

Stefan Daschek / @noniq

---

# Cologne Phonetics

## Phonetic Search for German

# Background



# WIENER STAATSOOPER

[SPIELPLAN & TICKETS](#)[LIVE](#)[ENSEMBLE & GÄSTE](#)[IHR BESUCH](#)[DIE STAATSOOPER](#)[OPERNBALL](#)[LISTE](#)[KALENDER](#)[WERKE](#)[ARCHIV](#)

## Spielplanarchiv

[Personenverzeichnis](#) | [Werkverzeichnis](#) | [Rollenverzeichnis](#) | [Vorstellungsverzeichnis](#)

### SUCHE

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

### Personen

### Werk

## 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](#)

### A

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

### B

Milica Babić  
Monica Baccelli  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
Rudolfine / Rudi Bach  
Klaus Bachler  
Ingeborg Bachmann  
Elisabeth Bachrich  
Siegfried Bachrich  
Hyon-Sook Back  
Susette Backes  
Hannelore Backrass  
Gabriel Bacquier  
Ildikó Bacskai  
Christian Bada  
Hans-Dieter Bader  
Dinu Badescu  
Henk Badings  
Carlo Badioli  
Wilfried Badorek  
Janina Baechele  
Elena Baggione  
Bruna Baglioni  
Anna von Bahr Mildenburg  
Lin Bai  
Lidia Baich  
Anna Baier  
Hermann Baier

Maurizio Barbacini  
Paolo Barbacini  
Nicola Barbarossa  
Christine Barbaux  
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  
Marguerita Barret  
Kym Barrett  
Michael Barrett  
Sarah Barrett  
Josephine Barstow  
Madeleine Bart-Brookes  
Inge Barteis  
Queralta Figueras Bartes  
Fr. Bartetzky  
Erik Barth  
Gabriela 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  
François Bazin  
Jacques Baziore  
Gweneth Bean  
Olaf Bear  
Anastasia Beaschstein

Marta Beňáčeková  
Roberto Benaglio  
Margarethe Benec  
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  
Enrico Benussi  
Josefine Benvenuti  
Josefine Benvenuti  
Gerhard Benz  
Ida Benza  
Alice Beör-Gruselli  
Amadeus Berauer  
Jane 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  
Jacq Berghöfer

## 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

## A

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

## B

**Milica Babić**  
**Monica Bacelli**  
**Johann Sebastian Bach**  
**Rudolfine / Rudi Bach**  
**Klaus Bachler**  
**Ingeborg Bachmann**

Maurizio Barbacini  
Paolo Barbacini  
Nicola Barbarossa  
Christine Barbaux  
Henri Auguste Barbier  
Jules Paul Barbier  
Fedora Barbieri  
John Barbirolli  
Daniela Barcellona  
Randy Barcolo  
Henri Barda  
Giuseppe Bardari  
Cesare Bardelli  
Giulia Bardi  
Gaetano Bardini  
Ilona Bárdossy  
Daniel Barenboim

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  
Eugentine Baumgartner

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 Benuni  
Heinrich Bensing  
Ben Benson  
Enrico Benussi  
Josefine Benvenuti  
Josefine Benvenutti

# Stats

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

Elis  
Sieg  
Hyn  
Sus  
Han  
Gab  
Ildil  
Chr  
Han  
Din  
Hen  
Car  
Wil  
Jani  
Ele  
Bru  
Ann  
Lin

Lidia Baich  
Anna Baier  
Hermann Baier

nentine Baumgartner  
 Baumgartner  
 r Baumgartner  
 a Ariane Baumgartner  
 iz Baur  
 na Bauret  
 anna Bauret  
 r Baxevanos  
 -François-Alfred Bayard  
 f Bayer  
 jamin Bayl  
 o Baylé  
 ia Bayo  
 ik Bayvertian  
 nika Bazant  
 ried Bazata  
 rg Bazelli  
 ccis Bazin  
 ues Baziro

Gweneth Bean  
Olaf Bear  
Agnieszka Hanzlik

Josefina Benvenuti  
 Gerhard Benz  
 Ida Benza  
 Alice Beör-Gruselli  
 Amadeus Berauer  
 Jane 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  
 Jack 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](#)

### A

Jasmin Avissar  
 Rafacl Avnikjan  
 Ioanna Avraam  
 Stella Axarlis  
 Catherine Ayers  
 Hakan Aysev  
 Atsuku Azuma  
 Jaci Azzaretti

### B

Milica Babić  
 Monica Baccelli  
 Johann Sebastian Bach  
 Rudolfine / Rudi Bach  
 Klaus Bachler  
 Ingeborg Bachmann  
 Elisabeth

Maurizio Barbacini  
 Paolo Barbacini  
 Nicola Barbarossa  
 Christine Barbaux  
 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

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

Marta Beňáčeková  
 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

Josefina Benvenuti  
 Josefina Benvenuti

Gertrude Benz  
 Ida Benza  
 Alice Beör-Gruselli  
 Amadeus Berauer  
 Jan Berbić  
 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  
 Jack Berglund

## Stats

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

## 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

Nachname

Im Personenverzeichnis





☒ 

Geboren

Gestorben

Beruf

Vita

**B** *I* ~~S~~   I<sub>x</sub>  ▾  ▾

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.”

# The Idea

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

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	'maɪ̯ə
Mair	'maɪ̯ə
Mayer	'maɪ̯ə



# The Idea

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

Meier	'maɪ̯ə
Mair	'maɪ̯ə
Mayer	'maɪ̯ə
Müller	'mʏlə

# 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!

1. keep first letter
2. drop vowels
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) 1998, 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 a

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	

# Cologne Phonetics

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

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		
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	
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	

Meier67

Mair67

Mayer67

Müller657



**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 'aeiouy', 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
```

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	

```


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

```

# Cologne Phonetics (Kölner Phonetik)

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

# Cologne Phonetics (Kölner Phonetik)

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

# 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 Philipp » 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
```

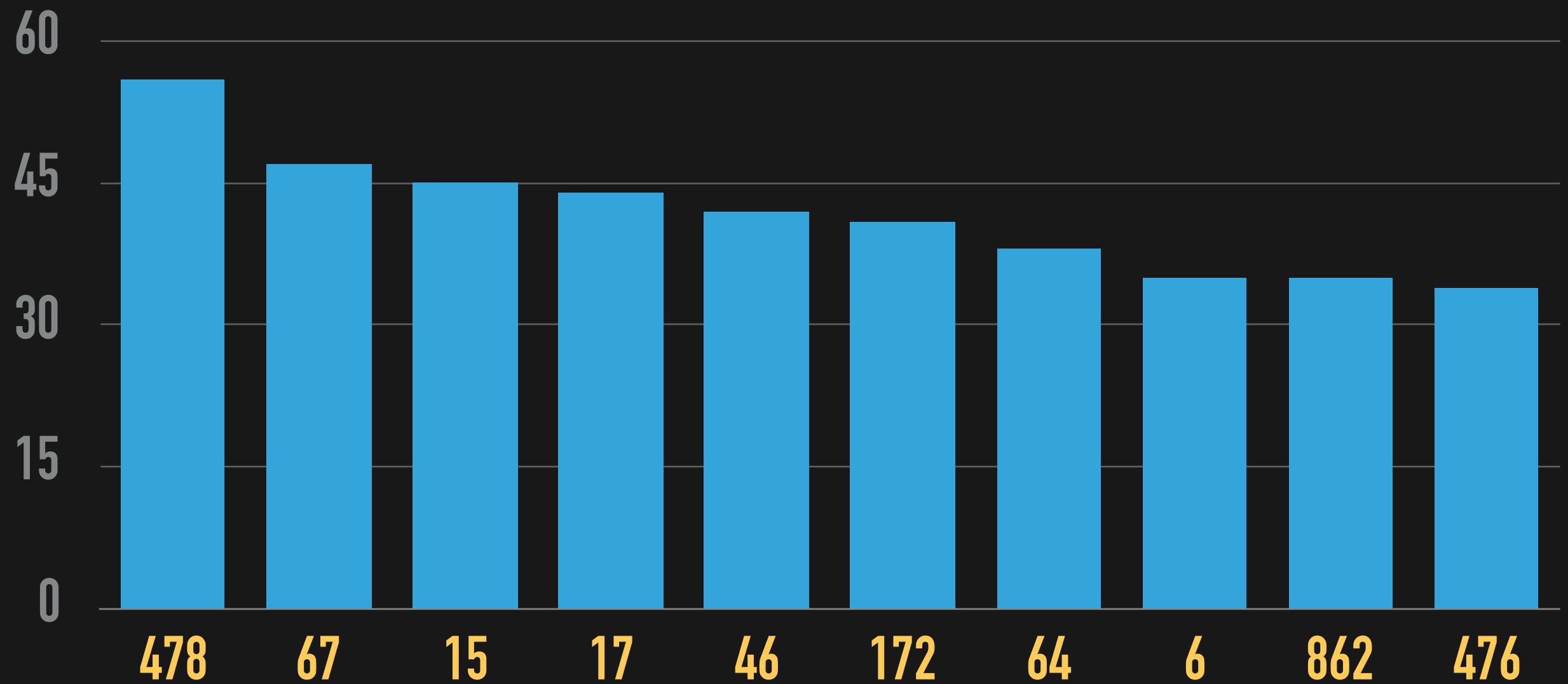
```
DamerauLevenshtein.distance('Kraus', 'Karas') # => 2
```

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

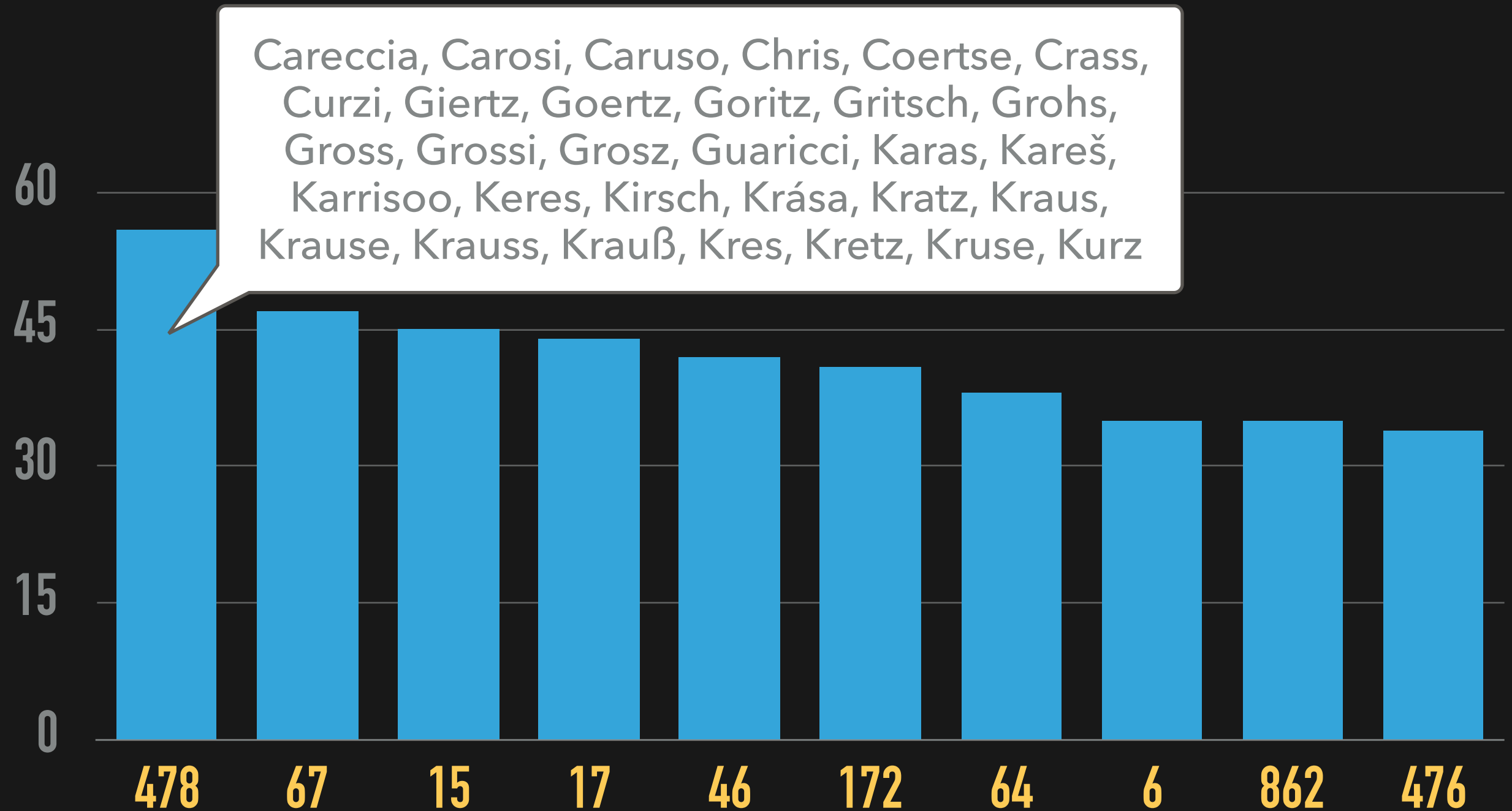
```
DamerauLevenshtein.distance('Kraus', 'Grosz') # => 4
```



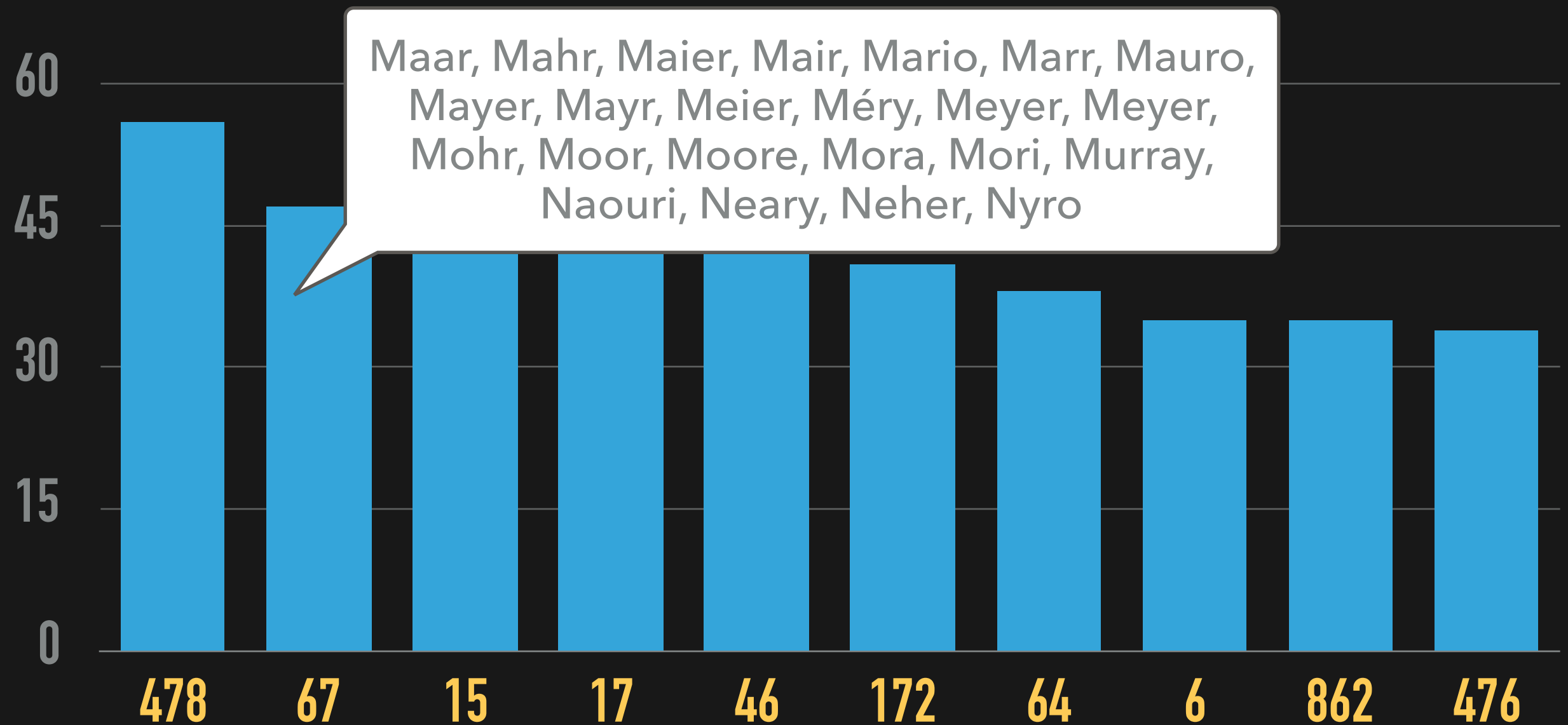
# Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



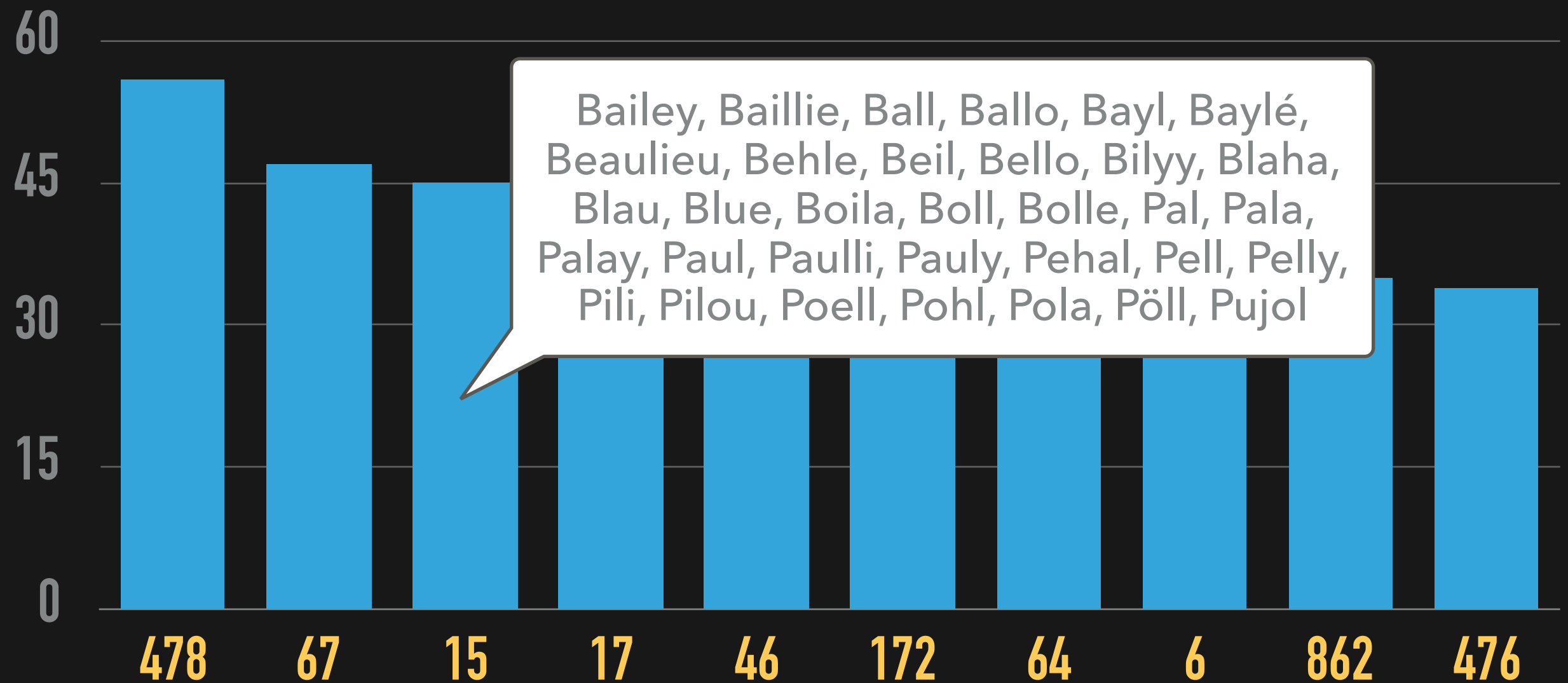
# Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



# Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



# Top Ten Encoded Name Clusters



# Thank you!

Stefan Daschek / @noniq