



## Entertainment

# Style Invitational Week 1346: AZ if — balancing acts

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A brand-new neologism contest. Plus the winning combo-abbrevs.



(Bob Staake for The Washington Post)

By **Pat Myers**

August 22

(Click [here to skip down](#) to the winning abbreviation combos)

**B-Y: Bolshy: A Russian ballet company whose dancers suffer from stage fright.** (*Bob Staake*)

**H-S: Hipatitis: Terminal coolness.** (*Tom Witte, Week 278*)

**S-H: Suckotash: A dish of corn, lima beans and tofu.** (*Russell Beland, Week 278*)

**M-N: Mucussion: The drastic result of overly strenuous nose-blowing.** (*Chris Doyle, Week 368*)

**M-N: Mushderloin: Result of a kick in the crotch.** (*Stephen Dudzik, Week 156*)

This week's contest was suggested to the Empress by the Royal Consort, who sleeps in on Sundays later than the E does these days. He was lying

## Most Read Entertainment

1 What happened when Trump  
updated the African American



in bed, listening to the weekly Sunday Puzzle a few weeks ago on NPR's "Weekend Edition," and heard the answer to a [challenge posed by listener Andy Blau](#): Think of a word that is "alphabetically balanced," or symmetrical: Its first and last letters are the same distance from the beginning and end of the alphabet; its second and second-to-last letters are, too; and so on. He suggested BEVY — B and Y; E and V. The winning word: WIZARD. How cool is that!

It'd be insane to ask you to produce totally balanced words, but I think we could work it with the ends. **This week: Think of a new word or two-word phrase that begins and ends — either way — with one of these "alphabetically balanced" pairs**, as in the examples above, most from earlier contests that happen to fit this week's parameters:

**AZ, BY, CX, DW, EV, FU, GT, HS, IR, JQ (good luck!), KP, LO, MN**

Submit entries at [wapo.st/enter-invite-1346](http://wapo.st/enter-invite-1346) (all lowercase).

Winner gets the [Lose Cannon](#), our Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a *toiletklaver*, or, as its Danish manufacturer translates it, "**bathroom piano**": It's an electronic floor mat that you place in front of your commode so that you may tap out a tune — perhaps "Let It Go" — on the keyboard diagram. But can you do that *and* write Style Invitational entries in the same session? Try to find out. Donated by Loser Since Week 120 Roy Ashley.

**Other runners-up** win our "[You Gotta Play to Lose](#)" Loser Mug or our "[Whole Fools](#)" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "[Too-Weak Notice](#)" or "[Certificate of \(de\) Merit](#)." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" ([FirStink](#) for their first ink). **Deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 3** (aw, don't labor on Labor Day); results published Sept. 22 in print, Sept. 19 online. See general contest rules and guidelines at [wapo.st/InvRules](http://wapo.st/InvRules). The headline "Short Fuses" is by Tom Witte; Jesse Frankovich wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://on.fb.me/invdev). "Like" the Style Invitational Ink of the Day on Facebook at [bit.ly/inkofday](https://bit.ly/inkofday); follow [@StyleInvite](https://twitter.com/StyleInvite) on Twitter.

**The Style Conversational:** The Empress's [weekly online column](#) discusses the week's new contest and results. This week, an answer key to the Week 1342 results. See it at [wapo.st/conv1346](http://wapo.st/conv1346).

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

#### SHORT FUSES: COMB. ABBREVS. FROM WEEK 1342

In [Week 1342](#) we asked you to mash together two abbreviations. If you can't figure out some of the portmanteaus below — the Empress herself spent lots of hours puzzling over the 1,000-plus entries — check out this week's Style Conversational at [wapo.st/conv1346](http://wapo.st/conv1346) for an answer key.

#### 4th place:

**J/KKK:** "Ha ha ha, of course I'm not racist! That was just a Halloween costume." (*Danielle Nowlin, Fairfax Station, Va.*)

visited the African American History Museum, according to its founding director



- 2 Bret Stephens is still talking about bedbugs — and now, the language of the Holocaust



- 3 The quiet brilliance of Kenan Thompson, SNL's longest-tenured cast member



- 4 **Perspective**  
'The Dark Knight' and Heath Ledger's Joker were a prophecy of our troll culture



- 5 A black TV host's co-anchor compared him to a gorilla. He responded with compassion.



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Why just sit there when you can tap out a jaunty tune? This week's second prize.

### 3rd place:

**PhDD:** Person who might have occasion to say, "Excuse me, my brain is up here." (*Mark Raffman, Reston, Va.*)

### 2nd place and the sarcasm sign and button:

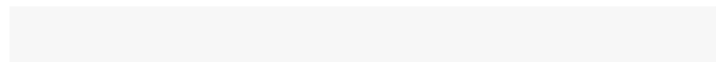
**WCCR:** The bathroom on the right. (*Chris Doyle, Ponder, Tex.*)

### And the winner of the Lose Cannon:

**UNICEFU:** "Every child's life is precious! . . . Oh, wait, those children aren't from here." (*Danielle Nowlin*)

### Short-term losses: Honorable mentions

**AARPG:** The ultimate "get off my lawn" weapon. (*Ira Allen, Bethesda, Md.*)



**AARPM:** 45s, 33s and still a few 78s. (*Rob Huffman, Fredericksburg, Va.*)

**AFL-CIOB/GYN:** For all your labor needs. (*Jeff Shirley, Richmond, Va.*)

**NSFWH:** Warning stamp on federal agency documents containing facts. (*Kevin Dopart, Washington*)

**AT&T&A:** Its cellphone agreement page features lots of naughty pictures, but still no one reads it. (*Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.*)

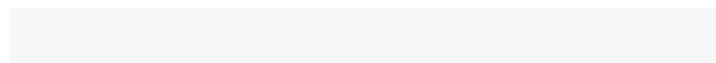
**BCCNN:** Default email setting of White House junior staffers that explains the continual "according to insiders" scoops. (*Stephen Litterst, Newark, Del.*)

**BYOBNB:** Camping. (*Melissa Balmain, Rochester, N.Y.*)

**CCCPAC:** Annual gathering of conservative activists and their Soviet supporters. (*Chris Doyle*)

**CRISPRBG:** The science that many Americans wish could keep the justice around forever. (*Dottie Gray, Alexandria, Va.*)

**CVSTFU:** "Customer Smathers to the pharmacy desk — your stool softeners are ready for pickup." (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)



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**CVSTFU:** “Customer Smathers to the pharmacy desk — your stool softeners are ready for pickup.” (*Frank Osen, Pasadena, Calif.*)

**DCAPTCHA:** “Select all images with a corrupt, power-hungry liar.” (*Jesse Frankovich, Grand Ledge, Mich.*)

**ETASAP:** “Get your butt in here *now!*” (*Roger Dalrymple, Gettysburg, Pa.*)

**ETATMI:** “I’ll be there between 19 minutes 24 seconds and 21 minutes 7 seconds from now.” (*Roy Ashley, Washington*)

**FICOCD:** Obsessively checking your credit score after every transaction. (*Stephen Dudzik, Olney, Md.*)

**FOMOMG!:** What teens suffer when they have to put their phones away. (*Bill Dorner, Indianapolis*)

**FUBARNR:** Spring break. (*Kerry Humphrey, Arlington, Va.*)

**GMOMG:** “Check out the size of those tomatoes!” (*Kyle Hendrickson, Frederick, Md.*)

**GOPDA:** Kissing the president’s butt in full view of your constituents. (*Jesse Frankovich*)

**HOVIP:** A clown car driver in the high-occupancy lane. (*Bob Kruger, Rockville, Md.*)

**IBMAGA:** The company whose motto is “Don’t think.” (*Ward Kay, Vienna, Va.*)

**IMDBFF:** That one acquaintance you only invite to hang out on pub trivia nights. (*Matt Monitto, Bristol, Conn.*)

**IRSVF:** “Please respond by April 15.” (*Jesse Rifkin, Arlington, Va.*)

**LMAOB/GYN:** “Ha ha, look at the speculum! Doesn’t it look like a duck? Quack, quack! Okay, get back to work, there, Mr. Duck!” (*Danielle Nowlin*)

**MSRPOTUS:** The going rate for emoluments. (*Sam Mertens, Silver Spring, Md.*)

**NARAla:** Uh, we’ve got some work to do. (*Sam Mertens*)

**NASAFTRA:** The dedicated men, women and FX artists who helped fake the moon landing. (*Stephen Dudzik*)

**NFLOL:** “We’re doing all we can to make the sport safer for the players.” (*Mark Raffman*)

**NSFWD-40:** Lubricant for even more uses! (*April Musser Brand, Alpharetta, Ga.*)

**OR/GYNRA:** A gown that supports shotgun weddings. (*Jesse*)

.../... group that supports...  
*Frankovich*)

**OMBDSM:** “We really, really love budget cuts — deep, sharp, stinging ones.” *(Kevin Dopart)*

**401KO:** Effect of Trump’s trade war on my retirement account. *(John Hutchins, Silver Spring, Md.)*

**OMGKYA:** “Nobody wants to see you in that Speedo!” *(Jeff Strong, Fairfax, Va.)*

**RSVPS:** Announcing to your hosts that you’ll also be bringing guests they did not invite. “RSVPS: Fido will be coming, too — don’t worry, we’ll bring carpet cleaner!” *(Kevin Dopart)*

**SAT&T:** The new “open phone” exam. *(Eric Nelkin, Silver Spring, Md.)*

**TMIHOP:** Telling the server that the Fresh ‘N Fruity makes you Rooty Tooty. *(Jean Sorensen, Herndon, Va.)*

**USUK:** America and Britain issue a joint declaration to the rest of the world. *(Gary Crockett, Chevy Chase, Md.)*

**WTFIFA:** The 2022 World Cup in Qatar? *(Jim Derby, Rockville, Md.)*

**WTFLOTUS?:** Wearing a pith helmet in Kenya? *(Bill Dorner)*

**YMCAARP:** Favorite place of the Retirement Village People. *(Barbara Turner, Takoma Park, Md.)*

**YMCAT:** Young men, a bunch of premeds/ I said young men, there’s plenty of beds . . . *(Mike Gips, Bethesda, Md.)*

**YOLOTOH:** Better safe than sorry. *(Jesse Frankovich)*

**Still running — deadline Monday night, Aug. 26: Our contest for fake trivia about food. See [wapo.st/invite1345](http://wapo.st/invite1345).**

**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.

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