, sharp; said of pain or tenderness in a part'. In other words, the break hurt when you prodded it. What a let-down. Fortunately, the break healed well over the next few weeks, and I have added to my stock of word knowledge.

4. **SQUINT**

EQUINOX

PIQUING (from **PIQUE**)

COQUINA

EQUINIA (also known as **GLANDERS**)

TORQUING (from **TORQUE**)

BURQUINI (also spelt **BURKINI**)

SEQUINED

ANTIQUING (from **ANTIQUE**)

40-29 May 11

GIGA

MEGA

KILO

MICRO

NANO

40-30 May 12

[1] **EXTINES**

[2] **FOURTEENER**

FIFTEENER

SIXTEENER

Besides having other meanings, these words all describe lines of poetry with a certain number of syllables. Fourteener seems to be the most common, as it has its own Wikipedia page, whereas the other two do not. Wikipedia gives some examples of fourteeners from a variety of mostly literary sources. The only one I recognised was the theme song from Gilligan's Island, which is mostly made of fourteeners. (I'll let you make your own conclusions from that.)

[3] **SIXTEENMO** (also known as **SEXTODECIMO**)

EIGHTEENMO (also known as **OCTODECIMO**)

[4] **DECAFFEINATED**

[5] **QUATORZE**

The definition in Zyzzyva is '(French) the four aces, kings, queens, knaves or tens in pique, counting fourteen'.

As far as I can tell, the card game is actually called **PIQUET**, although a **PIQUE** is a component of the game.

I couldn't work how those cards tally to 14, but Wikipedia helped. In piquet, a set of 3 of a kind, eg 3 queens, is worth 3 points, but a set of 4 of a kind is worth 14 points, hence **QUATORZE**. Although piquet is not played with a full deck ... I'll rephrase that: The game of piquet is played with a 32-card deck, ie one where the 20 cards valued from 2 to 6 are removed. Sets only of 7s, 8s or 9s do not have any worth.

40-31 May 13

(1) **ZABAGLIONE**, **ZABAIONE** and **ZABAJONE** are spelling variants for a type of rich Italian custard. (I wonder if the spelling affects the taste.) And there's also **ZAMPONE**, another Italian food, this time a stuffed pig's trotter sausage. (Imagine your disappointment if you wanted **ZABAIONE**, but, because of your poor Italian, the waiter thought you said **ZAMPONE**.)

(2) **MEZZANINE** and **ZANINESS**.

(3) **TENDENZ**. A definition: 'a dominating point of view or purpose influencing the structure and content of a literary work'. It has the lovely pattern for its plural of **TENDENZEN**.

(4) **ONE+Z+B = BONZE**

ONE+Z+BI = BIZONE

ONE+Z+AA = OZAENA

ONE+Z+RR = RONZER (someone who lives in the rest of New Zealand, ie outside Auckland)

ONE+Z+LAC = CALZONE (another Italian food, like a pizza folded over)

ONE+Z+JAR = ZANJERO (sounds like it could be Zorro's off-sider, but it's someone who supervises the distribution of water in irrigation canals)

TWO+Z+O = WOOTZ

TWO+Z+HA = HOWZAT

TWO+Z+ISO+E = WOZIEST

THREE+Z+IO = THEORIZE

FOUR+Z+EN+N = UNFROZEN

FIVE+Z+ER+TOILER = OVERFERTILIZE

SIX+Z+OI+ED = OXIDIZES

SEVEN+Z+O = EVZONES (Greek soldiers; with its singular **EVZONE**, the only allowed word with the sequence **VZ**)

EIGHT+Z+RAG = GIGAHERTZ

NINE+Z+FA = FANZINE

NINE+Z+OCA = CANONIZE

TEN+Z+R = NERTZ

TEN+Z+BA = BEZANT (a gold coin, also **BEZZANT** and **BYZANT**, based on Byzantium, where first minted)

TEN+Z+HULA = HAZELNUT

TEN+Z+RICY+I = CITIZENRY

(5) All 3 form **INCENTIVIZES**.

(6) Yes, this is a trick question. In the English alphabet, nothing follows **Z**. The Greek **Z**, called ZETA (which you would know is playable in Scrabble), looks exactly like our **Z** (in uppercase; in lowercase it is ζ or ζ, depending on the font). However, **ZETA** is not the last letter in the standard Greek alphabet, which begins **ALPHA**, **BETA**, **GAMMA**, **DELTA**, **EPSILON**, **ZETA**, **ETA**, **THETA**, etc, so the answer is **ETA**. At least that was the answer when I first encountered the question in a crossword. If you were writing the letter itself, not the name of the letter, you would write H, because that is how **ETA** is represented in Greek (in uppercase; in lowercase, it is η or η, depending on the font).

40-32 May 14

[1] **ZENDO** and **ZONED**

- [2] **DOZEN+K = ZONKED**
DOZEN+L = DONZEL
DOZEN+T+H = DOZENTH (I hope you got this one!)
DOZEN+AI = ANODIZE (which you will know has the variant **ANODISE**)
DOZEN+EN = ENDZONE
DOZEN+SO = SNOOZED

[3] **PRIVATDOZENT**, which is an academic title in some universities denoting particular teaching qualifications and privileges. It would make an impressive bonus play.

40-33 May 15

(1) Each sentence has the same number of letters. You can see it more easily below where the text is displayed in a monospace font, that is, one in which each character and space takes up the same width.

- Zero plus nine equals nine.**
One plus eight equals nine.
Two plus seven equals nine.
Three plus six equals nine.
Four plus five equals nine.

(2) Actually, I don't know the answer, but my guess is that FIVE is the most commonly played number word in Scrabble. However, I'm only reflecting on games I have played or observed, and memory is often faulty or unreliable.

Other words from the standard counting numbers that might be played frequently include ONE, TWO and TEN.

We could look further. ZERO and HALF are played occasionally. And there's also PI, which is the name of the specific number from mathematics that is approximately equal to 22/7 and which can be written more accurately as 3.14159, although the numbers after the decimal point go on for ever.

If we use a very wide definition of number words, we could include words like FEW, which I have played a 'few' times.

Maybe someone has better ideas or even some data. You could send your thoughts to the list.

40-34 May 16

[1] **CONDYLES**. A condyle (from a Greek word for 'knuckle' via Latin) is a round prominence at the end of a bone, most often part of a joint, where it fits into a hollow in another bone.

[2] **NINETEENTHLY**.

I would have guessed 20thly (which I am not writing in letters), because 21stly would be hyphenated anyway. In summary, the following are all allowed:

- FIRSTLY**
- SECONDLY**
- THIRDLY**
- FOURTHLY**
- FIFTHLY**
- SIXTHLY**
- SEVENTHLY**
- EIGHTHLY**
- NINTHLY**
- TENTHLY**
- ELEVENTHLY**
- TWELFTHLY**
- THIRTEENTHLY**
- FOURTEENTHLY**
- FIFTEENTHLY**
- SIXTEENTHLY**
- SEVENTEENTHLY**
- EIGHTEENTHLY**
- NINETEENTHLY**

Interestingly, the spelling checker for this email disdains **SIXTEENTHLY** and **SEVENTEENTHLY**, but is happy with all the lower numbers and **EIGHTEENTHLY** and **NINETEENTHLY**.

[3] **NINETEENTHLY** forms **NINETEENTHLIES**.

When I Googled 'nineteenthlies', Google asked me whether I was really looking for 'nineteenth lies', for which it had many more entries. Apart from several items with Trevor's article referring to 'nineteenthlies', most sites seem to contain or quote a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892), part of which includes these lines:

*Sermons that, for mortal hours,
 Taxed our fathers' vital powers,
 As the long nineteenthlies poured
 Downward from the sounding-board,
 And, for fire of Pentecost,
 Touched their beards December's frost.*

I think the 'nineteenthlies' refer to the numerous points in long sermons and lectures that seem to have been favoured by some religious or academic types, and two passages from other authors found by Google reinforce my interpretation. Whittier was an American Quaker poet and advocate of the abolition of slavery in the United States. He was a highly regarded poet during the second half of the 19th century. This 1851 poem was dedicated to one of his teachers, but I hesitate to read the rest of the poem to find out how this passage connects to his teacher.

40-35 May 17

5000 (**FIVE THOUSAND**)

84 (**EIGHTY-FOUR**)

Discussion: Rather than checking every number from **ONE** onwards to see if it has repeated letters, it is probably quicker to start with large numbers and eliminate any with repeated letters. Everything from **ONE MILLION** upwards repeats, at the minimum, **I** and **L** (in **MILLION** or **BILLION** or similar), and so can be dismissed. Everything in the hundred thousands has at least 3 **Ds**, and can also be eliminated. All the tens of thousands have, for example, a **T** in **THOUSAND** and a **T** in **FORTY** or **SIXTY** or whatever, so they are out. All the teens of thousands double up the **E**, as do **ELEVEN THOUSAND** and **TWELVE THOUSAND** – thus all dismissed. Counting down further, **TEN, NINE, EIGHT, SEVEN** and **SIX THOUSAND** all repeat T or E or S or N.

Which brings us to **FIVE THOUSAND**, where there are no repeated letters. But is there a number between 5001 and 5999 with no repeated letters? We can apply the same procedure as above for words before **THOUSAND** in a number name to words after **FIVE THOUSAND**. Anything with **HUNDRED**, or a ten or a teen, must go, leaving only the numbers from **ONE** to **NINE**. However, we say **FIVE THOUSAND AND** 'number', which means the **AND** is repeated in **THOUSAND**, so all of these numbers can be eliminated too. (Even if we spoke like Americans and omitted the **AND**, eg saying **FIVE THOUSAND FOUR**, we can check and see that every number between **ONE** and **NINE** shares a letter with **THOUSAND**, except **FIVE**, but that is already in front of **THOUSAND**.)

Thus, **FIVE THOUSAND** (5000) is the largest number with no repeated letters.

As for the second-largest number, anything starting with **ONE, TWO, THREE** or **FOUR THOUSAND** repeats **O** or **N** or **T**. Anything with **HUNDRED** has repeated **Ds**, so we are left with a number below 100. Numbers in the nineties have at least 2 **Ns**, so we check the eighties. We can eliminate **EIGHTY-NINE, EIGHTY-EIGHT** (obviously), **EIGHTY-SEVEN, EIGHTY-SIX** and **EIGHTY-FIVE**.

The next one down, **EIGHTY-FOUR** (84), is therefore the second-largest number with no repeated letters.

For completeness, the other number names with no repeated letters are (in order of decreasing size):

80 – **EIGHTY**
 64 – **SIXTY-FOUR**
 61 – **SIXTY-ONE**
 60 – **SIXTY**
 46 – **FORTY-SIX**
 40 – **FORTY**
 10 – **TEN**
 8 – **EIGHT**
 6 – **SIX**
 5 – **FIVE**
 4 – **FOUR**
 2 – **TWO**
 1 – **ONE**

40-36 May 18

Question 1

One Tree Hill (SA 5114)

A small town on the northeastern outskirts of Adelaide. There actually was a big tree, which gave its name to an inn and then the town, but Wikipedia says it (the tree) burnt down in 1890, and other trees were planted in its place.

Two Wells (SA 5501)

Another small town north of Adelaide, named for two wells of Indigenous origin that early settlers used.

Three Moon (Qld 4630)

An inland area near Monto, which is about 350km northwest of Brisbane. I can't quickly find the origin of its name.

Four Corners (NSW 2716)

An area near Hay in the central west of NSW. Presumably not named after the ABC television program.

No. 4 Branch (Qld 4856)

A small rural locality between Tully and Innisfail in Far North Queensland. No. 5 Branch and No. 6 Branch are nearby, but I can't find out what all the branches refer to – perhaps a river; unlikely to be a bank..

Five Dock (NSW 2046)

An inner western suburb of Sydney, named perhaps after five rock formations on the Parramatta River that looked like docks.

Sevenhill (SA 5453)

A bit tricky, as Sevenhill (one word; singular) is a small town near Clare, 130km north of Adelaide, whereas Seven Hills (two words; plural) is the name of a suburb (2147) in Blacktown, Sydney, and also a suburb (4170) 5km east of the Brisbane CBD. Sevenhill was named in homage to Rome's seven hills by Jesuit priests and brothers who started a community there in the mid-19th century. Seven Hills in Brisbane also relates to Rome's seven hills. However, it was a real-estate concoction, so there may never have been seven hills specifically. Seven Hills in Sydney is supposed to be named from being the seventh hill on the road from Parramatta. (We used to visit the monastery at Sevenhill occasionally when I was growing up because my father knew one of the Jesuits there. Sevenhill is also close to Clare, where my mother was born and where she taught for a while in the 1950s.)

Eight Mile Plains (Qld 4113)

This southeastern suburb of Brisbane is a flat area (hence 'plains') 9 miles from central Brisbane. Couldn't they measure properly in those days, or have roadworks shortened the route? No, the 8 miles refers to the distance from One Mile Swamp (which is now called Woolloongabba), situated about 1 mile from central Brisbane. (I lived in Woolloongabba for a few years, but I never heard of its old name. I'm glad it was changed, as One Mile Swamp is suboptimal, to say the least, but Woolloongabba has its own problems because of its spelling. Many people omit the second L (or perhaps the first L). Note that Woolloongabba is one of the few words that contains 3 consecutive sets of doubled letters – or 4, if you count the 'double-U'.)

Twelve Mile Peg (NSW 2450)

A mainly forested area, including national parks, inland from Jervis Bay. It must be 12 miles from somewhere, but I couldn't quickly establish what that somewhere is.

Seventeen Mile Rocks (Qld 4073)

This southwestern Brisbane suburb is named after rocks in the Brisbane River that lie about 17 miles from the mouth of the river. Most of the rocks have been removed to improve river transport. The suburb was largely industrial, but now it has more residential developments. One estate is named Edenbrooke (typical bland real-estate-ese), but another is called Verandah. Verandah does not have its own postcode yet.

Twenty Forests (NSW 2795)

A rural area near Bathurst. Presumably, it has trees, but I couldn't find much about it quickly.

Eighty Mile Beach (WA 6725)

According to Wikipedia, this beach between Broome and Port Hedland is about 140 miles long. How they got it that wrong, I don't know.

Ninety Mile Beach (Victoria, no postcode)

At the opposite end of the continent, this beach in southeastern Victoria is only a few miles over 90 miles long. (I was near there once, actually with one of the friends in the story that starts this post. When I say 'near', we got to a lookout that said 'View of Ninety Mile Beach', but it was a rainy day and we couldn't see the beach at all. I do have a nice photo of the sign. Later that day, we wandered through temperate rainforest in a small national park. It had just stopped raining and the tree ferns and other plants were all clean and green, just dripping and glistening.)

Seventeen Seventy (Qld, 4677)

A small coastal town 500km from Brisbane, renamed as such in 1936 to reflect that this area was the second landing-place of Cook in 1770 after Botany Bay. It is often written unofficially as '1770', which makes sense, as it is shorter.

Question 2

Y, to give **TOPONYMY**, 'the study of toponyms'. A few other **-NYM** words can also take a **Y**, with various meanings, eg **EPONYMY** and **SYNONYMY**.

Question 3

MAPLESS

MAPLIKE

MAPPERS

MAPPERY

MAPPING

MAPIST (another word for 'cartographer', but it looks like 'Trappist', so I imagine a medieval monk copying maps with 'Here be dragons' in Latin near the edges)

MAPWISE

Question 4

ONE+MAP+HEN = PHENOMENA

ONE+MAP+HE+G = MEGAPHONE

TWO+MAP+ER = TAPEWORM and **POMWATER** (a variety of apple)

THREE+MAP+A+HIT = AMPHITHEATRE and **AMPHITHEATER**

SEVEN+MAP+T = PAVEMENTS

NINE+MAP+OU = PNEUMONIA (has all the vowels)

TEN+MAP+Y = PAYMENT

TEN+MAP+ART = APARTMENT

Question 5

PLACE+NAME+I+HUB = UNIMPEACHABLE

I+GOT+A+PLACE+NAME = PALAEOMAGNETIC

40-37 May 19

(1) 11 letters, making:

PIA
PIC
PIE
PIG
PIN
PIP
PIR
PIS
PIT
PIU
PIX

(2) T to form **PIPIT**, a type of bird. There are many species of pipits across the world and most members are small and unassuming. The name seems to be derived from its call. The New Zealand pipit is also called **PIHOIHOI** (not to be confused with **PAHOEHOE**, which is a type of lava in Hawaii; nor **PIPIWHARAUROA**, the Maori name for the shining bronze-cuckoo of the Australasian region).

(3) **OCTOPODES** (which is pronounced with 4 syllables, something like 'oct-oh-poh-deez')

(4) **FIVE**, **NINE** and **TEN**.

Tenpin bowling (or ten-pin bowling) uses 10 pins, arranged in a triangle of 1, 2, 3 and 4 pins with the point of the triangle facing the bowler.

Ninepin bowling (or nine-pin bowling) uses 9 pins. I thought that this was a cheaper version of tenpin and I couldn't work out why you would remove the front pin. However, ninepins appears to be the original game, with the pins arranged in a 3x3 square, but turned so that it looks like a diamond with one point facing the bowler.

I thought that fivepin bowling (or five-pin bowling) might have been the original bowling that Americans built up to 10 because they could. But no. Fivepin is the cut-down version of tenpin, using 5 smaller pins, a smaller ball and a shorter alley, originally to cater for people who decided that tenpin was too strenuous (for example, a tenpin bowling ball weighs about 7kg). The pins are arranged in a V-shape, with the point facing the bowler. The game is popular in Canada.

(Much of my knowledge of tenpin bowling came from watching Fred Flintstone, who was an avid bowler, but I have supplemented my knowledge with the internet.)

(5) The formula for the volume of a cylindrical solid is usually expressed as $\pi r^2 h$. If we use the values given in the question, $r = z$ and $h = a$, the formula becomes $\pi z^2 a$, and I think you can see where this is going. Expanding z^2 to zz (nonstandard, but not incorrect), using 'pi' for π (unorthodox, I know), and ignoring any multiplication signs (which we often do in mathematical notation) brings us to the answer of 'pizza'.

I don't know which is worse:

Whenever I eat pizza, I will now be reminded of maths.

Whenever I am doing maths, I will start thinking about pizza.

40-38 May 20

(1) The best is **FOREX**, a shortened form of 'foreign exchange'. (This word and **CAPEX**, short for 'capital expenditure', were words I occasionally encountered in real life, so I was pleased when they became allowed a few years ago.) Other words that are somewhat similar to **XXXX** are **FORFEX** ('scissors'), **FORNIX** ('an arched anatomical structure') and **FOURPLEX** ('a building having four units'). (While looking up words starting with **F** and ending with **X**, I was reminded that **FLAX**, **FLEX**, **FLIX**, **FLOX** and **FLUX** are all allowed.)

(2) No. There are also no allowed words with more than 2 Js or 2 Qs.

(3) Only **ANTIVAXXER**, which has recently become allowed.

ANTIVAXXER is a particularly weird word. For a start, there is no similar word without the **ANTI-** prefix. **VAX** itself is short for 'vaccination' or 'vaccine', in a similar way that **SOX** is short for 'socks', **TIX** is short for 'tickets', and **FAX** is short for 'facsimile'. **ANTIVAX** (adjective) and **ANTIVAXER** (noun) have formed by regular means, but enough people have written **ANTIVAXXER** with the double **X** that the spelling has got into our allowed words. I suppose they are thinking of the usual pattern in English of doubling consonants when extending a word, eg **RAP** becomes **RAPPED**, **RAPPING**, **RAPPER**. However, there are subtleties to the rule, and it doesn't apply to any other word ending in **X**, eg **FIX** becomes **FIXER**, **BOX** becomes **BOXER**, **MIX** becomes **MIXER**. There is no reason for the double **X** in **ANTIVAXXER**. (And yet, the spelling checker in this email corrects **ANTIVAXER** to **ANTIVAXXER**.) I have even seen **VAX** with a double **X** in print, but it is not allowed yet. (Part of the spelling complexity arises because we often double consonants at the end of surnames, when the normal word would only have a single consonant, eg Kevin Rudd, Tony Abbott, Frances Gumm (Julie Garland's original name), Ken Starr, Bob Carr, Glynis Nunn, Robert Scott, Brad Pitt. Another complexity is that trade names exist with the double X, eg Exxon, Maxxis Tyres.)

(4) **ONE+X = EXON** and **OXEN**

ONE+X+N = XENON

ONE+X+ST = SEXTON

ONE+X+HIP = PHOENIX

ONE+X+PENT = EXPONENT

ONE+X+BE+HOP = XENOPHOBE

THREE+X+P+T+Y = HYPERTEXT

SEVEN+X+TIE = EXTENSIVE

EIGHT+X+US+IN = EXTINGUISH

NINE+X+DIG = INDEXING

TEN+X = NEXT

TEN+X+AM = TAXMEN

TEN+X+GIT = TEXTING

TEN+X+REAL = EXTERNAL

(5) **SIX = XIS**

SIX+A = AXIS

SIX+ET = EXIST, EXITS, SIXTE

SIX+LEP = PIXELS

SIX+FEAT = FIXATES

SIX+FLOAT = FOXTAILS (I once made a huge score by hooking an **F** on the front of **OXTAILS**.)

SIXTEEN = EXTINES (I asked this in post 40-30.)

SIXTY = XYSTI

(6) **ONE+SIX+TEN = EXTENSION** (This was an answer to a puzzle in post 40-16.)

(7) I thought of **PAX** and **PATEN**. (**PAX** = 'peace' and **PATEN** = 'a plate', often for religious purposes.) I'm guessing that there are other pairs, but I don't have the time to pursue them today. Perhaps someone could send their findings to the list.

40-39 21 May

6 - **SIXISH**

7 - **SEVENISH**

20 - **TWENTYISH**

30 - **THIRTYISH**

40 - **FORTYISH**

50 - **FIFTYISH**

60 - **SIXTYISH**

I was very surprised by these answers, as I expected more numbers to have **-ISH** words, especially the low numbers, because I often hear people say things like 'Come around at 2-ish', 'I usually leave work at 5-ish', 'It was 10-ish when we finally got home'.

40-40 21 May

TENANT

TENDON

FOUREYED ('wearing spectacles')

TWOFER ('something that is sold at the rate of two for the price of one' - from 'two for' spoken rapidly)

FIVEFINGER (a number of different plants with sets of five leaves somewhat similar to fingers)

EIGHTFOOT ('measuring eight feet' ***)

SIXMO ('a paper size' – **TWELVEMO**, **SIXTEENMO** and **EIGHTEENMO** are all valid words, but the question asked for numbers between **ONE** and **TEN**)

THREEPEAT ('to win a sporting event on three consecutive occasions')

TENPOUNDER ('a ten-pound gun' ***)

TENREC ('a small Madagascan insectivore' – also **TANREC**)

TWOSEATER ('a car or other vehicle with two seats' ***)

ONESELF

FOURSQUARE ('forthright, marked by boldness and conviction')

TWOSTROKE ('denoting a kind of engine' ***)

ONETIME ('former')

*** In each case, I wonder why other numbers are unsuitable.