



# Play It By Ear

English & foreign language imports have **TRICKY SOUND / LETTER COMBOS** that are challenging to unscramble.  
compiled by Jacob Cohen, Asheville Scrabble Club

## AEA 7s

ALTHAEA	AAAHLT	althea (flowering plant) [n -S]
ARCHAEA	AAACEHR	large group of microorganisms [n]
SPIRAEA	AAEIPRS	spirea (flowering shrub) [n -S]

## AEI 7s

SPAERING	AEINPS	act of foretelling (to tell of or about in advance) [n -S] / SPAE, to foretell (to tell of or about in advance) [v]
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## AEO 7s

AEOLIAN	AAEILNO	eolian (pertaining to wind) [adj]
AEONIAN	AAEINNO	eonian (everlasting) [adj]
CAEOMAS	AACEMOS	CAEOMA, spore-forming organ of fungus [n]
PAEONIC	ACEINOP	PAEON, metrical foot of four syllables [adj]

## AIA 7s

NAIADES	AADEINS	NAIAD, water nymph [n]
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## AIE 7s

FAIENCE	ACEEFIN	variety of glazed pottery [n -S]
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## AIGH 7s

SCRAIGH	ACGHIRS	to scraich (to utter shrill cry) [v -ED, -ING, -S]
QUAIGHS	AGHIQSU	QUAIGH, quaich (small drinking vessel) [n]

## AOI 7s

EPINAOI	AEIINOP	EPINAOS, rear vestibule [n]
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## AOU 7s

AOUDADS	AADDOSU	AOUDAD, wild sheep [n]
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## AUGH 7s

CLAUGHT	ACGHLTU	to clutch (to grasp and hold tightly) [v -ED, -ING, -S]
LAUGHED	ADEGHLU	LAUGH, to express emotion, typically mirth, by series of inarticulate sounds [v]
DRAUGHT	ADGHRTU	to draft (to conscript for military service) [v -ED, -ING, -S]
LAUGHER	AEGHLRU	one that laughs (to express emotion, typically mirth, by series of inarticulate sounds) [n -S]
FRAUGHT	AFGHRTU	to load down [v -ED, -ING, -S]
SHAUGHS	AGHHSSU	SHAUGH, thicket (dense growth of shrubs or small trees) [n]
HAUGHTY	AGHHTUY	arrogant (overly convinced of one's own worth or importance) [adj -TIER, -TIEST]
KIAUGHS	AGHIKSU	KIAUGH, trouble; worry [n]
NAUGHTS	AGHNSTU	NAUGHT, zero [n]
NAUGHTY	AGHNTUY	disobedient [adj -TIER, -TIEST] / one that is naughty [n -TIES]
PAUGHTY	AGHP TUY	arrogant (overly convinced of one's own worth or importance) [adj]
WAUGHTS	AGHSTUW	WAUGHT, to drink deeply [v]

## EAE 7s

OCHREAE	ACEEHOR	OCHREA, ocrea (sheathing plant part) [n]
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## EAI 7s

DEAIRED	ADDEEIR	DEAIR, to remove air from [v]
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## EAU 7s

BANDEAU	AABDENU	headband (band worn on head) [n -S, -X]
BATTEAU	AABETTU	bateau (flat-bottomed boat) [n -X]
BEAUSH	ABEHISU	BEAU, boyfriend [adj]
BEAUTER	ABEERTU	BEAUT, beautiful [adj]
BUREAUS	ABERSUU	BUREAU, chest of drawers [n]
CHAPEAU	AACEHPU	hat [n -S, -X]



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CHATEAU	AACEHTU	large country house [n -S, -X]
COTEAUS	ACEOSTU	COTEAU, higher ground of region [n]
COUTEAU	ACEOTUU	knife (sharp-edged instrument used for cutting) [n -X]
GATEAUS	AAEGSTU	GATEAU, fancy cake [n]
HEAUMES	AEEHMSU	HEAUME, medieval helmet [n]
JAMBEAU	AABEJMU	piece of armor for leg [n -X, -S]
MANTEAU	AAEMNTU	loose cloak [n -S, -X]
MORCEAU	ACEMORU	short literary or musical composition [n -X]
NOUVEAU	AENOUUV	newly arrived or developed [adj]
PLATEAU	AAELPTU	level stretch of elevated land [n -S, -X] / to reach period or condition of stability [v -ED, -ING, -S]
RESEAUS	AEERSSU	RESEAU, filter screen for making color films [n]
RONDEAU	ADENORU	short poem of fixed form [n -X]
ROULEAU	AELORUU	roll of coins wrapped in paper [n -S, -X]
TABEAU	AABELTU	picture [n -S, -X]
TONNEAU	AENNOTU	rear seating compartment of automobile [n -S, -X]
TRUMEAU	AEMRTUU	column supporting part of doorway [n -X]

## EAUX 7s

BATEAUX	AABETUX	BATEAU, flat-bottomed boat [n]
BUREAUX	ABERUUX	BUREAU, chest of drawers [n]
COTEAUX	ACEOTUX	COTEAU, higher ground of region [n]
GATEAUX	AAEGTUX	GATEAU, fancy cake [n]
RESEAUX	AEERSUX	RESEAU, filter screen for making color films [n]

## EEA 7s

REEARNS	AEENRRS	REARN, EARN, to gain or deserve for one's labor or service [v]
SEEABLE	ABEEELS	SEE, to perceive with eyes [adj]

## EEI 7s

DREEING	DEEGINR	DREE, to suffer (to feel pain or distress) [v]
EPEEIST	EEEIPST	one who fences with epee [n -S]
FLEEING	EEFGILN	FLEE, to run away [v]
FREEING	EEFGINR	FREE, to make free [v]
GREEING	EEGGINR	GREE, to agree (to have same opinion) [v]
KNEEING	EEGIKNN	KNEE, to strike with knee (joint of leg) [v]
PREEING	EEGINPR	PREE, to test by tasting [v]
SEEINGS	EEGINSS	SEEING, act of one that sees [n]
SKEEING	EEGIKNS	SKEE, to ski (to travel on skis (long, narrow strips of wood or metal)) [v]
TREEING	EEGINRT	TREE, to drive up tree (tall, woody plant) [v]

## EIA 7s

CODEIAS	ACDEIOS	CODEIA, codeine (narcotic alkaloid) [n]
PLEIADS	ADEILPS	PLEIAD, group of seven illustrious persons [n]

## EIGH 7s

NEIGHED	DEEGHIN	NEIGH, to utter cry of horse [v]
WEIGHED	DEEGHIW	WEIGH, to determine weight of [v]
REWEIGH	EEGHIRW	to weigh again [v -ED, -ING, -S]
WEIGHER	EEGHIRW	one that weighs (to determine weight of) [n -S]
FREIGHT	EFGHIRT	to load with goods for transportation [v -ED, -ING, -S]
HEIGHTH	EGHHHIT	height (highest point) [n -S]



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EIGHTHS	EGHHIST	EIGHTH, one of eight equal parts [n]
HEIGHTS	EGHHIST	HEIGHT, highest point [n]
INVEIGH	EGHIINV	to protest angrily [v -ED, -ING, -S]
SKREIGH	EGHIKRS	to screech (to utter harsh, shrill cry) [v -ED, -ING, -S]
SLEIGHS	EGHILSS	SLEIGH, to ride in sled [v]
SLEIGHT	EGHILST	deftness (quality of being deft (skillful (having skill))) [n -S]
EIGHTVO	EGHIOTV	octavo (page size) [n -S]
WEIGHTS	EGHISTW	WEIGHT, to add weight (heaviness) to [v]
WEIGHTY	EGHITWY	having great weight [adj -TIER, -TIEST]

## EIO 7s

MEIOSES	EEIMOSS	MEIOSIS, type of cell division [n]
MEIOSIS	EIIMOSS	type of cell division [n -S]
MEIOTIC	CEIIMOT	MEIOSIS, type of cell division [adj]
PEREION	EEINOPR	thorax of some crustaceans [n -S or -IA]

## EOE 7s

CAMEOED	ACDEEMO	CAMEO, to portray in sharp, delicate relief [v]
MIMEOED	DEEIMMO	MIMEO, to make copies of by use of mimeograph [v]
RODEOED	DDEEOOR	RODEO, to perform cowboy skills in contest [v]
VIDEOED	DDEEIOV	VIDEO, to record visual images on magnetic tape or disc [v]

## EOI 7s

GEOIDAL	ADEGILO	GEOID, hypothetical surface of earth [adj]
OSTEOID	DEIOOST	uncalcified bone matrix [n -S]
REOILED	DEEILOR	REOIL, OIL, to supply with oil (greasy liquid used for lubrication, fuel, or illumination) [v]

## EOU 7s

AENEOS	AEENOSU	having greenish gold color [adj]
AQUEOUS	AEOQSUU	pertaining to water [adj]
CASEOUS	ACEOSSU	cheesy (resembling cheese (food made from milk curds)) [adj]
DUTEOUS	DEOSTUU	dutiful (obedient (obeying or willing to obey)) [adj]
FADEOUT	ADEFOTU	gradual disappearance of image [n -S]
GASEOUS	AEGOSSU	pertaining to gas [adj]
HIDEOUS	DEHIOSU	very ugly [adj]
HIDEOUT	DEHIOTU	place of refuge [n -S]
HUGEOS	EGHOSUU	huge (very large) [adj]
IGNEOUS	EGINOSU	pertaining to fire [adj]
LUTEOS	ELOSTUU	light to moderate greenish yellow in color [adj]
NIVEOS	EINOSUV	resembling snow [adj]
OSSEOUS	EOOSSSU	resembling bone [adj]
PICEOUS	CEIOPSU	glossy-black in color [adj]
PILEOUS	EILOPSU	pilose (covered with hair) [adj]
PITEOUS	EIOPSTU	pitiful (arousing pity) [adj]
TAKEOUT	AEKOTTU	act of removing (to take or move away) [n -S]
TIMEOUS	EIMOSTU	timely (occurring at right moment) [adj]
TIMEOUT	EIMOTTU	brief suspension of activity [n -S]
WIDEOUT	DEIOTUW	receiver in football [n -S]
WIPEOUT	EIOPTUW	fall from surfboard [n -S]

## EOUI 7s



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MEOUING      EGIMNOU      MEOU, to meow (to make crying sound of cat) [v]

## IAE 7s

CARDIAE      AACDEIR      CARDIA, opening of esophagus [n]  
EXUVIAE      AEEIUVX      molted covering of animal [n]  
FASCIAE      AACEFIS      FASCIA, broad and distinct band of color [n]  
HERNIAE      AEEHINR      HERNIA, protrusion of organ through its surrounding wall [n]  
HYDRIAE      ADEHIRY      HYDRIA, water jar [n]  
SCORIAE      ACEIORS      SCORIA, refuse of smelted metal or ore [n]  
TAENIAE      AAEEINT      TAENIA, tapeworm (parasitic worm) [n]

## IAI 7s

ANTIAIR      AAIINRT      directed against attacking aircraft [adj]  
LIAISED      ADEIILS      LIAISE, to establish liaison [v]  
LIAISES      AEIILSS      LIAISE, to establish liaison [v]  
LIAISON      AIILNOS      means for maintaining communication [n -S]

## IAO 7s

MIAOWED      ADEIMOW      MIAOW, to meow (to make crying sound of cat) [v]

## IAOU 7s

GIAOURS      AGIORSU      GIAOUR, non-Muslim [n]

## IAOUE 7s

MIAOUED      ADEIMOU      MIAOU, to meow (to make crying sound of cat) [v]

## IAU 7s

FABLIAU      AABFILU      short metrical tale popular in medieval France [n -X]  
KIAUGHS      AGHIKSU      KIAUGH, trouble; worry [n]  
MIAULED      ADEILMU      MIAUL, to meow (to make crying sound of cat) [v]

## IEE 7s

PIEINGS      EGIINPS      PIEING, act of throwing pie at public figure [n]

## IEO 7s

DIEOFFS      DEFFIOS      DIEOFF, sudden decline in population [n]

## IEU 7s

MILIEUS      EIILMSU      MILIEU, environment [n]  
PURLIEU      EILPRUU      outlying or neighboring area [n -S, -X]

## IEUX 7s

MILIEUX      EIILMUX      MILIEU, environment [n]

## IOE 7s

FOLIOED      DEFILOO      FOLIO, to number pages of [v]  
RADIOED      ADDEIOR      RADIO, to transmit by radio (apparatus for wireless communication) [v]  
RADIOES      ADEIORS      RADIO, to transmit by radio (apparatus for wireless communication) [v]

## IOI 7s

GOBIOID      BDGIIOO      fish of goby family [n -S]  
OIDIOID      DDIIIOO      OIDIUM, type of fungus (any of major group of lower plants) [adj]  
OPIOIDS      DIIIOOPS      OPIOID, peptide that acts like opium [n]  
SIMIOID      DIIIMOS      simious (pertaining to simians (ape or monkey)) [adj]

## IOU 7s

ANXIOUS      AINOSUX      full of anxiety [adj]  
BILIOUS      BIILOSU      pertaining to bile (fluid secreted by liver) [adj]  
CARIOUS      ACIORSU      decayed [adj]



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COPIOUS	CIOOPSU	abundant (present in great quantity) [adj]
CURIOUS	CIORSUU	eager for information [adj -ER, -EST]
DEVIOUS	DEIOSUV	indirect (not direct) [adj]
DUBIOUS	BDIOSUU	doubtful (uncertain (absolutely confident)) [adj]
ENVOIOUS	EINOSUV	resentful and desirous of another's possessions or qualities [adj]
FOLIOUS	FILOOSU	foliose (having leaves) [adj]
FURIOUS	FIORSUU	extremely angry [adj]
HAVIOUR	AHIORUV	havior (behavior (demeanor (manner in which one conducts oneself))) [n -S]
IMPIOUS	IIMOPSU	not pious [adj]
NIMIOUS	IIMNOSU	NIMIETY, excess [adj]
NOXIOUS	INOOSUX	harmful to health [adj]
OBVIOUS	BIOOSUV	easily perceived or understood [adj]
OSMIOUS	IMOOSU	OSMIUM, metallic element [adj]
PAVIOUR	AIOPRUV	paver (one that paves (to cover with material that forms firm, level surface)) [n -S]
PIOUSLY	ILOPSUY	PIOUS, marked by religious reverence [adv]
RUBIOUS	BIORSUU	ruby-colored [adj]
SANIOUS	AINOSSU	SANIES, fluid discharged from wounds [adj]
SAVIOUR	AIORSUV	savior (one that saves (to rescue from danger, injury, or loss)) [n -S]
SERIOUS	EIORSSU	thoughtful or subdued in appearance or manner [adj]
SIMIOUS	IIMOSSU	pertaining to simians (ape or monkey) [adj]
TEDIOUS	DEIOSTU	causing weariness [adj]
VARIOUS	AIORSUV	of diverse kinds [adj]
VICIOUS	CIIOSUV	dangerously aggressive [adj]

## OAE 7s

COAEVAL	AACELOV	coeval (one of same era or period as another) [n -S]
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## OEA 7s

APNOEAL	AAELNOP	APNOEA, apnea (temporary cessation of respiration) [adj]
APNOEAS	AAENOPS	APNOEA, apnea (temporary cessation of respiration) [n]
EUPNOEA	AEENOPU	eupnea (normal breathing) [n -S]
IPOMOEA	AEIMoop	flowering plant [n -S]

## OEI 7s

APNOEIC	ACEINOP	APNOEA, apnea (temporary cessation of respiration) [adj]
SHOEING	EGHINOS	SHOE, to provide with shoes [v]

## OEU 7s

OEUVRES	EEORSUV	OEUVRE, work of art [n]
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## OIA 7s

LOIASES	AEILOSS	LOIASIS, tropical disease caused by eye worms [n]
LOIASIS	AIILOSS	tropical disease caused by eye worms [n -SES, -ES]

## OOA 7s

WOOABLE	ABELOOW	WOO, to seek affection of [adj]
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## OOE 7s

COOEYED	CDEEOOY	COOEY, to cooe (to cry out shrilly) [v]
TABOOED	ABDEOOT	TABOO, to exclude from use, approach, or mention [v]
UNWOOED	DENOOUW	WOO, to seek affection of [adj]
ZOOECIA	ACEIOOZ	ZOOECIUM, sac secreted and lived in by aquatic organism [n]

## OOI 7s



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ROOIBOS	BIOOORS	South African evergreen shrub [n -ES]
SHOOING	GHINOOS	SHOO, to drive away [v]
ZOOIDAL	ADILOOZ	ZOOID, organic cell or body capable of independent movement [adj]
ZOOIEST	EIOOSTZ	ZOOEY, resembling zoo (place where animals are kept for public exhibition) [adj]

## OOIE 7s

GOOIEST	EGIOOST	GOOEY, sticky or viscid [adj]
ZOOIEST	EIOOSTZ	ZOOEY, resembling zoo (place where animals are kept for public exhibition) [adj]

## OUA 7s

BIVOUC	ABCIUV	to make camp [v -KED, -KING, -KS, -S]
GOUACHE	ACEGHOU	method of painting [n -S]
OUABAIN	AABINOU	cardiac stimulant [n -S]
SOUARIS	AIORSSU	SOUARI, tropical tree [n]
ZOUAVES	AEOSUVZ	ZOUAVE, French infantryman [n]

## OUAY 7s

TATOUAY	AAOTTUY	South American armadillo [n -S]
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## OUE 7s

FOUETTE	EEFOTTU	movement in ballet [n -S]
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## OUGH 7s

ABOUGHT	ABGHOTU	ABY, to pay penalty for [v] / ABYE [v]
BOUGHED	BDEGHOU	BOUGH, tree branch [adj]
BOROUGH	BGHOORU	incorporated town [n -S]
BROUGHT	BGHORTU	BRING, to take with oneself to place [v]
COUGHED	CDEGHOU	COUGH, to expel air from lungs noisily [v]
COUGHER	CEGHORU	one that coughs (to expel air from lungs noisily) [n -S]
CHOUGHS	CGHHOSU	CHOUGH, crow-like bird [n]
CLOUGHS	CGHLOSU	CLOUGH, ravine (narrow, steep-sided valley) [n]
ROUGHED	DEGHORU	ROUGH, to make rough [v]
SOUGHED	DEGHOSU	SOUGH, to make moaning or sighing sound [v]
OUGHTED	DEGHOTU	OUGHT, to owe (to be under obligation to pay or repay) [v]
TOUGHED	DEGHOTU	TOUGH, to endure hardship [v]
DROUGHT	DGHORTU	dry period [n -S]
DOUGHTY	DGHOTUY	courageous [adj -TIER, -TIEST]
TOUGHIE	EGHIOTU	tough person [n -S]
ROUGHEN	EGHNORU	to make rough [v -ED, -ING, -S]
ENOUGHS	EGHNOSU	ENOUGH, sufficient supply [n]
TOUGHEN	EGHNOTU	to make tough [v -ED, -ING, -S]
ROUGHER	EGHORRU	ROUGH, having uneven surface [adj] / one that roughs (to make rough) [n -S]
TOUGHER	EGHORTU	TOUGH, strong and resilient [adj]
THROUGH	GHHORTU	by way of [prep]
THOUGHT	GHHOTTU	product of thinking [n -S] / THINK, to formulate in mind [v]
PLOUGHS	GHLOPSU	PLOUGH, to plow (to turn up land with plow (farm implement)) [v]
ROUGHLY	GHLORUY	in rough (having uneven surface) manner [adv]
SLOUGHS	GHLOSSU	SLOUGH, to cast off [v]
SLOUGHY	GHLOSUY	miry (swampy (marshy (resembling marsh))) [adj -HIER, -HIEST]
TOUGHLY	GHLOTUY	in tough (strong and resilient) manner [adv]
UNROUGH	GHNORUU	not rough (having uneven surface) [adj]



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NOUGHTS	GHNOSTU	NOUGHT, naught (zero) [n]
TROUGHS	GHORSTU	TROUGH, long, narrow receptacle [n]
WROUGHT	GHORTUW	WORK, to exert one's powers of body or mind for some purpose [v]

## OUI 7s

BEDOUIN	BDEINOU	nomadic Arab [n -S]
MECHOUI	CEHIMOU	meal of meat roasted on spit [n -S]
MOUILLE	EILLMOU	pronounced with front of tongue against palate [adj]
ROUILLE	EILLORU	peppery garlic sauce [n -S]
THOUING	GHINOTU	THOU, to address as "thou" (2d person sing. pronoun in nominative case) [v]

## UAE 7s

LINGUAE	AEGILNU	LINGUA, tongue or tonguelike part [n]
QUAERES	AEEQRSU	QUAERE, question [n]

## UAI 7s

GUAIACS	AACGISU	GUAIAC, guaiacum (medicinal resin) [n]
QUAICHS	ACHIQSU	QUAICH, small drinking vessel [n]
QUAIGHS	AGHIQSU	QUAIGH, quaich (small drinking vessel) [n]
QUAILED	ADEILQU	QUAIL, to cower (to cringe (to shrink in fear)) [v]

## UAIA 7s

GUAIACS	AACGISU	GUAIAC, guaiacum (medicinal resin) [n]
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## UEA 7s

SQUEAKS	AEKQSSU	SQUEAK, to make sharp, high-pitched sound [v]
SQUEAKY	AEKQSUY	tending to squeak [adj -KIER, -KIEST]
SQUEALS	AELQSSU	SQUEAL, to utter sharp, shrill cry [v]

## UEI 7s

BLUEING	BEGILNU	bluing (fabric coloring) [n -S] / BLUE, to make blue [v]
BLUEISH	BEHILSU	bluish (somewhat blue) [adj]
CLUEING	CEGILNU	CLUE, to give guiding information [v]
CUEISTS	CEISSTU	CUEIST, one that uses cue (straight tapering rod) in billiards [n]
GLUEING	EGGILNU	GLUE, to fasten with glue (adhesive substance) [v]
TRUEING	EGINRTU	TRUE, to bring to conformity with standard or requirement [v]

## UEOU 7s

AQUEOUS	AEOQSUU	pertaining to water [adj]
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## UEU 7s

LIQUEUR	EILQRUU	sweetened alcoholic beverage [n -S]
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## UEUE 7s

QUEUERS	EEQRSUU	QUEUER, one that queues (to line up) [n]
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## UEUI 7s

QUEUING	EGINQUU	QUEUE, to line up [v]
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## UIA 7s

ACEQUIA	AACEIQU	irrigation ditch or canal [n -S]
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## UIE 7s

GLUIEST	EGILSTU	GLUEY, resembling glue [adj]
INQUIET	EIINQUTU	to disturb (to interrupt quiet, rest, or peace of) [v -ED, -ING, -S]
QUIETED	DEEIQTU	QUIET, to cause to be quiet [v]
QUIETEN	EEINQUTU	to quiet (to cause to be quiet) [v -ED, ING, -S]
QUIETER	EIQRTU	QUIET, making little or no noise [adj] / one that quiets (to cause to be quiet) [n -S]





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QUIETLY	EILQTUY	in quiet manner [adv]
QUIETUS	EIQSTUU	final settlement [n -ES]
REQUIEM	EEIMQRU	musical composition for dead [n -S]
UNQUIET	EINQTUU	QUIET, making little or no noise [adj -ER, -EST] / state of unrest [n -S]

## UOI 7s

QUOINED	DEINOQU	QUOIN, to secure with type of wedge [v]
QUOITED	DEIOQTU	QUOIT, to play throwing game similar to ringtoss [v]

## UOIA 7s

SEQUOIA	AEIOQSU	large evergreen tree [n -S]
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## UOO 7s

SQUOOSH	HOOQSSU	to squash (to press into pulp or flat mass) [v -ED, -ING, -ES]
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## UOU 7s

ARDUOUS	ADORSUU	involving great labor or hardship [adj]
FATUOUS	AFOSTUU	smugly stupid [adj]
NOCUOUS	CNOOSUU	harmful (capable of harming) [adj]
SINUOUS	INOSSUU	characterized by curves, bends, or turns [adj]
TENUOUS	ENOSTUU	having little substance or strength [adj]
VACUOUS	ACOSUUV	empty (containing nothing) [adj]
VIRTUOUS	IORSTUUV	characterized by virtue [adj]