

2008 Academic Bowl: Scrabble Multiplication  
"Left to Right, Top to Bottom"

RULES and DIRECTIONS

Directions: Use the given letters to earn as many points as possible by creating and linking words made from these letters. Build your words like a modified Scrabble game: All letters count one point but it is the length of the words and the number of words created and linked that matters. Calculators are not involved. You must show your multiplication. Dictionaries are provided for your use. Hand in the sheet with the grid.

1. Words are read left to right, top to bottom. They are not read right to left or bottom to top. In future games you might get credit for words that read backwards, but not at this time.
2. All the letters must be in one giant cluster. If your letters are in more than one cluster, or if you don't use some letters, you will only get points for the words in the **larger cluster**.
3. All adjoining letters must make acceptable words reading left to right or top to bottom. Adjoining letters which do not make a word will be removed by the judges and whatever legitimate words they were a part of will be disqualified. Make sure that every combination of letters, read left to right or top to bottom, is a word!
4. To be counted as a word, there are two conditions that must be true:
  - a. It must be able to be found in our Scrabble Players Dictionary; or, if for some reason it is not listed there, it must be a commonly accepted word in the opinion of the judges. Misspelled words do not count.
  - b. It must be acceptable to the judges. Judges will not accept proper nouns, abbreviations, or acronyms and reserve the right not to accept words which are questionable, slang, offensive, embarrassing, or in poor taste. (Many of these solutions will be published or put on the Academic Bowl web site.)
5. If you want to know if a particular word is acceptable to the judge, use your "Ask the judge a Question" ticket and ask the specific judge your question. The judge will write "OK" and initial the word in question. Do not ask your teacher or the Quizmaster-- ask the specific judge. Note that you may do this only once and for only one word.
6. When you have the letters how you want them, ask for tape and tape them down. This is your "final answer." You cannot make any changes after this point. Make sure you haven't created any groups of letters that do not form real words.
7. Write out all the words that you are claiming. Organize them in groups according to length: 2 letter words, 3 letter words, etc. Each word you claim must be in the cluster you taped down.
8. Do and show the math. Multiple the number of letters in each word to get your raw score. For example, if you have three 3-letter words and two 6-letter words, your score will be  $3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 6 \times 6 = 972$ . Show these calculations plus your written out multiplication on the grid sheet you are handing in.
9. Make sure you have written your team name and circled your squad number on the grid sheet.
10. If none of your letters in the cluster gets crossed out by a judge, and all the words you listed are present in your cluster, and your calculations are correct based on the words you listed, you will get the score you calculated plus 1,000 points. Otherwise, you will get credit for the words you listed which were not disqualified.

Suggestions on how to get the best score:

Cut out the letters and play with them. Keep rearranging the letters on the grid to make different words to see what all the word possibilities are. Record each solution and do the math on a scrap piece of paper for each cluster combination and select the best combination that gets you the highest score. Analyze the solutions to see if there is a particular strategy or approach that tends to produce the most points. Be aware of how much time is left and plan accordingly. Keep it fun!



Example from 2007 season

Problem Solving Activity: Scrabble Multiplication Practice:  
"PERSNICKETY"

CUT OUT THE LETTERS and PASSES SHOWN BELOW.

Use the extra piece of paper as scrap paper for trying out word combinations and doing practice calculations. Cut out the three passes and the question ticket. Surrender a pass to the judge with each visit to the Scrabble dictionary. You will get about 20 - 30 seconds dictionary time with each visit.

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**PASS # 1**

Team \_\_\_\_\_ Sq \_\_\_\_\_

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**PASS # 2**

Team \_\_\_\_\_ Sq \_\_\_\_\_

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**PASS # 3**

Team \_\_\_\_\_ Sq \_\_\_\_\_

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Ask the Judge a **QUESTION**

Team \_\_\_\_\_ Sq \_\_\_\_\_

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P	E	R	S	N	I
C	K	E	T	Y	

## Problem Solving Activity: Scrabble Multiplication Practice: "PERSNICKETY"

Tape your letters on the grid. Write your words below the grid. Calculate your raw score at the bottom. Show your calculations!


Write all the words you used in the cluster:

2 letter words    3 letter words    4 letter words    5 letter words    6 letter words    7 letter words    8 letter words


Calculate your Raw Score. Show all your calculations below.      Raw Score: \_\_\_\_\_