Style Invitational Week 1076: Double dactyls and ScrabbleGrams neologisms

By Pat Myers, Style Invitational editor
June 12, 2014
Higgledy piggledy,
House Speaker “Boehner”: it
Reads a bit sexy, but
Spoke, it’s benign.

Which is appropriate,
Etymologically.
There is no stiffness: He
Hasn’t the spine.
(The Czar)

Rickety rackety,
“Rosie the Riveter”
Turned in her apron to
Work with the guys;

Found that she liked her new
Employability —
That’s why you have to eat
Frozen pot pies.

(Beverley Sharp, Week 901 obit poem)

Yet another in our series of Weird Snow Donors
that we’re using as second prizes: A “Mannesken
Pis” fro Brussels, with a rather unusual fountain.
(Pat Myers)

The Empress has been in a higgledy-piggledy mood since crashing the
West Chester Poetry Conference in
the Philadelphia area last weekend.

After I gave a talk about song parodies, Genuine Poet Kevin Durkin — who’s
also managing editor of the poetry journal Light — asked if the Invite ever
did double-dactyl contests, because really, we should. The Empress’s
predecessor, the Czar, did do a DD contest — in 1994. So I guess it’s time to
give it another go.

The double dactyl is a form invented by writers Anthony Hecht and Paul
Pascal on a whin over lunch in Rome in 1951. While this week we’re not
following every one of the pair’s many rules — we won’t insist, for instance,
that the six-syllable word cannot have been used in a previous double dactyl
— we’re still not letting you off easy. I’ve asked the Czar himself to put forth
the rules for this week’s contest, using his own poem above as an example:

● A double-dactyl poem consists of two mini-stanzas, each with four short lines.
● The first, second and third lines of each stanza each contain six syllables in
double-dactyl meter: DUM-dee-dee DUM-dee-dee. The fourth line is just
four syllables: DUM-dee-dee-DUM.
● The two DUM-dee-dee-DUM fourth lines have to rhyme with each other.
● The first line must be a rhyming nonsense phrase.

The poem must be about a specific person and must include at least
some part of his name. (It’s usually in the second line, but we won’t insist.)

Finally, one line must be a six-syllable word or hyphenated term. And of
course, it’s also in the DUM-dee-dee, DUM-dee-dee double-dactyl meter,
like “etymologically” in the poem above.

Winner gets the Inkin’ Memorial, the Lincoln statue bobblehead that is the
official Style Invitational trophy. Second place wins a souvenir snow dome
from Brussels, featuring a little “Mannesken Pis” statue that seems to be
producing a fountain of — I guess it’s snow. Donated by Continental Snow
Other runners-up win their choice of a yearned-for Loser Mug or the ardently desired “Whole Fools” Grocer Bag. Honorable mentions get a lustred-after Loser magnet, either the Po’ Wit Laureate or Puns of Steel. First Offenders receive a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” (FirStink for their first ink). E-mail entries to losers@washpost.com or, if you were born in the 19th century, fax to 202-334-4312. Deadline is Monday, June 23; results published July 13 (online July 10). No more than 25 entries per entrant per contest. Include “Week 1076” in your e-mail subject line or it might be ignored as spam. Include your real name, postal address and phone number with your entry. See contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. This week’s honorable-mentions subhead is by Jeff Contompasis; the alternative headline in the “next week’s results” line is by Tom Witte. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at on.fb.me/invdev, and click “like” on Style Invitational Ink of the Day at bit.ly/inkofday.

The Style Conversational The Empress’s weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. Especially if you plan to enter, check it out at wapo.st/styleconv.

REPORT FROM WEEK 1072: THE TILE INVITATIONAL

Week 1072 was our second contest in which we listed several dozen seven-letter sets from ScrabbleGrams, a word-unscrebling game that appears daily in The Post, and asked you to create new five-, six- or seven-letter terms from any set of letters and define them. (We also welcomed clever definitions of existing words.) There were 42 separate definitions for “vexpert,” while numerous people defined “smirque” as what the French do when they hear your accent.

The winner of the Inkin’ Memorial

AAURGJN — Uganja: Country ruled by the surprisingly mellow dictator Weedy Amin. (Brendan Beary, Great Mills, Md.)

2nd place and the two books about poo:

IYBLPSM — Blimpsey: Talented graffiti artist whose career was cut short by difficulty running from the authorities. (David Ballard, Reston, Va.)

3rd place

AUEALGB — Gabuela: A granny who can’t keep her boea shut. (Mae Scanlan, Washington)

4th place

OIMDGSZ — OMGDS: Socrates’ final text. (Dave Zarrow, Reston, Va.)

RACKS OF LAME: HONORABLE MENTIONS

(First Offenders are marked with an asterisk)

AEGHTCD — Dechat: Shut up. (Joy Sibley, Fairfax, Va.)

HATEDC: Four hundred members of Congress applied for this D.C. license plate. (Jim Stiles, Rockville, Md.)

AEUHBF — Pheau: Knockoff perfume. (Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)

AINDLTHN

Nitland: Elementary school. (Peyton Covner, Afton, Va.; Brad Alexander,
Wanneroo, Australia
Nitland: Laos. (Chris Doyle, Kihei, Hawaii)
Nat lid: A hat with a curly W. (Bill Rippey, Montgomery Village, Md.)

AOAOLOHM
Aloham: Meaning “hello, bringer of bacon” and “goodbye, you pig.” (Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)
Maulah: The bribe to the Beijing party commissioner. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

AOA13MD → Moanday: Three days after thanking God for Friday a little too much. (Edward Gordon, Austin)

AUEALGB
AA-bulge: The result of eating every time you feel the urge for a drink. (*David Adlerstein, Apalachicola, Fla.)
AA-bulge: The result of choosing too small a bra size. (Hugh Thirlway, The Hague)
Galbeau: Transgender heartthrob (David Ballard)
Glube: What you get if you mix Elmer’s with K-Y Jelly. (Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.)
Begaui: Try to impress with French expressions. “That pompous jerk kept begauiing me with ‘ma cherie.’” (Chris Doyle)

EAYLTG → Gaytell: The easiest way to get your own TV show when you’re a seventh-round draft pick. (Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.)

EEANPHX
Ape-ex: The epitome of bad former boyfriends. (Danielle Nowlin)
Pheanex: In your University of Phoenix application essay, close enough. (Gary Crockett)

EEVTPXR
Vexpert: One who knows which buttons to push. (Mike Gips)
Vexpert: The quicker tickle-offer. (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)
Texperv: A Redskins fan in Dallas. (John Shea, Philadelphia)
Ex-perv: A dead man (Alex Jeffrey, Columbia, Md.)

EUEWRLF → Fewrule: The needs of the ultra-rich outweigh the needs of... who are you again? (Lawrence McGuire, Waldorf, Md.)

EUIMRSQ
Rimsque: Teetering on the edge of lewdness. “The ‘2 Girls Go Shopping for a Cup’ video was only rimsqué.” (Christopher Lamora, Los Angeles)
E-squirm: What you do after confusing “reply” with “reply all.” (“Luci Weigel, Vienna, Va.)

LATWRHM
Hitmwa: The kiss of death. (Tom Witte)
Hamwit: Elmer Fudd does Shakespeare! (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)
Whanmit: Do-it-yourself TV repair instructions. (Beverley Sharp, Montgomery, Ala.)

JENMVRN) Nvermin: Mr. Boehner’s nickname for Ms. Pelosi. (Barry Koch, Catlett, Va.)

IODNRDSR
Oddrsin: A bizarre fetish, e.g. the compulsion to French-kiss the finger holes in bowling balls. (David Garratt, Silver City, N.M.)
Snoirdid: Sleazy yet dull. “That reality show ‘Brothel Accountants’ sure is snoirdid.” (Larry Gray)
IYBLPSM

**Smilby:** A photo-bomb. (*Jamie Martindale, McLean*)

**PMSIBly:** The personality you *really* don’t want to see come out. (*Nan Reiner, Alexandria, Va.*)

**IYTMFSFL**

**Timsfly:** According to the NCAA “Tebow Rule,” messages aren’t allowed there either. (*Thom Link, Washington*)

**Flymisti:** What’s left between a rolled-up Post and the window. (*Ken Linder, Arlington*)

**OAHMRFT**

**Hamfort:** The Third Little Pig’s abode. (*Ginny Cooper, Columbia, Md.*)

**Homfart:** Where no one can hear you steam. (*Bob Brown, Alexandria, Va.*)

**OANDGRN**

**Drag-onn:** The fourth volume of a fantasy “epic” (*Gerald Diamond, London, Ontario*)

**NRA-dong:** The pistol in your pocket. (*Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.*)

**OAOREDF → Frodeo:** Dragon-wranglin’ and Orc-ropin’ down the shire (*Craig Dykstra, Centreville, Va.*)

**ORHNLTG → Longth:** The corresponding measure to an object’s widelitude. — G.W.B., Crawford, Tex. (*Brendan Beary*)

**OEADNHX → Headnox:** Where the Three Stooges went to school. (*Joanne Free, Clifton, Va.*)

**OIENRC → Zero Inc.:** Surprisingly candid name for a technology startup. (*Jim Derby, Rockville, Md.*)

**UAUTMPS → U-Stamp-U:** Ill-conceived scheme in which the ticket gates at stadium concerts are replaced by the honor system. (*John Kammer, South Riding, Va.*)

**UEURMRM → Remunu:** What Mama Cass used to do at intermission. (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

*And last:* **ORWNW → Winworn:** Weary from dusting all the mugs and bobbleheads in the trophy room. (*Ellen Raphael, Falls Church, Va.*)

*First Offenders*


Next week’s results: **Mess With (Y)our Heads,** or Dismemberment of Things Post, our perennial contest to follow a headline with a “bank head” that changes its meaning. See bit.ly/invite1073.

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