

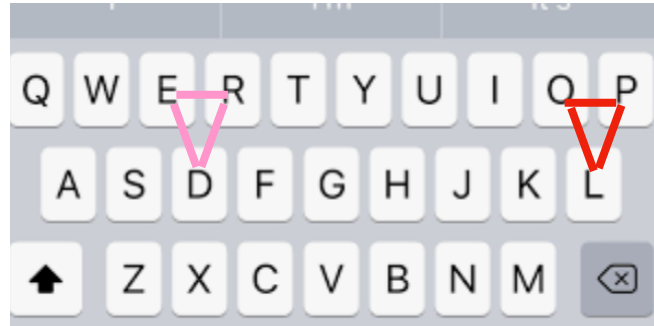
Keyboard Geometry

Shaping Your Words

“Uncle Bob”

The letters on a keyboard can be imagined as the corners of a polygon. Three letters such as RED suggest a triangle. Holding the letters in place but sliding the triangle six keys to the right, we arrive at triangle LOP. RED has the same size and shape as LOP. We'll ignore the order of the letters because we're going hunting for words of a certain shape.

The sliding is called translation and the relationship between LOP and RED is called translational symmetry. The letters in the word AWED form a quadrilateral of a certain shape and size as do the letters in REFEREES. Note that we also are flexing to allow multiple use of letters in a word. Let's adopt a new symbol and write



AWED *S* REFEREES

to mean that these two shapes have translational symmetry.

Every symmetry statement below provides clues to words having the same shape and orientation. Your job is to find the words. Extra marks if you can do it without looking at the keys. Solutions are on page 2.

Example: U.S. president *S* Put on clothes gives POLK *S* DRESSED.

1. Easter creature *S* Least
2. Type of dam *S* Walking surface.
3. Stitch up *S* Cut off
4. Type of dagger *S* Place for hay
5. NZ natives *S* Mining bonanza
6. Fruit drink *S* Large drink container.
7. Grocery transport *S* Good pal
8. Actress Lucy *S* Not many
9. O Sole ___ *S* Purchase

Solutions

1. bunny, minimum
2. dike, floor
3. sew, lop
4. dirk, loft
5. Kiwis, lode
6. ade, jug
7. cart, buddy
8. Liu, few
9. Mio, buy