

L-P Words Challenge

“Uncle Bob”

“... not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.” Evidently, the creature in that household was keeping a low profile, as do the lower case letters in the word m-o-u-s-e. For our purposes here let’s call ‘mouse’ a Low-Profile, five-letter word. In the same excerpt above, the words w-a-s and e-v-e-n qualify as L-P words of lengths 3 and 4.

I first noticed this peculiarity while reading a novel. In a certain paragraph one word distinguished itself from all the rest. I was drawn to the word “concern” simply because it didn’t stick out. It didn’t poke up a silly head like f does, nor, volunteer-like, raise a hand like d does. It didn’t dangle feet below the line of print as g and p do. The word “concern” didn’t even sport flashy dots as do two of the letters in b-i-j-o-u.

a c e m n o r s u v w x z

Let’s make something of this. The graphic shows that fully half of the English alphabet keep a lower case low-profile. We challenge you to find the L-P words that use them exclusively.

Warmups

1. Find ten 4-letter L-P words; nine 5-letter L-Ps; and eight of 6 letters in length.

Some ground rules:

- Avoid adding the single ‘s’ to add length. Other plural types are OK.
- Use only one of an inflected form family. Use either ‘warm’ or ‘warmer’ but not both.
- Repeated letters are fine except in Challenge 5 below.

Limbering

2. Find seven 7-letter L-P words; six of 8 letters in length; five of 9 letters.

You may be finding prefixes and suffixes very handy. You may be cursing the letter ‘i’ for having its sporty dot.

Going for Gold

3. Find four 10-letter L-Ps; three 11-letter L-Ps; two 12-letter L-Ps.

The Finish Line

4. Find an L-P 13 letters long. Bonus: find one of 14 letters.

More Fun

5. What is the longest Low-Profile word you can find that’s uses each letter just once?

Bob’s lists on page 2



Low-Profile Words Bob's lists

Four letters: case, sour, worm, mace, moss, mean, omen, crux, sane, cave.

Five letters: venue, women, worse, cream, snore, smear, mezzo, curse, cozen.

Six letters: mucous, avenue, excuse, secure, answer, arouse, roomer, corner, manner, marrow.

Seven letters: concern, vamoose, someone, remorse, snowman, caveman, overuse, commune.

Eight letters: evermore, resource, nonsense, venomous, overcome, converse, consumer.

Nine letters: concourse, cavernous (nine different letters), cancerous, overcover, innocuous, severance, overscore, cameraman.

Ten letters: overrunner, recommence, consonance, ammanuenses, overseason.

Eleven letters: concurrence, overseamer, onerousness, nervousness, amorousness, overmeasure, vacuousness.

Twelve letters: enormousness,

Thirteen letters:

Fourteen letters: nonconcurrence, curvaceousness.