

Mad Libs

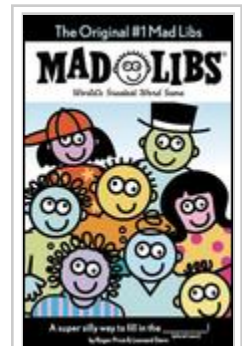
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Mad Libs is a phrasal template word game where one player prompts others for a list of words to substitute for blanks in a story, before reading the – often comical or nonsensical – story aloud. The game is frequently played as a party game or as a pastime.

The game was invented in the United States, and more than 110 million copies of *Mad Libs* books have been sold since the series was first published in 1958.^[1]

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Format
- 3 Books
- 4 Other media
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links



The cover of a Stern and Price Mad Libs book.

History

Mad Libs was invented in 1953^[2] by Leonard Stern^{[3][4][5]} and Roger Price.^[1] Stern and Price co-created the game, but couldn't agree on a name for their invention.^[1] No name was chosen until five years later (1958), when Stern and Price were eating eggs Benedict at a restaurant in New York City. While eating, the two overheard an argument at a neighboring table between a talent agent and an actor.^[1] According to Price and Stern, during the overheard argument, the actor said that he wanted to "ad-lib" an upcoming interview. The agent, who clearly disagreed with the actor's suggestion, retorted that ad-libbing an interview would be "mad".^[1] Stern and Price used that eavesdropped conversation to finally create the name "Mad Libs".^[1] The duo released the first *Mad Libs* book themselves in 1958. The first *Mad Libs* resembled the earlier games^[6] of Consequences and Exquisite Corpse.

Stern and Price next partnered with Larry Sloan, a high school friend who was working as a publicist at the time, to continue publishing *Mad Libs*.^[7] Together,

the three founded the publishing firm Price Stern Sloan in the early 1960s as a way to release *Mad Libs*.^[8] In addition to releasing more than 70 editions of *Mad Libs* under Sloan, the company also published 150 softcover books, including such notable titles as *How to Be a Jewish Mother*, first released in 1964; *Doodles*, which was also created by Roger Price; *The VIP Desk Diary*; and the series, *World's Worst Jokes*.^{[1][7]}

Price died in 1990, and three years later, Sloan and Stern sold Price Stern Sloan, including *Mad Libs*, to the former Putnam Berkley Group, which is now known as Penguin Group.^[7] *Mad Libs* books are still published by Price Stern Sloan, a division of the Penguin Group.

More than 110 million copies of *Mad Libs* have been sold since the game series was first published in 1958.^[1]

Stern died at age eighty-eight on June 7, 2011,^[9] and Sloan died on October 14, 2012.^{[1][7][8]}

Format

Mad Libs consist of a book that has a short story on each page with many key words replaced with blanks. Beneath each blank is specified a lexical or other category, such as "noun", "verb", "place", or "part of the body".^[10] One player asks the other players, in turn, to contribute some word for the specified type for each blank, but without revealing the context for that word. Finally, the completed story is read aloud. The result is usually comic, surreal and somewhat nonsensical.

Stern and Price's original Mad Libs book gives the following sentence as an example:^[11]

"_____! he said _____ as he jumped into his convertible
 exclamation *adverb*
_____ and drove off with his _____ wife."
noun *adjective*

After completion, they demonstrate that the sentence might read:

"Ouch! he said stupidly as he jumped into his convertible
cat and drove off with his brave wife."

Books

- The Original Mad Libs 1 (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-0055-9
- Cool Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-7660-1
- Mad Mad Mad Mad Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-7441-2
- Worst Case Scenario Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-0298-5
- *Napoleon Dynamite* Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-2011-8
- Goofy Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-0059-1
- Vacation Fun Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-1921-7
- Off-The-Wall Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-0108-3
- Mama's Got A Brand New (Diaper) Bag! (Adult Mad Libs) - ISBN 1-59609-202-5
- Dysfunctional Family Therapy (Mad Libs) - ISBN 1-59609-181-9
- Night of the Living Mad Libs (Mad Libs)-ISBN 0-590-48468-0
- Once Upon A Mad Libs Junior (Mad Libs Junior) - ISBN 0-8431-0768-5
- Mad Libs 40th Anniversary Edition (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-7823-X
- Super Silly Mad Libs Junior (Mad Libs Junior) - ISBN 0-8431-0758-8
- Sports Star Mad Libs Junior (Mad Libs Junior) - ISBN 0-8431-0770-7
- School Rules! Mad Libs Junior (Mad Libs Junior) - ISBN 0-8431-0853-3
- Bachlorette Bash (Mad Libs) - ISBN 1-59609-178-9
- Animals, Animals, Animals! Mad Libs Junior (Mad Libs Junior) - ISBN 0-8431-0951-3
- Keepers and Losers Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 1-59609-150-9
- Mad Libs from Outer Space (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-2443-1
- Camp Daze Mad Libs (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-8431-2239-0
- Mad Libs for President (Mad Libs) - ISBN 0-439-69679-8
- Scooby-Doo Halloween Mad Libs Hanna-Barbera
- *The Powerpuff Girls* Mad Libs - ISBN 0-8431-7738-1
- *Family Guy* Mad Libs
- *American Dad!* Mad Libs
- Mad Libs on the Road
- *Star Wars* Mad Libs - ISBN 0-8431-3271-X
- *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* Mad Libs - ISBN 0-8431-3357-0
- Operation(TM) Mad Libs - ISBN 0-8431-2090-8
- Primetime Mad Libs
- Night of the Living Mad Libs
- Kid Libs Mad Libs
- Grab Bag Mad Libs
- Indiana Jones Mad Libs
- Club Mad Libs
- *How To Train Your Dragon* Mad Libs
- *Fear Factor* Mad Libs - ISBN 0-8431-0664-6
- *Fear Factor* Mad Libs: Ultimate Grossout! - ISBN 0-8431-1157-7
- *The Penguins of Madagascar* Mad Libs - ISBN 0-8431-9816-8
- WWE Mad Libs - ISBN 978-0-8431-9882-9

Other media

A game show called *Mad Libs*, with some connections to the game, aired on the Disney Channel in 1998 and 1999.

Several imitations of Mad Libs have been created, most of them on the Internet. Imitation Mad Libs are sometimes used in educational settings to help teach the parts of speech.^{[10][12]}

See also

- Snowclone
- Phrasal template
- Cloze test
- Consequences (game)
- Exquisite corpse
- Cards Against Humanity

References

1. Wang, Regina (2012-10-18). "'Mad Libs' Publisher Larry Sloan Dies". *Time Magazine*. Retrieved 2012-11-17.
2. "As Mad Libs turn 50, play an exclusive game - books - Humor - TODAY.com". Today.msnbc.msn.com. 2008-04-16. Retrieved 2012-01-23.
3. Duralde, Alonso (2012-01-12). "Review: 'Contraband' Operates by the Numbers, Loses Count". Reuters. Retrieved 2012-01-23.
4. "A look back at 2011's notable departures - Greece.com". Bostonglobe.com. 2011-12-30. Retrieved 2012-01-23.
5. "Leonard B. Stern, Creator of Mad Libs, Dies at 88". *The New York Times*. June 9, 2011.
6. Weekend Edition Saturday (2007-02-24). "'Revelations' About a Precursor to 'Mad Libs' ". NPR. Retrieved 2012-01-23.
7. Werris, Wendy (2012-10-15). "Obituary: Larry Sloan, 89". *Publishers Weekly*. Retrieved 2012-11-17.
8. Nelson, Valerie J. (2012-10-17). "Larry Sloan dies at 89; co-founder of 'Mad Libs' publisher". *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2012-11-17.
9. Fox, Margalit (June 9, 2011). "Leonard B. Stern, Creator of Mad Libs, Dies at 88". *The New York Times*.
10. "Mad Libs and Dangling Participles - SchoolBook". Nytimes.com. 2012-01-09. Retrieved 2012-01-23.
11. Price, Roger; Leonard Stern (1974). *The Original Mad Libs 1*. Price Stern Sloan. p. 3. ISBN 978-0-8431-0055-6.
12. "Schools Scramble to Prepare Students". *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Oct 7, 2002. Retrieved 2012-01-23.

External links

- madlibs.com (<http://www.madlibs.com>)

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mad_Libs&oldid=719828503"

Categories: Word games | 1958 introductions | Random text generation

- This page was last modified on 12 May 2016, at 01:23.
- Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.