

## FLAT TYPES USED IN “PUZZLES FOR POLYGLOTS”

Adapted from *The Guide to the Enigma*

### Tagging

\* = a word that is capitalized

\*\* = a word that is in all capitals (such as an acronym or abbreviation)

+ = a word or phrase that is foreign, slang, archaic, “chiefly British,” obsolete, dialect, or regional. Note that in this year’s competition, foreign words in bases *are not tagged*.

^ = a word that is not normally capitalized but is capitalized in context (such as in a title)

† = The flat has a puzzle note.

### Acrostical Enigma

The solution to an acrostical enigma, or AE for short, is a word or phrase. This solution is divided into chunks of two or more letters each; each chunk is clued in a different couplet in an unusual way. The chunk plus the first two or more letters of the couplet form a word or phrase (called the “part-word”) that is clued some-where within the couplet itself. A final couplet clues the entire solution.

#### ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (10)

A. Relaxing on Saturday morning I am;

I smell something burning, but who gives a damn?

B. Gargantuan flames billow smoke in the air;

Some building is blazing, but why should I care?

C. I only want something absorbing to read.

A Harlequin tearjerker: just what I need!

D. Red engines zip by with complete audibility,

Disturbing, with bells, my beloved tranquility.

It’s getting quite warm now. What can be the matter?

Let’s turn up the fan and ignore all the clatter!

=Hudu

### Anagram

A word or phrase is turned into an appropriate comment or description when its letters are rearranged. Example: THEY SEE → “the eyes.”

### Beheadment

A word or phrase becomes another when its first letter is removed.

Examples: (f)actor; or (u)sable. If the parts of the solution are all single words, the length of only the longest is given; any part which is a phrase is enumerated.

In a *reversed beheadment*, reverse the first word after beheading it to get the second word.

### Charade

A word or phrase is divided into two or more shorter ones. Example: *scar-city*. The spelling of each part remains the same, though pronunciation may change, as in: TOTAL = outreached; ONE = *outré*, TWO = *ached*.

### Consonantcy

Two or more words or phrases share the same consonants in the same order, with any number of vowels. Y is treated as a vowel. Example: *acorn, crayon, ocarina*.

In a *phonetic consonantcy*, the words share the same consonant sounds, but not the same spellings.

### Curtailment

A word or phrase becomes another when its last letter is removed. Example: *sting(y)*.

### ***Deletion***

A word or phrase becomes another when an interior letter is removed. Example: *simile*, *smile*. A deletion may have more than one part. If any step is a beheadment or a curtailment (removing the last letter), this will be indicated.

In a *phonetic deletion*, a sound rather than a letter is deleted. Example: *revelry*, *reveille*.

### ***“Freewheeling”***

A flat with a base that has a phrase that not only is not in the dictionary, but that does not, should not, and will not appear in any theoretical dictionary ever. Note that some flat types, such as homonyms and spoonergrams, do not require bases to be dictionary entries and thus are never tagged as freewheeling.

### ***Head-to-Tail Shift***

A word or phrase becomes another when its first letter is moved to its end. Examples: *emanate*, *manatee*.

### ***Heteronym/Mynoreteh***

Two (or more) words or phrases with the same spelling are used with different meanings. Examples: *tarry* (“to linger”), *tarry* (“covered with tar”); *Mount St. Helens*, *mounts the lens*.

A *mynoreteh* is a reversed heteronym.

### ***Letter Bank***

A word or phrase (the “bank”) is chosen that has no repeated letters. One or more longer words or phrases are formed, each using all the letters in the bank at least once and as many more times as needed. At least one word must be three or more letters longer than the bank. Examples: *lens*, *senselessness*; and *law*, *Walla Walla*.

### ***Metathesis***

A word or phrase becomes another when two letters are interchanged. Examples: *converse*, *conserve* and *fine arts*, *fire ants*.

In a *phonetic metathesis*, two sounds are interchanged.

### ***“Overloaded”***

Overloaded flats are puzzles in which a cueword can stand for any of two or more solution words. A “partially overloaded” flat is one in which a single cueword is used for some, but not all, of the solution words.

### ***Palindrome***

A sentence or phrase is spelled the same forward as backward.

In a *phonetic palindrome*, the sentence or phrase has the same sounds forward and backward, rather than the same spelling.

### ***Phrase Shift***

A well-known phrase (often not a dictionary entry) is altered by shifting one letter to another position to form a new phrase (almost never a dictionary entry). The cueword stands for the new phrase only; solvers must deduce the original phrase from a clue hidden somewhere in the verse.

In a *phrase sound shift*, a sound rather than a letter is shifted.

**Rebus/Suber**

A word or phrase is represented by letters, numbers, or symbols; their positions; and sometimes related letter-play, like alterations to the verse.

For example, the word *abalone*—read as *a B alone*—might be represented by: **B**. The phrase *damper sand*—read as *D, ampersand*—might be represented by: **D&**. The phrase *forge a check*—read as *for GE, a check*—might be represented by a verse in which the letter pair *ge* was replaced once, or everywhere it appeared, by ✓.

The *enigmatic rebus* is not a specific puzzle type. Rather, “enigmatic” is a red flag, warning you that the reading involves something other than simple manipulation of letters. A *phonetic* or *phonigmatic rebus* is a rebus in which part or all of the reading is sounded out to give the solution.

A *suber* is a reversed rebus; reverse the reading to get the answer.

**Reversal**

A word or phrase becomes another when reversed. Examples: *desserts*, *stressed*.

**Riddle**

Something is described enigmatically in verse. Normally the answer is not enumerated; that rule has been changed for the flat appearing in the competition.

**Vowelcy**

The vowels in each answer are the same and appear in the same order. (Y is always considered a vowel.) Example: *malnourished*, *carrot juice*.

**Welded Flats**

A word or phrase is divided up into pieces (not usually words) that form a base of the given type. An example of a welded transpositional base: *axolotl ballot box* (*axolotlb* is an anagram of *allot box*).

**Word Deletion**

A word or phrase is deleted from a longer one, leaving a third. Example: TOTAL = *performance*, ONE = *man*, TWO = *perforce*. Only the length of the longest word or phrase is given.