

The Trouble with Triples

by Vynce Montgomery

for Equinox Puzzle Party #71, spring 2023

It is well known (though perhaps untrue) that English never allows words with triple letters. Here we demonstrate some of the extreme conditions that can temporarily create such atrocities. For safety, the recipes for doing so have been separated into two parts: a definition of a normal English word or phrase, and a single transformation that will turn that word or phrase into a triplex “horror” - which will **not** be a real word. Recombine them at your peril. Keep close watch and discover what all such experiments will subject us to.

The **definitions**, in order, are:

1. Swap something in for something else, as a personal shopper might... _____
2. 1960's TV show conceived as a western in space... _____
3. A stalactite of water... _____
4. Speech that is confused or apparently meaningless... _____
5. The Local Group is mostly this, by volume... _____
6. Person who comes running to a ding... _____
7. Disney's 2016 islander heroine... _____
8. To make my heart beat faster... _____
9. Largest island of the US... _____
10. Deep Space constable... _____
11. Signature sound of 1812... _____
12. One who plays hooks on the largest strings... _____

The **transformations**, which are not in order, are:

- A. Begin to sort it out.
- B. But the ball has been shot out.
- C. Dropping 99 from 101.
- D. Impress me much with a Brad instead of a bread.
- E. It sounds like you became King of the Blues.
- F. Jumping with two feet rather than one.
- G. Or just leave out every other item.
- H. Recovering from alcohol abuse, rather than heroin.
- I. State change for the evergreens, now all covered in cheese.
- J. Takes the bait.
- K. The local religion has become half the world wide web?
- L. With less trail, and more rail.
- M. Zeroes out the middle letter, for a change.

Examples:

If you matched up “The Windy City’s state...” with “Winds up with its old abbreviation in place of its new one” you’d start with “ILLINOIS” and then you’d swap out “IL” (the newer, two letter abbreviation) to replace it with “ILL” (the old standard abbreviation) to get ILLINOIS. Grosss!