

# Wordle Game

For this problem, you'll implement a program that behaves similarly to the popular [Wordle](#) daily word game.

```
$ ./wordle 5
This is WORDLE GAME
You have 6 tries to guess the 5-letter word I'm thinking of
Input a 5-letter word: crash
Guess 1: crash
Input a 5-letter word: scone
Guess 2: scone
Input a 5-letter word: since
Guess 3: since
You won!
```

## Getting Started

Executing `code wordle.c` should open the file where you will type your code for this problem set. If not, retrace your steps and see if you can determine where you went wrong! If you try to compile the game now, it will do so without errors, but when you try to run it you will see this error:

```
Error opening file 0.txt.
```

'Tis normal, though, since you haven't yet implemented part of the code we need to make that error message go away!

## Background

Odds are, if you're a Facebook user, at least one of your friends posted something looking like this, particularly back in early 2022 when it was all the rage:

Wordle 208 4/6



If so, your friend has played Wordle, and are sharing their results for that day! Each day, a new "secret word" is chosen (the same for everyone) and the object is to guess what the secret word is within six tries. Fortunately, given that there are more than six five-letter words in the English language, you may get some clues along the way, and the image above actually shows your friend's progression through their guesses, using those clues to try to home in on the correct word. Using a scheme similar to the game [Mastermind](#), if after you guess that letter turns green, it means not only is that letter in the secret word that day, but it is also in the correct position. If it turns yellow, it means that the letter guessed appears *somewhere* in the word, but not in that spot. Letters that turn gray aren't in the word at all and can be omitted from future guesses.

Let's finish writing a program called `wordle` that enables us to recreate this game and play it in our terminal instead. We'll make a few slight changes to the game (for example, the way it handles a letter appearing twice in a word isn't the same as how the real game handles it, but for simplicity's sake, we'll err on the side of ease of understanding rather than a perfectly faithful interpretation), and we'll use red text instead of gray to indicate letters that aren't in the word at all. At the time the user executes the program, they should decide, by providing a command-line argument, what the length of the word they want to guess is, between 5 and 8 letters.

Here are a few examples of how the program should work. For example, if the user omits a command line argument entirely:

```
$ ./wordle
Usage: ./wordle wordsize
```

If the user instead does provide a command-line argument, but it's not in the correct range:

```
$ ./wordle 4
Error: wordsize must be either 5, 6, 7, or 8
```

Here's how the program might work if the user provides a key of `5`:

```
$ ./wordle 5
This is WORDLE GAME
You have 6 tries to guess the 5-letter word I'm thinking of
Input a 5-letter word:
```

At which point, the user should type in a 5-letter word. Of course, the user could well be stubborn, and we should make sure they're following the rules:

```
$ ./wordle 5
This is WORDLE GAME
You have 6 tries to guess the 5-letter word I'm thinking of
Input a 5-letter word: wordle
Input a 5-letter word: computer
Input a 5-letter word: okay
Input a 5-letter word: games
Guess 1: games
Input a 5-letter word:
```

Notice that we didn't even count any of those invalid attempts as guesses. But as soon as they made a legitimate attempt, we counted it as a guess and reported on the status of the word. Looks like the user has a few clues now; they know the word contains an a and an e somewhere, but not in the exact spots they appear in the word games. And they know that g, m, and s don't appear in the word at all, so future guesses can omit them. Perhaps they might try, say, heart next! ❤️

## Specification

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Design and implement a program, wordle, that completes the implementation of our WORDLE GAME clone of the game. You'll notice that some large pieces of this program have already been written for you--you are not allowed to modify any of those parts of the program. Instead, your work should be constrained to the seven TODOs we've left behind for you to fill in. Each one of those parts solves a specific problem, and we recommend you tackle them in order from 1 to 7. Each numbered TODO corresponds to the same item in the below list.

In the first TODO, you should ensure the program accepts a single command-line argument. Let's call it  $k$  for the sake of discussion. If the program was not run with a single command-line argument, you should print the error message as we demonstrate above and return 1, ending the program.

In the second TODO, you should make sure that  $k$  is one of the acceptable values (5, 6, 7, or 8), and store that value in wordsize; we'll need to make use of that later. If the value

of  $k$  is not one of those four values exactly, you should print the error message as we demonstrate above and return `1`, ending the program.

After that, the staff has already written some code that will go through and open the word list for the length of word the user wants to guess and randomly selects one from the 1000 options available. Don't worry about necessarily understanding all of this code, it's not important for purposes of this assignment. We'll see something similar though in a later assignment, and it will make a lot more sense then! This is a good place to stop and test, before proceeding to the next `TODO`, that your code behaves as expected. It's always easier to debug programs if you do so methodically!

For the third `TODO`, you should help defend against stubborn users by making sure their guess is the correct length. For that, we'll turn our attention to the function `get_guess`, which you'll need to implement in full. A user should be prompted (as via `get_string`) to type in a  $k$ -letter word (remember, that value is passed in as a parameter to `get_guess`) and if they supply a guess of the wrong length, they should be re-prompted (much like in **Mario First**) until they provide exactly the value you expect from them. Right now, the distribution code doesn't do that, so you'll have to make that fix! Note that unlike the real Wordle, we actually don't check that the user's guess is a real word, so in that sense the game is perhaps a little bit easier. All guesses in this game should be in **lowercase** characters, and it is acceptable for you to assume that the user will not be so stubborn as to provide anything other than lowercase characters when making a guess. Once a legitimate guess has been obtained, it can be `return` ed.

Next, for the fourth `TODO`, we need to keep track of a user's "score" in the game. We do this both on a per-letter basis—by assigning a score of 2 (which we `#define` d as `EXACT`) to a letter in the correct place, 1 (which we `#define` d as `CLOSE`) to a letter that's in the word but in the wrong place, or 0 (which we `#define` d as `WRONG`)—and a per-word basis, to help us detect when we've potentially triggered the end of the game by winning. We'll use the individual letter scores when we color-code the printing. In order to store those scores, we need an array, which we've called `status`. At the start of the game, with no guesses having taken place, it should contain all 0s.

This is another good place to stop and test your code, particularly as it pertains to item 3, above! You'll notice that at this point, when you finally enter a legitimate guess (that is to say, one that's the correct length), your program will likely look something like the below:

```
Input a 5-letter word: computer
Input a 5-letter word: games
Guess 1:
Input a 5-letter word:
```

That's normal, though! Implementing `print_word` is `TODO` number 6, so we should not

expect the program to do any processing of that guess at this time. Of course, you can always add additional `printf` calls (just make sure to remove them before you submit) as part of your debugging strategy!

The fifth `TODO` is definitely the largest and probably most challenging. Inside of the `check_word` function, it's up to you to compare each of the letters of the `guess` with each of the letters of the `choice` (which, recall, is the "secret word" for this game), and assign scores. If the letters match, award `EXACT` (2) points and `break` out of the loop—there's no need to continue looping if you already determined the letter is in the right spot. Technically, if that letter appears in the word twice, this could result in a bit of a bug, but fixing that bug overcomplicates this problem a bit more than we want to now, so we're going to accept that as a feature of our version! If you find that the letter is in the word but not in the right spot, award `CLOSE` (1) points but don't `break`! After all, that letter might later show up in the right spot in the `choice` word, and if we `break` too soon, the user would never know it! You don't actually need to explicitly set `WRONG` (0) points here, since you handled that early in Step 4. Ultimately though, you should also be summing up the total score of the word when you know it, because that's what this function is supposed to ultimately return. Again, don't be afraid to use the `debugger` and/or `printf`s as necessary in order to help you figure out what the values of different variables are at this point -- until you implement `print_word`, below, the program won't be offering you much in the way of a visual checkpoint!

For the sixth `TODO` you will complete the implementation of `print_word`. That function should look through the values you populated the `status` array with and print out, character by character, each letter of the `guess` with the correct color code. You may have noticed some (scary-looking!) `#define`s at the top of the file wherein we provide a simpler way of representing what's called an [ANSI color code](#), which is basically a command to change the font color of the terminal. You don't need to worry about how to implement those four values (`GREEN`, `YELLOW`, `RED`, and `RESET`, the latter of which simply returns to the terminal's default font) or exactly what they mean; instead, you can just use them (the power of abstraction!). Note as well that we provide an example in the distribution code up where we print some green text and then reset the color, as part of the game's introduction. Accordingly, you should feel free to use the below line of code for inspiration as to how you might try to toggle colors:

```
printf(GREEN"This is WORDLE GAME"RESET"\n");
```

Of course, unlike our example, you probably don't want to print a newline after each character of the word (instead, you just want one newline at the end, also resetting the font color!), lest it end up looking like the below:

```
Input a 5-letter word: games
```

```
Guess 1: g
```

```
a
```

```
m
```

```
e
```

```
s
```

```
Input a 5-letter word:
```

Finally, the seventh `TODO` is just a bit of tidying up before the program terminates. Whether the main `for` loop has ended normally, by the user running out of guesses, or because we broke out of it by getting the word exactly right, it's time to report to the user on the game's outcome. If the user did win the game, a simple `You won!` suffices to print here. Otherwise, you should print a message telling the user what the target word was, so they know the game was being honest with them (and so that you have a means to debug if you look back and realize your code was providing improper clues along the way!)

## Acknowledgements

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The word lists ( `5.txt` , `6.txt` , `7.txt` , and `8.txt` ) were generated from the data provided [here](#), specifically from the `no-swears.txt` file.