Fall 1992

Twice Upon a Time

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Recommended Citation

Harris, J. (1992). Twice upon a time. Logo Exchange, 11(1), 14-15.

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by Judi Harris

"Anytwo for elevennis?"

This sentence has suffered Logo inflation. Last year, it might have read,

"Anyone for tennis?"

Next year, if things keep going up, it may read,

"Anythree for twelvenis?"

Perhaps inflation is the last thing you want to explore with Logo, especially in the midst of an economic recession. Yet it can inspire enjoyable classroom exploits with syllabication, sequencing, and homophones.

Rising to the Occasion

Once Logo inflation hits, "I ate a tenderloin with my fork" becomes "I nined an elevenderloin with my fivek."

"Fourscore and seven years ago, our forefathers brought forth" reads, instead:

"Fivescore and eight years ago, our fivefathers brought fifth."

And so on and so fifth.

Danish comedian Victor Borge (1986) first introduced the notion of inflationary words in an effort to match language to economic trends. He reminds us that English "is your language; I'm just trying to use it." Borge suggests that we inflate words as a proactive measure, since inflation (like taxation) is inevitable.

Getting a Rise Out of Them

This presents an interesting Logo challenge. The sound of the first step toward a solution is a homophonic one. How many different ways are there to spell the sounds of each of the number words, 1 through 10? Your students will probably be glad to list the possibilities.

one two	three	four	five...
won	to		for
	too		fore
	tu		

Now, form a list of these homonyms, output by a procedure called PREINFLATION.

```
TO PREINFLATION
OUTPUT [ONE WON JUAN TWO TO TOO TU
    THREE FOUR FOR FORE FIVE SIX
    SICKS SICS SEVEN EIGHT ATE AIT
    NINE NEIN TEN]
END
```

An accompanying list of the same length can output correlated inflated "values" for each of the words, in order.

```
TO POSTINFLATION
OUTPUT [TWO TWO TWO THREE THREE
    THREE THREE FOUR FIVE FIVE FIVE
    SIX SEVEN SEVEN SEVEN EIGHT NINE
    NINE NINE TEN TEN ELEVEN]
END
```

Inflated Ergo

An INFLATE command can be written to output corresponding inflated list elements.

```
TO INFLATE :WORD.PART
IF MEMBER? :WORD.PART PREINFLATION
    [OUTPUT ITEM ( ELEMENT :WORD.PART
    PREINFLATION) POSTINFLATION]
    [OUTPUT :WORD.PART]
END
```

INFLATE uses an adaptation of Alison Birch's (1986) ELEMENT subprocedure, which has the opposite function of the primitive ITEM.

```
TO ELEMENT :ITEM :OBJECT
IF EQUAL? :ITEM FIRST :OBJECT [OUT-
    PUT 1]
OUTPUT 1 + ELEMENT :ITEM BUTFIRST
    :OBJECT
END
```

The superprocedure INFLATED uses these four subprocedures to output "more expensive" words.

```
TO INFLATED :LIST
IF EMPTY? :LIST [OUTPUT "]
OUTPUT WORD ( INFLATE FIRST :LIST )
    INFLATED BUTFIRST :LIST
END
```

Students must supply syllabicated words as input to INFLATE. For example, if a user types

```
PRINT INFLATED [WON DER FUL]
```

the computer will return:

```
TWODERFUL .
PRINT INFLATED [BE FORE]
```

yields

```
BEFIVE .
```

PREINFLATION and POSTINFLATION resultant lists can, of course, be adjusted to predict inflation at any rate. Who knows? Don Juan may someday be Don Eight. Why not adjust the fable now?

Literary Lifts

Inflated words make twoderful stories. Here is an uninflated tale that Mr. Borge supplied. Your students may want to translanine it.

Once upon a time in sunny *California*, there lived a young man named Bob. He was a *second lieutenant* in the U.S. Air *Force*. Bob had been fond of Anna, his *half* sister, ever since she saw the light of day for the *first* time. They were both proud of the fact that *one* of their *forefathers* had been among the *creators* of the U.S. *Constitution*. They were dining on the terrace.

"Anna," he said, as he took a bite of a *marinated* herring, "you look *wonderful tonight*. You never looked that lovely *before*. Anna looked *wonderful*, despite the illness from which she had not *recuperated*.

"Yes," repeated Bob, "You look *wonderful tonight*, but you have *two* of the saddest eyes I have ever seen."

The table was tastefully *decorated* with Anna's favorite flowers, *tulips*. They were now talking about Anna's husband, from whom she was *separated*, while on the radio, an Irish *tenor* sang "Tea for *Two*."

Elevated Elegies

Let us finish the tale in inflated terms.

It was midnight. A clock in the distance struck *thirteen*. Suddenly, there in the moonlight stood her husband, Don *Two*, obviously *intoxicnineded*.

"Anna!" he blurted, "*Fivegive* me! I am only young *twice*, and you are my *two* and only!"

Bob jumped to his feet. "Get out of here, you *three-faced triple-crosser!*"

But Anna warned, "Watch out, Bob! He is an officer!" "Yes, he is *two*, but I am *two, three!*"

What inflated stories will your students *crenine*, given these interdisciplinary tools? Until next time, dear LinXers, *three*-de-loo!

References

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