

Stefan Daschek / @noniq

Cologne Phonetics

Phonetic Search for German

Background



WIENER STAATSOPER

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SUCHE

Sie können mehrere Suchkriterien gleichzeitig angeben. Angezeigt werden dann jene Ergebnisse, bei denen alle angegebenen Kriterien gleichzeitig zutreffen.

Personen

Werk



PERSONEN

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A

Jasmin Avissar
 Rafael Avnikjan
 Ioanna Avraam
 Stella Axarlis
 Catherine Ayers
 Hakan Aysev
 Atsuku Azuma
 Jacl Azzaretti

B

Milica Babić
 Monica Baeelli
 Johann Sebastian Bach
 Rudolfine / Rudi Bach
 Klaus Bachler
 Ingeborg Bachmann
 Elisabeth Bachrich
 Siegmund Bachrich
 Hyun-Sook Baeck
 Susette Backes
 Hannelore Backrass
 Gabriel Bacquier
 Ildikó Bacskai
 Christian Badea
 Hans-Dieter Bader
 Dinu Badescu
 Henk Badings
 Carlo Badioni
 Wilfried Badorek
 Janina Baechle
 Elena Baggiore
 Bruna Baglioni
 Anna von Bahr Mildenburg
 Lin Bai
 Lidia Baich
 Anna Baier
 Hermann Baier

Maurizio Barbacini
 Paolo Barbaeni
 Nicola Barbarossa
 Christine Barboux
 Henri Auguste Barbier
 Jules Paul Barbier
 Fedora Barbieri
 John Barbirolli
 Daniela Barcellona
 Randy Barcelo
 Henri Barda
 Giuseppe Bardari
 Cesare Bardelli
 Giulia Bardi
 Gaetano Bardini
 Ilona Bárdossy
 Daniel Barenboim
 Rumiana Bareva
 Niksa Bareza
 Claudia Baricz
 Gun-Brit Barkmin
 Linda Barla-Casteletti
 Boleslaw Barlog
 Sergio Bartolotti
 Klara Barlow
 Scott Barnard
 Freiburger Barockorchester
 Ray Barra
 Margucrita Barret
 Kym Barrett
 Michael Barrett
 Sarah Barrett
 Josephine Barstow
 Madeleine Bart-Brookes
 Inge Barteis
 Queralt Figueras Bartes
 Fr. Bartetzky
 Erik Barth
 Gabriele Barth

Adele / Dely Bauer / Kautsky
 Olga Bauer von Pilecka
 Frieda Bauer- Heck
 Leni Bauer-Eczy
 Elconore Bauer-Kühlmayer
 Else Bauer-Liebesberg
 Stephanie Bäuerle
 Herr Bauernfeld
 Robert Bauerstatter
 Kurt Baum
 Alexander / Alex Baumann
 Anton Baumann
 Daniela Baumann
 Josef Karl Baumann
 Franz Baumeister
 Maria Baumeister
 Margarethe Bäumer
 Clementine Baumgartner
 Karl Baumgartner
 Peter Baumgartner
 Tanja Ariane Baumgartner
 Franz Baur
 Emma Bauret
 Johanna Bauret
 Peter Baxevanos
 Jean-François-Alfred Bayard
 Josef Bayer
 Benjamin Bayl
 Theo Baylé
 Maria Bayo
 Hacik Bayvertian
 Monika Bazant
 Wilfried Bazata
 Georg Bazelli
 Francois Bazin
 Jacques Bazine
 Gweneth Bean
 Olaf Bear
 Anny-Maria Becherstein

Marta Beňušková
 Roberto Benaglio
 Margarethe Benee
 Heinrich Bender
 Paul Bender
 Gertrude Bender - Baumann
 Kristian Benedikt
 Maria Bengtsson
 Maurizio Benini
 Lilian Benningesen
 Alexander / Alexandre Benois
 Nicola Benois
 Eduard Benoni
 Heinrich Bensing
 Ben Benson
 Enrico Benussi
 Josefina Benvenuti
 Josefina Benvenuti
 Gerhard Benz
 Ida Benza
 Alice Beör-Gruselli
 Amadeus Berauer
 Jano Berbié
 Hugh Beresford
 Alban Berg
 Leonida Bergamonti
 Teresa Berganza
 Josef Bergauer
 Emma Berger
 Erna Berger
 Horst Berger
 Lydia Berger
 Olga Berger
 Theodor Berger
 Helmut Berger-Tuna
 Oskar Berggruen
 Ruth Berghaus
 Erika Berghöfer
 Jacl Berglund



PERSONEN

« Zurück 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 Weiter »

10.123 Personen | Person hinzufügen

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B

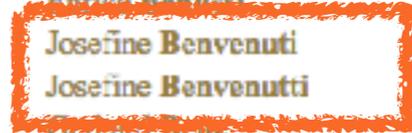
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Johann Sebastian Bach
Rudolfine / Rudi Bach
Klaus Bachler
Ingeborg Bachmann
Elis

Maurizio Barbacini
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Robert Bauerstatter
Kurt Baum
Alexander / Alex Baumann
Anton Baumann
Daniela Baumann
Josef Karl Baumann
Franz Baumeister
Maria Baumeister
Margarethe Bäumer

Marta Beňačková
Roberto Benaglio
Margarethe Bence
Heinrich Bender
Paul Bender
Gertrude Bender - Baumann
Kristian Benedikt
Maria Bengtsson
Maurizio Benini
Lilian Benningsen
Alexander / Alexandre Benois
Nicola Benois
Eduard Benoni
Heinrich Bensing
Ben Benson
Emilia Benussi

Josefine Benvenuti
Josefine Benvenuti



Stats

- ▶ 10,000 people
- ▶ 40,000 performances
- ▶ 1,000,000 appearances

Sieg
Hyn
Sus
Har
Gab
Ildil
Chr
Har
Dir
Her
Car
Wil
Jan
Ele
Bru
Ann
Lin

Lidia Baich
Anna Baier
Hermann Baier

Fr. Bartetzky
Erik Barth
Gabriela Barth

mentine Baumgartner
Baumgartner
r Baumgartner
Ariane Baumgartner
z Baur
na Bauret
anna Bauret
r Baxevanos
-François-Alfred Bayard
f Bayer
jamin Bayl
o Baylé
na Bayo
ik Bayvertian
nika Bazant
ried Bazata
rg Bazelli
ccis Bazin
ues Bazire

Gweneth Bean
Olaf Bear
Annamaria Becherstein

Genara Benz
Ida Benza
Alice Beör-Gruselli
Amadeus Berauer
Janc Berbié
Hugh Beresford
Alban Berg
Leonida Bergamonti
Teresa Berganza
Josef Bergauer
Emma Berger
Erna Berger
Horst Berger
Lydia Berger
Olga Berger
Theodor Berger
Helmut Berger-Tuna
Oskar Berggruen
Ruth Berghaus
Erika Berghöfer
Jacl Berglund

User Story

“When adding a new person, we need to see all existing people with similar names.”



NEUE PERSON

Vorname

Nachname

Im Personenverzeichnis

Geboren

Gestorben

Beruf

Vita

B *I* ~~S~~ | | I | |

oder [zurück zur Personenübersicht](#)

Ähnliche Namen

(keine)



NEUE PERSON

Vorname

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Im Personenverzeichnis

Geboren

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Vita

B *I* ~~S~~ | | I | |

oder [zurück zur Personenübersicht](#)

Ähnliche Namen

(keine)

Phonetic Search

The Idea

“Assign a code to each word, such that words with similar pronunciation get identical codes.”

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Meier

'maɪə



The Idea

“Assign a code to each word, such that words with similar pronunciation get identical codes.”

Meier	'maɪə
Mair	'maɪə

The Idea

“Assign a code to each word, such that words with similar pronunciation get identical codes.”

Meier	'maɪ̩ə
Mair	'maɪ̩ə
Mayer	'maɪ̩ə

The Idea

“Assign a code to each word, such that words with similar pronunciation get identical codes.”

Meier	'maɪ̯ə
Mair	'maɪ̯ə
Mayer	'maɪ̯ə
Müller	'mʏl̩ɐ

Common Phonetic Algorithms

Soundex

- ▶ developed in the 1920s to encode surnames for use in censuses
- ▶ available in most programming languages and databases
- ▶ Rubygems: Phonetic, Soundex, Text
- ▶ simple

Soundex

 Description simplified!

1. keep first letter
2. drop vowels
3. encode consonants as digits
4. stop after three digits (or add zeros)

Soundex

⚠ Description simplified!

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3. encode consonants as digits
4. stop after three digits (or add zeros)

Meier	M600
Mair	M600
Mayer	M600
Müller	M460

Metaphone

- ▶ published in 1990
- ▶ does a better job (than Soundex) of matching similar sounding words and names
- ▶ superseded by Double Metaphone, and later Metaphone 3 (commercial closed source)
- ▶ used in many spellcheckers
- ▶ Rubygems: Phonetic, Text
- ▶ complex, no description except original implementation

```

////////////////////////////////////
// Double Metaphone (c) 1990, 1999 by Lawrence Philips
//
// Slightly modified by Kevin Atkinson to fix several bugs and
// to allow it to give back more than 4 characters.
//
////////////////////////////////////
#include "stdafx.h"
#include "dmetaph.h"

#define AND &&
#define OR ||

////////////////////////////////////
//
////////////////////////////////////
MString::MString()
{
}

////////////////////////////////////
//
////////////////////////////////////
MString::MString(const char* in) : CString(in)
{
}

////////////////////////////////////
//
////////////////////////////////////
MString::MString(const CString& in) : CString(in)
{
}

////////////////////////////////////
//
////////////////////////////////////
bool MString::SlavoGermanic()
{
    if((Find('W') > -1) OR (Find('K') > -1) OR (Find("CZ") > -1) OR (Find("WITZ") > -1))
        return TRUE;

    return FALSE;
}

////////////////////////////////////
//
////////////////////////////////////
inline void MString::MetaphAdd(const char* main)
{
    if(*main)
    {
        primary += main;
        secondary += main;
    }
}

////////////////////////////////////
//
////////////////////////////////////
inline void MString::MetaphAdd(const char* main, const char* alt)
{
    if(*main)
        primary += main;
    if(*alt)
    {

```

```

        break;
    }

    //polish e.g. 'filipowicz'
    if(StringAt(current, 4, 'WICZ', "WITZ", ""))
    {
        MetaphAdd("TS", "FX");
        current +=4;
        break;
    }

    //else skip it
    current +=1;
    break;

case 'X':
    //french e.g. breaux
    if(!((current == last)
        AND (StringAt((current - 3), 3, "IAU", "EAU", "")
            OR StringAt((current - 2), 2, "AU", "OU", ""))) )
        MetaphAdd("KS");

    if(StringAt((current + 1), 1, "C", "X", ""))
        current += 2;
    else
        current += 1;
    break;

case 'Z':
    //chinese pinyin e.g. 'zhao'
    if(GetAt(current + 1) == 'H')
    {
        MetaphAdd("J");
        current += 2;
        break;
    }else
        if(StringAt((current + 1), 2, "ZO", "ZI", "ZA", "")
            OR (SlavoGermanic() AND ((current > 0) AND GetAt(current - 1) != 'T')))
        {
            MetaphAdd("S", "TS");
        }
        else
            MetaphAdd("S");

    if(GetAt(current + 1) == 'Z')
        current += 2;
    else
        current += 1;
    break;

default:
    current += 1;
}
}

metaph = primary;
//only give back 4 char metaph
//if(metaph.GetLength() > 4)
//    metaph.SetAt(4, '\0');
if(alternate)
{
    metaph2 = secondary;
    //if(metaph2.GetLength() > 4)
    //    metaph2.SetAt(4, '\0');
}
}
}

```

Cologne Phonetics (Kölner Phonetik)

- ▶ published in 1968
- ▶ optimized for German
- ▶ not as complex as Metaphone
- ▶ few implementations available (Perl, PHP)
- ▶ Rubygems: –

Cologne Phonetics

1. encode letters as digits
2. remove repeated digits
3. remove zeros
(except at the beginning)

Cologne P

1. encode
2. remove
3. remove
(except

Letter	Context	Code
A, E, I, J, O, U, Y		0
H		-
B		1
P	not before H	
D, T	not before C, S, Z	2
F, V, W		3
P	before H	
G, K, Q		4
C	in the initial sound before A, H, K, L, O, Q, R, U, X before A, H, K, O, Q, U, X except after S, Z	
X	not after C, K, Q	48
L		5
M, N		6
R		7
S, Z		8
C	after S, Z	
	in initial position except before A, H, K, L, O, Q, R, U, X	
	not before A, H, K, O, Q, U, X	
D, T	before C, S, Z	
X	after C, K, Q	

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C	in the initial sound before A, H, K, L, O, Q, R, U, X	4
	before A, H, K, O, Q, U, X except after S, Z	
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S, Z		
C	after S, Z	8
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D, T	before C, S, Z	
X	after C, K, Q	

Meier 67

Mair 67

Mayer 67

Müller 657

Let's make a Rubygem!

```

module ColognePhonetics
  module Rules
    def self.define(&block)
      @rules = DSL.new(&block).rules
    end

    def self.apply_to(string)
      string = string.downcase.tr('ÄÖÜ', 'äöü') # Ruby < 2.3 downcases ASCII characters only
      chars = [nil] + string.chars + [nil]
      chars.each_cons(3).map{ |prev_char, char, next_char|
        code_for(prev_char, char, next_char)
      }.join
    end

    def self.code_for(prev_char, char, next_char)
      @rules.each do |matcher, code|
        return code if matcher.call(prev_char, char, next_char)
      end
      nil
    end
  end

  class DSL
    attr_reader :rules

    def initialize(&block)
      @rules = []
      instance_exec(&block)
    end

    def change(chars, to:, before: nil, not_before: nil, after: nil, not_after: nil, initial: nil)
      matcher = ->(prev_char, char, next_char){
        return unless chars.include?(char)
        return if initial && prev_char
        return if before && (!next_char || !before.include?(next_char))
        return if not_before && next_char && not_before.include?(next_char)
        return if after && (!prev_char || !after.include?(prev_char))
        return if not_after && prev_char && not_after.include?(prev_char)
        true
      }
      @rules << [matcher, to]
    end
  end
end
end
end
end

```

```
Rules.define do
  change 'aeijouy', to: '0'
  change 'äöü'    , to: '0'
  change 'h'      , to: ''
  change 'b'      , to: '1'
  change 'p'      , to: '1', not_before: 'h'
  change 'dt'     , to: '2', not_before: 'csz'
  change 'fvw'    , to: '3'
  change 'p'      , to: '3', before: 'h'
  change 'gkq'    , to: '4'
  change 'c'      , to: '4', initial: true, before: 'ahkloqrux'
  change 'c'      , to: '4', before: 'ahkoqux', not_after: 'sz'
  change 'x'      , to: '48', not_after: 'ckq'
  change 'l'      , to: '5'
  change 'mn'     , to: '6'
  change 'r'      , to: '7'
  change 'sz'     , to: '8'
  change 'ß'      , to: '8'
  change 'c'      , to: '8', after: 'sz'
  change 'c'      , to: '8', initial: true, not_before: 'ahkloqrux'
  change 'c'      , to: '8', not_before: 'ahkoqux'
  change 'dt'     , to: '8', before: 'csz'
  change 'x'      , to: '8', after: 'ckq'
end
```

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```

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  change 'b'      , to: '1'
  change 'p'      , to: '1', not_before: 'h'
  change 'dt'     , to: '2', not_before: 'csz'
  change 'fvw'    , to: '3'
  change 'p'      , to: '3', before: 'h'
  change 'gkq'    , to: '4'
  change 'c'      , to: '4', initial: true, before: 'ahkloqrux'
  change 'c'      , to: '4', before: 'ahkoqux', not_after: 'sz'
  change 'x'      , to: '48', not_after: 'ckq'
  change 'l'      , to: '5'
  change 'mn'     , to: '6'
  change 'r'      , to: '7'
  change 'sz'     , to: '8'
  change 'ß'      , to: '8'
  change 'c'      , to: '8', after: 'sz'
  change 'c'      , to: '8', initial: true, not_before: 'ahkloqrux'
  change 'c'      , to: '8', not_before: 'ahkoqux'
  change 'dt'     , to: '8', before: 'csz'
  change 'x'      , to: '8', after: 'ckq'
end

```

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- ▶ Rubygems: **ColognePhonetics** 🕶️

```
require 'cologne_phonetics'
```

```
ColognePhonetics.encode('Meier') # => "67"
```

```
ColognePhonetics.encode('Müller-Lüdenschaid') # => "65752682"
```

Back to the Opera . . .

Problem 1: Complex Last Names

Problem 1: Complex Last Names

- ▶ da Ponte
- ▶ de la Mora
- ▶ del Grande
- ▶ du Roullet
- ▶ Garcia-Torres
- ▶ Gullberg Jensen
- ▶ Hellmesberger jun.
- ▶ La Fosse
- ▶ Rabl von Kriesten
- ▶ Saint Laurent
- ▶ Strauß (Vater)
- ▶ Te Kanawa
- ▶ van Beethoven
- ▶ Vernoy de Saint-Georges
- ▶ von der Damerau

Solution: Normalize!

```
def normalize(name)
  normalized_name = name.split(%r{\s*/\s*})[0] || ''
  normalized_name.delete!("'") # Encode "O'Hara" as "Ohara"
  normalized_name.gsub!(/(.)\(.+$/, '\1')
  normalized_name.gsub!(/^(de (la|los)|dal?|del?|della|di|du|la|le|van der|von der) /i){ |m|
    m.delete(' ')
  }
  normalized_name.gsub!(/^(van|von) /i, '')
  normalized_name.gsub!(/^[[:alpha:]]+/, '')
  I18n.transliterate(normalized_name)
end
```

(... and treat name parts seperately)

Problem 2: How to Sort Similar Names?



NEUE PERSON

Vorname Nachname Im Personenverzeichnis Geboren Gestorben Beruf

Vita **B** *I* ~~S~~ I

 oder zurück zur Personenübersicht

Ähnliche Namen

- [Kraus Alfredo » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Auguste » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Emil » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Fritz » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Herold » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Lena » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Leo » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Michael » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Otakar » Frontend](#)
- [Kraus Uwe » Frontend](#)
- [Krause Tom » Frontend](#)
- [Krauss Clemens » Frontend](#)
- [Krauss Ernst » Frontend](#)
- [Krauss Fritz » Frontend](#)
- [Krauß Helmuth » Frontend](#)
- [Krauß / Krauss Clementine » Frontend](#)
- [Krauß / Krauss Margarete » Frontend](#)
- [Krauß / Krauss / Kraus Helene » Frontend](#)
- [Crass Franz » Frontend](#)
- [Karas Leah » Frontend](#)
- [Kares Mika » Frontend](#)
- [Kareš Milos » Frontend](#)
- [Kratz Philippe » Frontend](#)
- [Kres Hans » Frontend](#)
- [Kres Wolfgang » Frontend](#)
- [Kruse Heinz » Frontend](#)
- [Kruse Leone » Frontend](#)
- [Krása Hans » Frontend](#)
- [Caruso Enrico » Frontend](#)
- [Caruso Mariano » Frontend](#)
- [Grohs Willy » Frontend](#)
- [Gross Alice » Frontend](#)
- [Gross Erwin V. » Frontend](#)
- [Gross Willy » Frontend](#)
- [Groß Franz » Frontend](#)
- [Keres Imre » Frontend](#)
- [Kretz Jürgen » Frontend](#)
- [Carosi Mauro » Frontend](#)
- [Carosi Micaela » Frontend](#)
- [Chris Xenia » Frontend](#)

Solution: Levenshtein-Distance!

```
require 'damerau-levenshtein'
```

```
DamerauLevenshtein.distance('Kraus', 'Kraus') # => 0
```

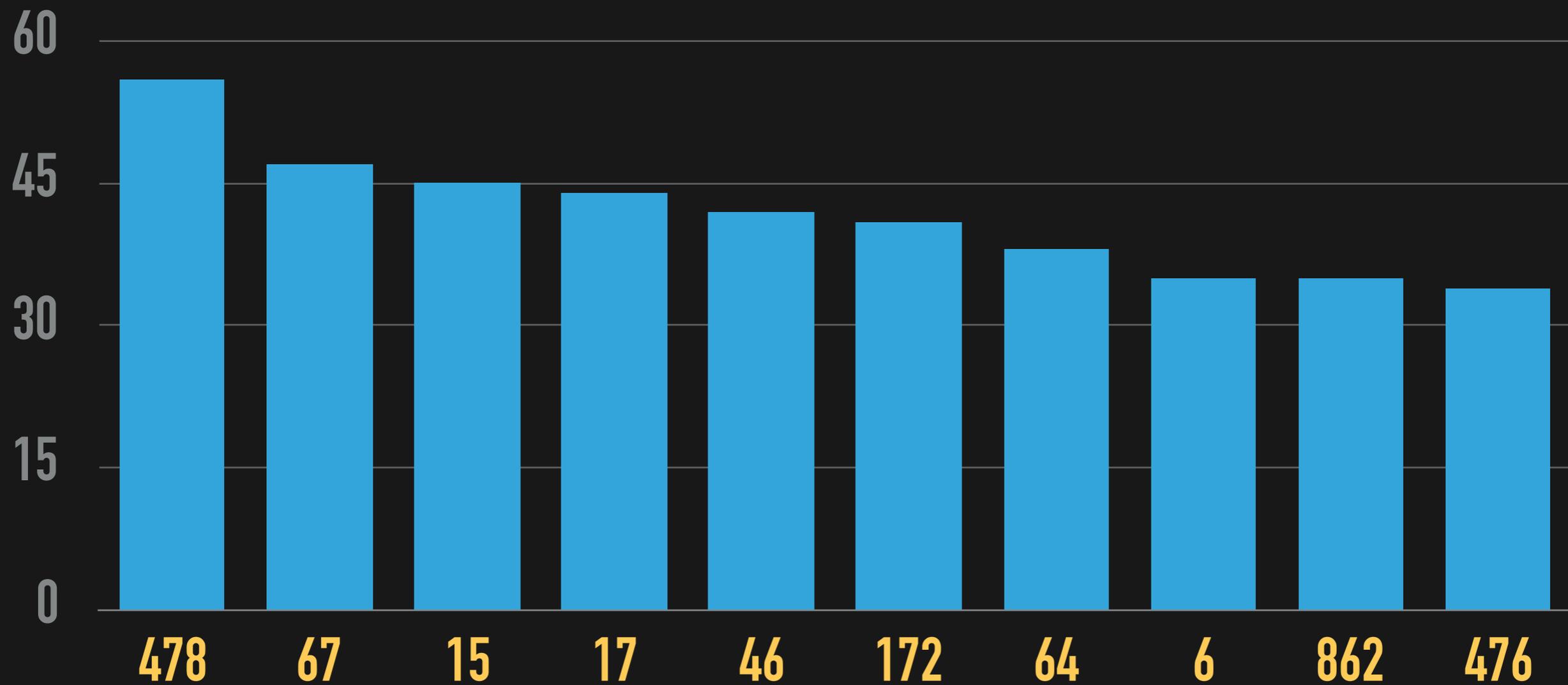
```
DamerauLevenshtein.distance('Kraus', 'Krauß') # => 1
```

```
DamerauLevenshtein.distance('Kraus', 'Karas') # => 2
```

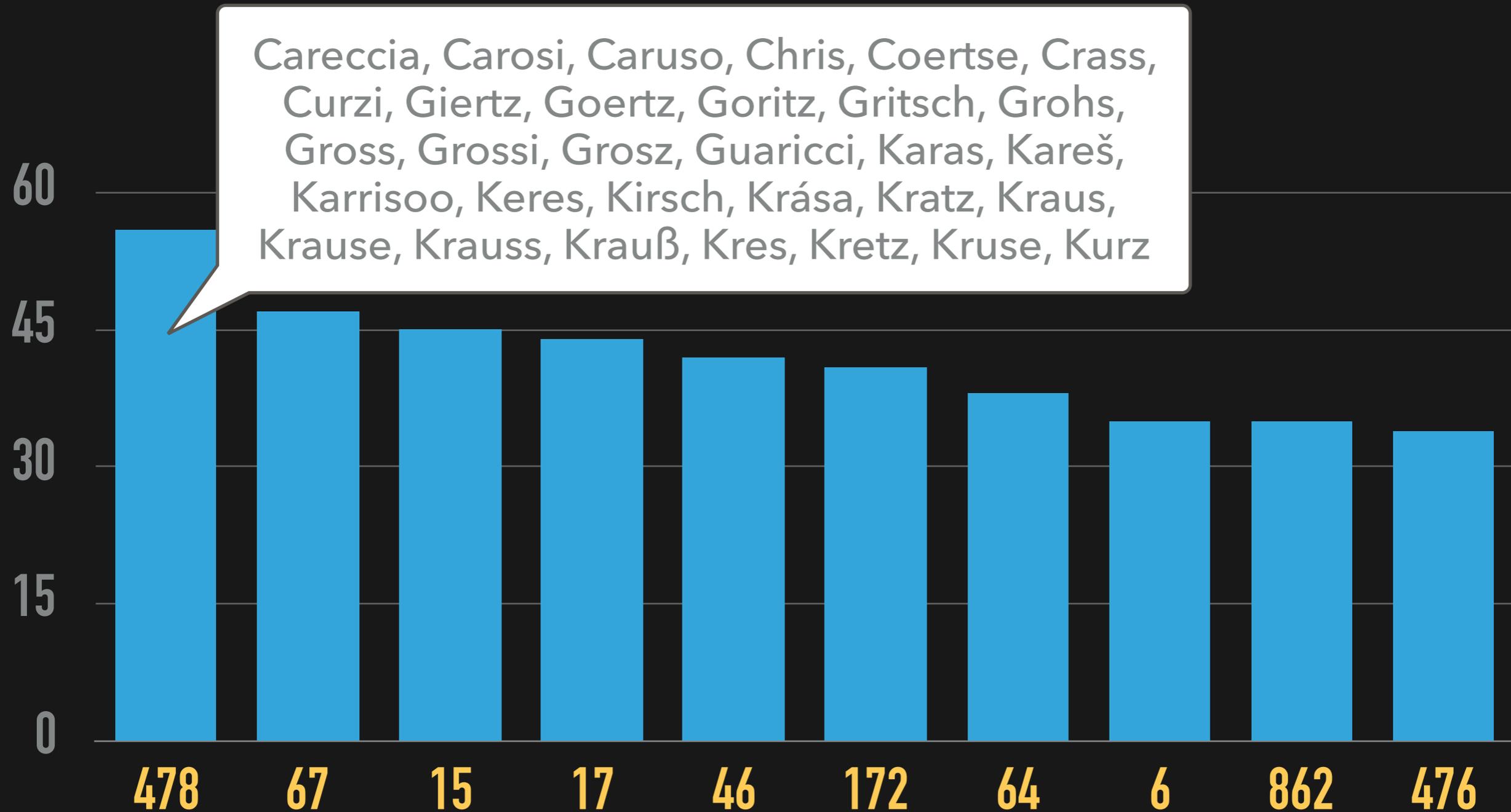
```
DamerauLevenshtein.distance('Kraus', 'Caruso') # => 3
```

```
DamerauLevenshtein.distance('Kraus', 'Grosz') # => 4
```

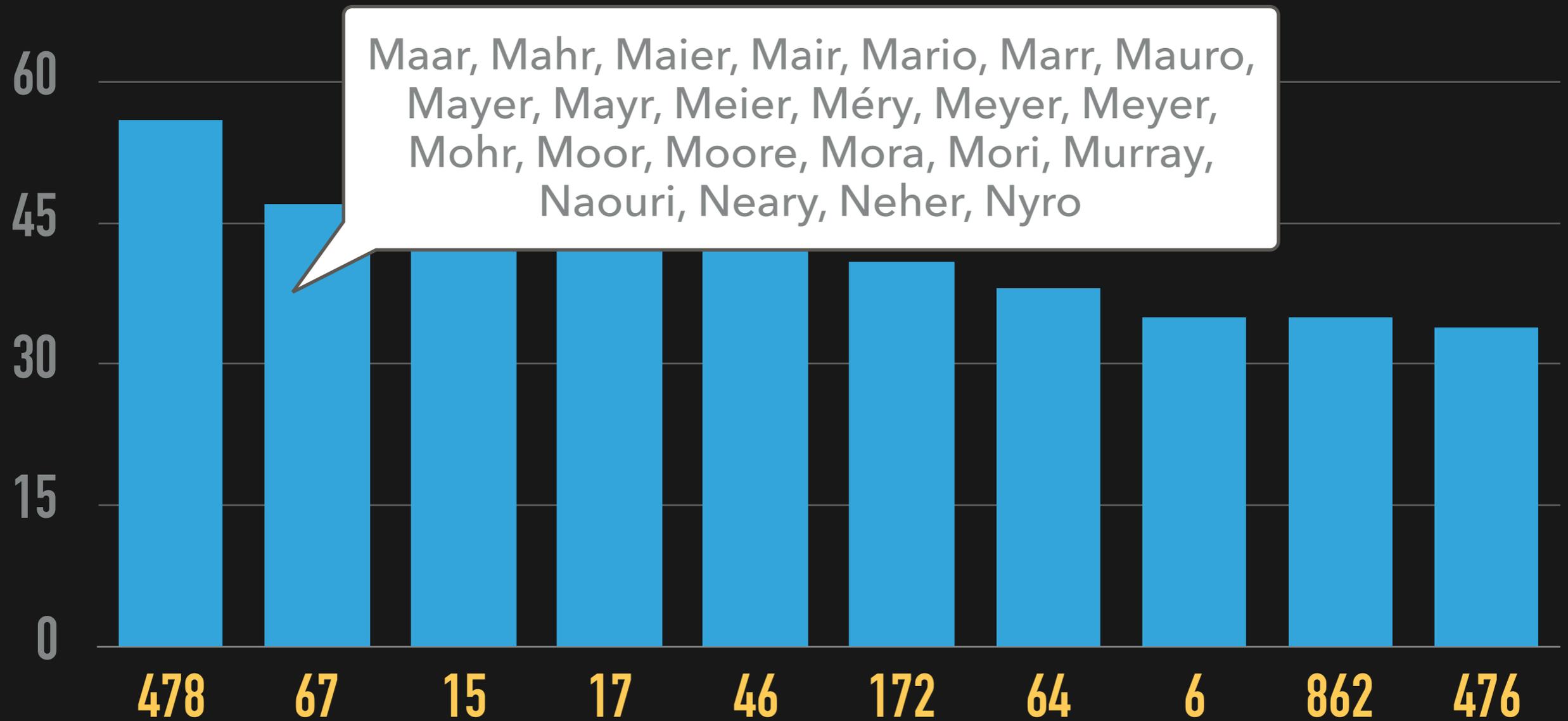
Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



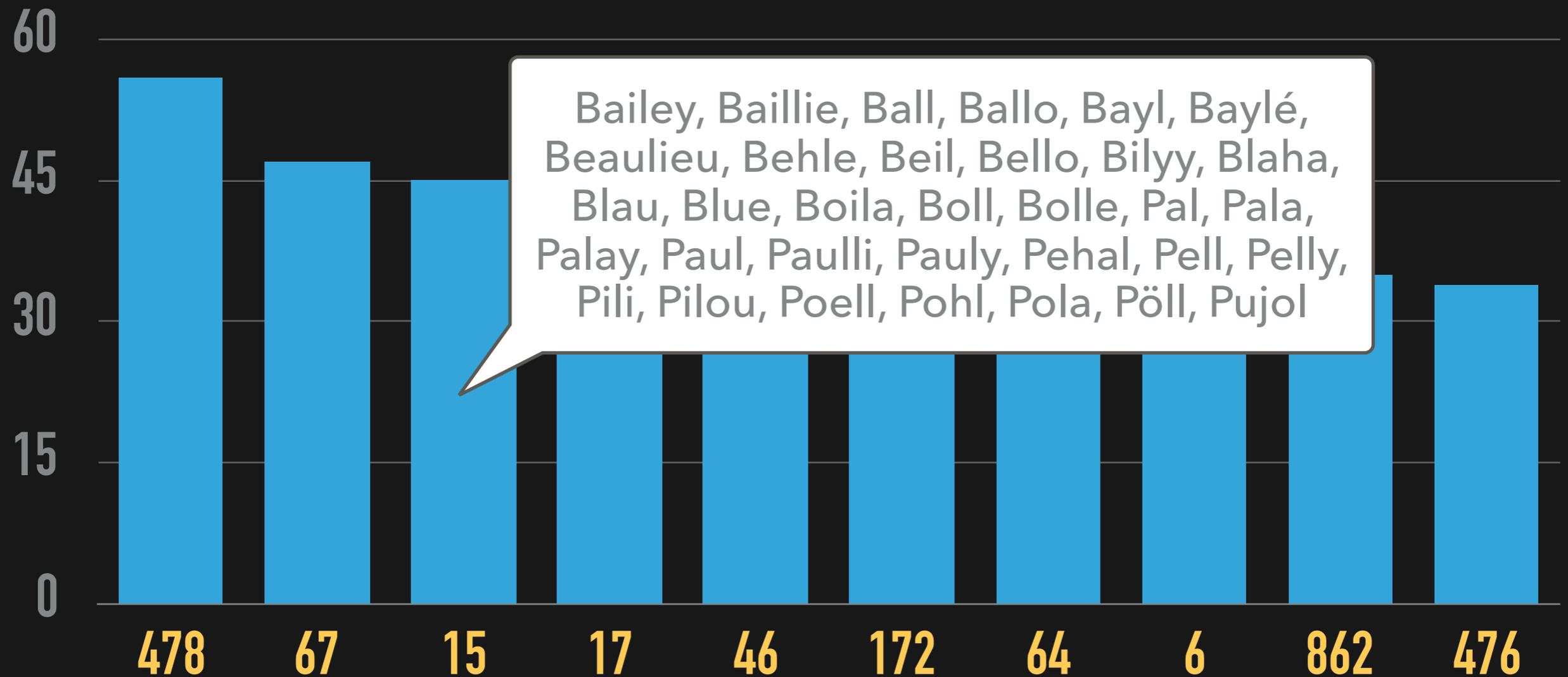
Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



Thank you!

Stefan Daschek / @noniq