Pangrams

Is it possible to construct a list of words containing 26 different letters?

There are several ways that this can be accomplished: with a limited number of words, with fixed-length words, with no repeated letters, with the letters introduced in alphabetical order, etc. The ultimate challenge is to find a simple, meaningful sentence that contains all the 26 letters exactly once. Before we get to that, let's visit some of the other milestones on the journey.

Limited Number of Words with Most Distinct Letters with No Repeated Letters

1: uncopyrightable (15 in 15)
2: poldavy thumbscrewing (20 in 20)
3: frowzy backvelds thumping (23 in 23)
4: jynx vozhd backswept grimful (25 in 25)
5: waqf jynx speltz vugh mockbird (26 in 26)

Limited Number of Words with Most Distinct Letters

1: psychogalvanometric (16 in 19)
2: sympathizingly backfurrowed (22 in 26)
2: judgment-proof blacky-whites (22 in 25 + hyphen)
3: zanthoxyl buckjumped fevertwigs (25 in 29)
3: quick-fix overbejeweled sympathizing (26 in 33 + hyphen)
4: qwerty flax buckjumping vozhds (26 in 27)

Fixed Length Words with Most Distinct Letters with No Repeated Letters

3: vex adz cwm fir sky lob nth pug (24 in 24, 8 words)
4: next jock whiz flag dumb spry (24 in 24, 6 words)
5: waqfs bronx klutz gyved chimp (25 in 25, 5 words)
6: poxing jumbly kvetch dwarfs (24 in 24, 4 words)
7: braving mudflow sketchy (21 in 21, 3 words)

Fixed Length Words with Most Distinct Letters

3: qts box jak viz wyn pfc rhm ged lug (26 in 27, 9 words)
4: qoph lynx jamb fuzz vest wick drug (26 in 28, 7 words)
5: quick vexed jazzy frown blimp sight (26 in 30, 6 words)
6: jiquis flexed kwanza botchy grumpy (25 in 30, 5 words)
7: quartzy lockbox jewfish vamping (25 in 28, 4 words)
8: judgment lazyback prowfish (23 in 24, 3 words)
8: squeezer xylotomy whipjack vagabond (25 in 32, 4 words)
9: zanthoxyl buckjumps fevertwig (25 in 27, 3 words)

Letters Introduced in Alphabetical Order

ABC def ghi jak limn op qre st uva wax yez (26 in 32, 11 words)

Letters Introduced in Reverse Alphabetical Order

zyme oxbow vauts iraq pon milk jig hog fed caba (26 in 38, 10 words)

Sentences

Here are several sentences that contain each letter of the alphabet:

Sympathizing would fix Quaker objectives. (36 letters)
Quick brown fox, jump over the lazy dogs. (32 letters)

Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs. (32 letters)
Jackdaws love my big sphinx of quartz. (31 letters)
Quick waxy bugs jump the frozen veldt. (31 letters)
The five boxing wizards jump quickly. (31 letters)
Judges vomit; few quiz pharynx block. (30 letters)
How quickly daft jumping zebras vex. (30 letters)
Foxy nymphs grab quick-lived waltz. (29 letters)

The following sentences contain each letter exactly once, but either the words used are very uncommon or the syntax is very strained, or both:

Cwm, fjord-bank glyphs quiz vext.
Jack vends frowzy Qum, PBX light.
Jynx flight browzed quack MVPs.
Kluxing vozhd jambs PFC qwerty.
Nth quark biz gyps cwm fjeld vox.
Quartz glyph job vex'd cwm finks.
Squdgy fez, blank jimp crwth vox.
Veldt jynx grimps waqf zho buck.
Waqf vozhd trecks, jumbling pyx.

The following pangrammatic sentence uses words found in college-level dictionaries, although they are not common words. It has a fairly straightforward syntax, although it is a compound sentence:

Gyps balk nth fjord cwm quiz, vex.

Gyps are college students in Britain. Thus the sentence means that the college students refused to take the nth fjord cwm quiz (a "fjord cwm" is a basin at the end of a steep-walled valley leading to the sea), and that this annoyed someone.

Finally, this simple sentence contains all the 26 letters of the alphabet, each exactly once:

Jumbling vext frowzy hacks PDQ.

This means that being bounced about quickly annoyed the disheveled taxi drivers.

mon palindrome centered on letter y (9)—*Dravidian language spoken in southwest India*

maloti—see "loti"—*monetary unit of Lesotho*

mamma—longest common head 'n' tail centered on letter m (5)—longest common word containing one type of consonant for consonant m (5-t)

mammie—longest uncommon word containing one type of consonant for consonant m (6-t)—*Tropical American tree*

mammogram—uncommon word containing the most repeats of letter m (4-t)—*X-ray of the breast*

man—shortest common word with last letter next in alphabet after first for letter m (3-t)

manana—longest uncommon word where each letter is two symbols in Morse code (6-t)

manatee—see "emanate"

mandarin—longest common word spelled with two-letter U.S. postal codes (8-t)

mandibulopharyngeals—uncommon word with the lowest ratio length to number of different letters for length 20 (1.25-t)—*relating to the jaw and mouth*

manxman—longest uncommon head 'n' tail centered on letter x (7)—*from the Isle of Man*

martels—longest uncommon multiplicative offset shift pair [mundari] [factor of 21] (7-t)—*pointed hammer weapons*

maser—example of an acronym that has become uncapitalized, beginning with letter m