

### Materials Needed

- 2 pieces of paper (or equivalent). Each a different color.
- 2 cups of any kind
- Pencil and/or pen
- Scissors
- Timer or equivalent
- Optional: 6-sided number die

### Grade Range

K-2

### Topics/Skills

Vocabulary  
Spelling  
Phonics & Word Recognition

### Learning Standards

[Common Core](#)  
[English/Language Arts: Reading Foundations; Language](#)

### Duration

15-30 minutes

### Prep Time

5-10 minutes

## Starts with “H”

### A Quick Word Game to Practice Vocabulary and Spelling

This game is a fun brain exercise that builds, and reinforces, vocabulary usage, spelling, and phonics skills.

#### Activity Challenge

Select a letter and number. Spell as many words as you can that start with that letter and contain that number of letters.

#### Preparation

1. Cut nine 1-inch squares from a piece of paper of one color.
2. Label the squares with numbers 2 through 6.
3. Cut 26 1-inch squares from another sheet of paper that is a different color.
4. Label the squares with capital letters A through Z.
5. Put the numbered squares in one cup and the letters in a different cup.

#### To Do

1. Reach into the letter cup, take a letter, and keep it.
2. Take a number square, from the number cup, and keep it.
3. Get a sheet of paper and a pencil or pen. Set the timer for 1 minute.
4. When ready, start the timer. Write down as many words that come to mind that start with the letter shown on the letter square AND contain the number of letters shown on the number square.
5. Review and score the word list when time is up.

#### Observations

- Each acceptable word is worth 1 point (word forms and plurals okay).
- Multiple players/rounds: The player with the highest number of points wins the round; the first player to score 50 points wins.

#### Extensions

- Use some words on the list in spoken, or written, sentences.
- Add categories to the game (e.g., 5-letter *animal* names starting with *B*).

#### The Content behind the Activity

The English language has more than 500,000 words. It is estimated that most people regularly communicate using only around 2,000 different words each week. This is a surprisingly low number of words used. Increasing one’s vocabulary is an important skill for elaborating, and communicating, ideas in written and spoken form. An increased vocabulary helps learners to quickly recognize, and use, words with more syllables. This game is adaptable for all settings and learning abilities.