



Entertainment

# Style Invitational Week 1303: Neologisms to di- for

Replace a digraph (a 2-letter blend) in a word with another one. Plus winning word chains.



Skinchilla – an example of replacing one digraph with another. (Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By [Pat Myers](#)  
October 25

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning word chains from Week 1299.)

**Skinchilla:** The least warm fur stole ever.

**Bling shift:** The time between the end of your day job and closing time at the club.

**Crone fruit:** Pitted prunes.

Here's a brand-new contest idea from Hall of Fame Loser Jeff Contompasis. Jeff was seeing a commercial for the show "Trading Spaces" but, as someone who has occasional incidents of dyslexia, kept reading the logo as "Spading Traces." And so, as a True Loser, he suggested a contest with digraphs — blends of two letters, either vowels or consonants, that make one simultaneous sound. This week: **Replace a digraph in an existing word or phrase with another digraph to make a new term**, as in Jeff's own examples above, and describe the result. It'll probably be funnier if the original term is recognizable, and a funny sentence showing how the word might be used is always welcome. While



## Most Read Entertainment

- Review**  
In New York, a look into the early days of the world's oldest Christian nation



there are various technical definitions of “digraph,” ours will be of two adjacent letters, and will include silent letters.

Submit entries at the website [wapo.st/enter-invite-1303](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1303) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the [Lose Cannon](#), our Style Invitational trophy.

Second place receives our Deluxe Culinary Gift Pack courtesy of Loser Connie Schott of West Plains, Mo.: There’s an **apron emblazoned with the “Squirrel Pot Pie” logo** of the Ozark Heritage Festival, from right in West Plains, and — nope, sorry, no squirrel pot pie, but the next best thing: **two big sticks of Roadkill**, which is like a Slim Jim but instead of beef and chicken, its ingredients include “venison, elk, wild boar (meat from feral swine) . . . pheasant, rabbit . . .” Perhaps it’s a diet like this that accounts for the disproportionate presence of three denizens of West Plains (population 12,000) among the Loser Community, accounting for 240 blots of Style Invitational ink, including 10 wins. I’m thinking it’s the elk.

**Other runners-up** win our [“You Gotta Play to Lose”](#) Loser Mug or our Grossery Bag, [“I Got a B in Punmanship”](#) (or perhaps a new design). Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, [“We’ve Seen Better”](#) or [“IDiot Card.”](#) First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air “freshener” ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). **Deadline is Monday night, Nov. 5;** results published Nov. 25 (online Wednesday, Nov. 21). See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline for this week’s results is by Jesse Frankovich; Dave Prevar and Tom Witte each submitted this week’s honorable-mentions subhead. Join the Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](http://on.fb.me/invdev). “Like” Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](http://bit.ly/inkofday); follow @StyleInvite on Twitter.

**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](http://wapo.st/styleconv).

[And from The Style Invitational four weeks ago . . .](#)

#### WORD SERIES MVPs: THE CHAINS OF WEEK 1299





In [Week 1299](#) we posted a list of words that were recently added to [Merriam-Webster’s Scrabble dictionary](#), and asked the Losers to take any two of the words and create a word chain to link them, by meaning, similar sounds or both. Hildy Zampella’s elegantly pithy “LISTICLE > testicle > NUTJOB” made the Empress wish she hadn’t stated a minimum of six words in the chain.

Baffled by some of the connections? Click on the links in the chains below for explanations or at least hints.)

#### 4th place:



OK> Oklahoma > Cherokee > Indian nickel > [Ni](#) > [Knights Who Say Ni](#) > Monty Python > king cobra > Stephen King > “Carrie” > John le Carré > [Smiley](#) > **frowny** (Chris Doyle, Denton, Tex.)

- 2 The creators of the ‘Beetlejuice’ musical ‘tried to run toward Burton’ visually 
- 3 Longtime African American actor Robert Hooks on the state of black theater, then and now 
- 4 Author Ntozake Shange of ‘For Colored Girls’ fame has died 
- 5 **Perspective** What’s appropriate for kids to read? There’s value in exposing them to the tough stuff. 



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Direct from the Ozarks, only part of this week's second prize.

### 3rd place:

**Bestie** > old chum > shark bait > American Bar Association > ["I like beer"](#) > Dos Equis > XX > "Twenty Ways to Please Your Man" > **listicle** (Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.)

### 2nd place

and the *real snapping-turtle skull*:

**Sho** (old Tibetan currency) > "Show me the money!" > [Tom Cruise](#) > "Risky Business" > Paul Manafort > singing > Aretha > urethra > golden shower > **ew!** (Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**Zen** > Buddhist > Christian > [Fletcher Christian](#) > Mutiny on the Bounty > paper towels > Hurricane Maria > "Wind in the Willows" > [Mr. Toad's Wild Ride](#) > Stormy Daniels > **substorm** (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

### Second strings: Honorable mentions

**Captcha** > "I'm not a robot" > [Marco Rubio](#) > [bottled water](#) > Aquafina > **aquafaba** (Jesse Frankovich)

**Captcha** > "not a robot" > [Turing Test](#) > Alan Turing > ["The Imitation Game"](#) > [Rich Little](#) > Notorious B.I.G > Notorious RBG > [RBF](#) > **frowny** (Pam Sweeney, Burlington, Mass.)

**Sheeple** > must have \$1,099 iPhone XS > I phone exes > "I Want You Back" > Jackson Five > Michael Jackson > ["Thriller"](#) > **zomboid** (Luke Baker, Columbia, Md.)

**Hivemind** > [the Borg](#) > Bjorn Borg > Björn Again > John 3:3 > Papa John's > **papasan** > [Comfy Chair](#) > Monty Python > "The Full Monty" > **twerk** (Stephen Dudzik, Olney, Md.)

**Farro** (a grain) > wheat > Wil Wheaton > Star Trek > Patrick Stewart > Saint Patrick > St. Louis > Arch > Archibald Cox > Watergate > Deep Throat > ["Deep Throat"](#) > **nutjob** (Neal Starkman, Seattle)

**Puggle** (pug-beagle) > boxer > Oscar De La Hoya > [Georgetown Prep](#) > Brett Kavanaugh > boys will be boys > Green Mountain Boys > [Vermont](#) > [Ben & Jerry's](#) > [Cherry Garcia](#) > the Grateful Dead > [Phish](#) > **rootkit** (computer hacking tools) (Chris Doyle)

**Puggle** > snuggle > foreplay > four-ply > Cottonelle > [president's foot](#) > **cankles** (fat ankles) (Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.)

**Listicle** > Popsicle > "Pop Goes the Weasel" > slimeball > spit > [vice presidency](#) > Pence > [sterling](#) > starling > cuckoo > **truther** (Ellen Ryan, Rockville, Md.)

**Bizjet** > airplane > ["Don't call me Shirley"](#) > Shirley Temple > [Good Ship Lollipop](#) > [Pudding Pops](#) > Bill Cosby > [3 to 10](#) > "3:10 to Yuma" > [Jeff Flake](#) > snowflake > Snow White > Grumpy > **frowny** (Kevin Dopart)

**Sriracha** > Tabasco > Louisiana > New Orleans > Mardi Gras > "Girls Gone Wild" > spring break > Springsteen > "Born in the USA" > born again > Mike Pence > Jan dog > **nuoodle** (Draw Bennett, West Plains, Mo.)



**Vape** > inhale > [Bill Clinton](#) > Hillary Clinton > server > Serena Williams > Robin Williams > standup > Viagra > **yowza** (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village, Md.)

**Mulloway** (a kind of fish) > jewfish > gefilte fish > carp > carpe diem > seize the day > search and seizure > Julius Caesar > Veni Vidi Vici > Gaul > Macron > **macaron** (Mark Raffman)

**Wayback** > [WABAC machine](#) > Mr. Peabody > Sherman > tanks > you're welcome > *Willkommen* > "[Cabaret](#)" > cabernet > France > **macaron** (Jeff Contompasis, Ashburn, Va.)

**Conlang** (an invented language) > [High Valyrian](#) > "GoT" > Got Milk? > spilled milk > no use crying > "No Woman, No Cry" > reggae > Rasta > ganja > wacky tobacky > **vape** (Bill Dorner, Indianapolis)

**Farro** > wheat > Wheaties > Special K > 401(k) > [ESOP](#) > Aesop > "The Tortoise and the Hare" > "Yertle the Turtle" > [Mitch McConnell](#) > [Elaine Chao](#) > chow chow > **puggle** (Chris Doyle)

**Zen** > koan > Cohen > "[the fixer](#)" > "[The Fixer](#)" > Malamud > [malamute](#) > sled > [Kane](#) > [mutiny](#) > [Bounty](#) > paper towels > [Puerto Rico](#) > **facepalm** (Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.)

**Pizzazz** > ZZ Top > [James Beard](#) > [Julia Child](#) > [Meryl Streep](#) > [Abba](#) > [Waterloo](#) > **beatdown** (William Pifer-Foote, Carmichael, Calif.)

**Chyron** > crawl > creep > rake > leaves > "Free Fallin'" > [Tom Petty](#) > Heartbreakers > jawbreakers > Jolly Rancher > Jolly Roger > pirate > stolen treasure > **bitcoin** (Hildy Zampella, Alexandria, Va.)

**Emoji** > emotion > jealousy > Othello > [checkers](#) > exchequer > Brexit > EU > **ew** (Jim Blue, Gaithersburg, Md.)

**Aquafaba** (water in which beans were boiled) > chickpeas > chicks pee > "the dossier" > [Christopher Steele](#) > Bethlehem Steel > "Away in a Manger" > [Mangia bene](#) > **arancini** (Italian rice balls) (Mark Raffman)

**Sriracha** > red beans > sriracha > red beans > sriracha, sriracha > red beans > sriracha, sriracha, sriracha > red beans > **yowza** (Warren Tanabe, Annapolis, Md.)

**Farro** > pharaoh > Moses > [Bush](#) > [Katrina](#) > the Big Easy > Your Mama > **cankles** (Jesse Frankovich)

**Truther** > whatever > whatever > whatever > whatever > **nutjob** (Mark Raffman)

**Nutjob** > flake > [Tony the Tiger](#) > "[Life of Pi](#)" > geometry > Oval Office > Monica Lewinsky > B.J. Hunnicutt > "M\*A\*S\*H" > battlefield surgery > **ew** (Steve Fahey, Kensington, Md.)

**Facepalm** > Palm Beach > Mar-a-Lago > Lagos, Nigeria > Nigerian prince scam > [catfish](#) > **mulloway** (Pam Sweeney)

**Capcom** > NASA > Nassau > Bahama Mama > Mother, May I? > [Mike Pence](#) > Veep > VIP > pooh-bah > Winnie the Pooh > Christopher Robin > Robin Thicke > "[Blurred Lines](#)" > **bokeh** (Chris Doyle)

**Bitcoin** > cybercash > Johnny Cash > "Ring of Fire" > "You're Fired!" > "Celebrity Apprentice" > "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" > F minor > D minor > [minor edema](#) > **cankle** (Mark Raffman)

**Santoku** (chef's knife) > cleaver > [Beaver](#) > [Oregon](#) > "Portlandia" > [Fred and Carrie](#) > Carrie Underwood > Underwood Deviled Ham > [Mason Reese](#) > Reese Witherspoon > gag me with a spoon > **ew** (Chris Doyle)

**Schneid** (losing streak) > losers > Style Invitational > Empress > impress > flattery > flatter the E > "The best E!" > **bestie** (Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.)

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Oct. 29: Our perennial Ask Backwards contest. See [wapo.st/invite1302](http://wapo.st/invite1302).**

**DON'T MISS AN INVITE!** [Sign up here](#) to receive a once-a-week email from the Empress as soon as The Style Invitational and Style Conversational go online every Thursday, complete with links to the columns.

 **1 Comment**



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#### Pat Myers



Pat Myers is editor and judge of The Style Invitational, The Washington Post's page for clever, edgy humor and wordplay. In the role since December 2003, she has posted and judged more than 700 contests. She also writes the weekly Style Conversational column and runs the Style Invitational Devotees page on Facebook. Follow [🐦](#)

#### The Post Recommends

### Police: 80-year-old woman calmly told man who forced his way into her home to 'sit down and talk to me'

She was terrified for hours but her tactics, police said, enabled her to escape injury.

5 days ago



### A teenager dying of cancer had a final wish: To marry his childhood sweetheart

"You are the love of my life," Dustin Snyder told his childhood sweetheart, Sierra Siverio, during the wedding.

Jan 29, 2018

