

## *A Word*

# *The Long and Short of It*

THE World Wide Web (three syllables) would clearly get on fine,  
If they hadn't tried to shorten it by changing it to nine.  
The Internet technicians seemed to think the World Wide Web  
Ought to have its name foreshortened for its use by every pleb.

Three *Ws*, (nine syllables) save quite a lot of space,  
(Though saying them successively is quite a task to face).  
Three *Ws*, nine syllables: it's World Wide Web online.  
World Wide Web (three syllables): they've shortened it to nine.

It's called abbreviation – now that's a funny word:  
Five syllables mean you've shortened it – a theory that's absurd.  
*Abbreviation* is the word, the web experts opine,  
That makes sound sense of shortening three syllables to nine.

It seems to me they're pretty sure that we're not going to mind  
A word that means *it's been cut short* (the longest they could find) –  
Five syllables for cutting short, creating an illusion  
That this is not a paradox, nor yet dotcom confusion.

It's just the long and short of it: we have to toe the line,  
When virtual world's three syllables have been reduced to nine.

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