# Jumbalaya

A Widget by James M. Allen

## Quick Overview

The object of Jumbalaya is to earn points by making words out of a given set of letters. Earn enough points to move on to the next round to continue earning points!

## Acknowledgements

This Widget was a birthday present for my wife, who loves me (almost) as much as she loves word games.

## How to Play

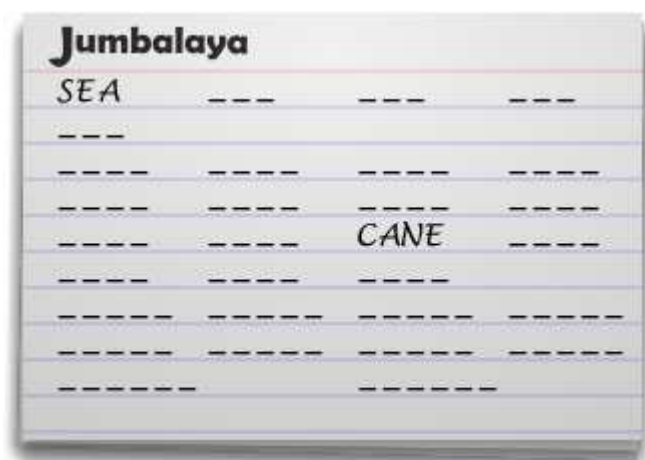To start playing, click on the "New Game" button when the Widget starts up.

Quick! Now type all the words you can think of that contain the letters in the pan!



The notecard shows a list of all the words in Jumbalaya's dictionary that can be made using the letters in the pan. Before you've guessed a word, it is shown as a sequence of blanks. Once you've guessed a word, it is filled in. You have 3:00 to guess as many words as you can.

In the example above, the word "CANE" is pretty clearly visible. So we could type that in, hit the **Enter** (**Return**) key, and voila! It appears in the notecard list. Another (slightly less obvious) word in the set above is the word "SEA." Note that the letters can appear in any order – however, you can only use a letter once for each time it appears in the pan.

Here's how our notecard looks now:

**Tip:** If typing letters on the keyboard doesn't seem to work, try clicking on the pan. Sometimes the Widget can lose focus – the pan window needs to have the focus to work properly. You can also simply click on the letters to enter words.

If you get stumped or frustrated, then it's time to flick the pan! Hit the space bar or click on the pan, and the letters will get sent flying through the air to new positions. This doesn't affect your score or the time in any way – it's merely a tool to jog your brain by letting you see the letters (and hopefully, words) in a different way.

If you need a break, click the "PAUSE" button next to the timer. All the words and letters will disappear – no cheating! When you're done with your break, click the "START" button to continue.

At any time you can click the "QUIT" button to go back to the main menu.

## Scoring

You earn points for each word guessed. The score for each word is calculated as 20 points × the number of letters in the word. "SEA" would be 60 points and "CANE" would be 80 points.

You also earn bonus points if you correctly guess all of the words on a notecard. These are worth 10 points per second of time left after you've guessed all the words.

## Rounds

The more rounds you play, the higher your score will get. However, you need to meet one of the following conditions to keep on playing into another round:

- Guess at least one of the longest words on the list. In the example above, the longest words are six letters long – guessing either one of these six letter words would guarantee an advancement to the next round (In case you were wondering, the six letter words above are "LANCES" and "CLEANS").

- Earn 750 points. This works out to 13 three letter words or 10 four letter words (refer to the "Scoring" section above for more details on scoring).

- Guess 75% of the words, regardless of length. This is particularly helpful on rounds with very few words when you happen to be stumped by a couple difficult ones.

When a round is over, click on the "Start" button to continue (if you're given the option).

# Options

When you start playing Jumbalaya, you'll only be dealing with six letters at a time and words from an "easy" list (where "easy" is a completely subjective term). If you're interested in a different style of play, you can go into the Options and change the number of letters to 7. You can also change the difficulty to a harder level. Changing the difficulty only changes the word lists to include more difficult (i.e., less common) words.

# Troubleshooting

If you have any issues using the Widget, please sign up on the Konfabulator forums (http://www2.konfabulator.com/forums/) and post a message in the appropriate "3rd Party Widgets" forums.

# About the Word Lists

The word lists are based upon the public domain 12dicts word lists, release 4.0. For more information on the 12dicts lists, visit http://wordlist.sourceforge.net/. Words have been rearranged to keep multiple forms of the same word together, and words of questionable vulgarity (according to U.S. English) have been moved to the more difficult categories. If you would like to edit your word lists, you can replace the words0.txt files through words3.txt in your Widget's data folder with new ones (corresponding to the easy through ridiculous difficult levels). The default location of the folder on Windows is:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\<your username>\Local Settings\Application Data\Yahoo\Widget Engine\
Widget Data\Jumbalaya
```

and the default location on Macs is

```
/Users/<your username>/Library/Application Support/Yahoo! Widget Engine/Widgets/Jumbalaya.widget
```

The lists are cumulative – i.e., words in the easy list will automatically appear when the difficulty is set to hard. There is no need to duplicate words manually to the higher-level word lists.

# About the Author

I am a programmer and designer of many things, but mainly (it seems) Widgets and websites. If you've enjoyed this Widget, I would really appreciate a PayPal donation sent to james.m.allen@gmail.com. If you're interested in hiring me to develop a Widget (or anything else, for that matter), please e-mail me at james.m.allen@gmail.com.