Scrabble

Genre

- Creator: Alfred Mosher Butts

- Publisher: James Brunot

- Publication date: 1938

- Number of Players: 2-4

- Setup Time: 4-8 minutes

- Playing Time: 50 minutes

- Gameplay

- Rules

* In the notation system common in tournament play, columns are labeled with the letters "A–O" and rows with the numbers "1–15".
* A play is usually identified in the format *xy WORD score* or *WORD xy score*, where *x* denotes the column or row on which the play's main word extends, *y* denotes the second coordinate of the main word's first letter, and *WORD* is the main word.
* Although it is unnecessary, additional words formed by the play are sometimes listed after the main word and a slash. When the play of a single tile forms words in each direction, one of the words is arbitrarily chosen to serve as the main word for purposes of notation.
* When a blank tile is employed in the main word, the letter it has been chosen to represent is indicated with a lower case letter, or, in handwritten notation, with a square around the letter. When annotating a play, previously existing letters on the board are usually enclosed in parentheses; alternatively, the number of tiles placed on the board can be noted.

- Sequence of play

1. Before the game, a resource, either a word list or a dictionary, is selected for the purpose of adjudicating any challenges during the game.
2. The tiles are either put in an opaque bag or placed face down on a flat surface.
3. Opaque cloth bags and customized tiles are staples of clubs and tournaments, where games are rarely played without both.
4. Next, players decide the order in which they play. Each player draws seven tiles from the bag and places them on their rack, concealed from the other player(s)
5. On each turn, the player has three options: Pass, Exchange one or more tiles for an equal number from the bag, Play at least one tile on the board.
6. After making a play, the player announces the score for that play, and then, if the game is being played with a [clock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chess_clock), starts the opponent's clock.
7. When the game ends, each player's score is reduced by the sum of their unplayed letters

- Determining a Winner

When the game ends, each player's score is reduced by the sum of their unplayed letters. In addition, if a player has used all of their letters (known as "going out" or "playing out"), the sum of the other player's unplayed letters is added to that player's score; in tournament play, a player who goes out adds twice that sum, and their opponent is not penalized.

- Strategy

- Overview of strategy theory

- Examples of strategies

1. Don't place a common letter on the middle square.
   1. Official rules dictate that the game starts with all players randomly picking a tile before drawing their racks. The person with the letter closest to A goes first and gets the added bonus of using the center star, also a double-word score. Avoid using a vowel, S, D, R, or T there though, as it's then easy for the next player to reach the triple-word scores at the edges.
2. Use more letters.
   1. It sounds obvious but turnover is key for racking up points. With only 100 letter tiles in each bag, the more you use, the less your opponents will have at their disposal.
3. Search for "hooks."​
   1. This bit of Scrabble lingo refers to one-letter additions that create whole new words. For example, LUSH becomes BLUSH or COME becomes COMET. You'll get the new tile's points plus all of the other letters. (Any bonuses under the existing tiles don't apply though.)

- Competitive Play

Tens of thousands play club and tournament *Scrabble* worldwide. All tournament (and most club) games are played with a game clock and a set time control. Although casual games are often played with unlimited time, this is problematic in competitive play among players for whom the number of evident legal plays is immense. Almost all tournament games involve only two players; typically, each has 25 minutes in which to make all of their plays.

- Popular Variations

- Software Variations

* The official *Scrabble* computer game in North America uses a version of Maven as its artificial intelligence and is published by [Atari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atari). Outside North America, the official *Scrabble* computer game is published by [Ubisoft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ubisoft).
* Several [video game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Video_game) versions of *Scrabble* have been released for various platforms, including [PC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_PC_compatible), [Mac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macintosh), [Amiga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amiga),[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-57) [Commodore 64](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commodore_64),[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-58) [Sinclair ZX Spectrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinclair_ZX_Spectrum),[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-59) [Game Boy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game_Boy), [Game Boy Color](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game_Boy_Color), [Game Boy Advance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game_Boy_Advance),[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-60) [Nintendo DS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nintendo_DS),[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-61) [PlayStation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PlayStation_(console)),[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-62) [PlayStation 4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PlayStation_4), [PlayStation Portable](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PlayStation_Portable),[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-63) [iPod](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPod), [iPad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPad), [Game.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game.com), [Palm OS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_OS), [Amstrad CPC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amstrad_CPC), [Xbox 360](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xbox_360), [Kindle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazon_Kindle),[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-64) [Wii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wii)[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble#cite_note-65) and [mobile phones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_game).
* A number of websites offer the possibility to play *Scrabble* online against other users, such as ScrabbleScores.com, the [Internet Scrabble Club](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Scrabble_Club) and [Pogo.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogo.com) from [Electronic Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_Arts) (North America only)

- Rule Variations

* Super Scrabble: Super Scrabble is a board game introduced in 2004 and a variant of Scrabble. It is played on a 21×21 grid board instead of Scrabble's usual 15×15, and uses twice as many letter tiles.
* Scrabble Slam!: This game uses cards for tiles where players throw down a card with a letter to change a four-letter word to another four-letter word by placing the card on top of one of the four piles of cards that form the word.
* Scarabeo: Scarabeo is an Italian variant of Scrabble that is much more popular in its native country than the original game. It features a 17×17 board,[15] 8 tiles per rack instead of 7, and a 30-point bonus for using 7 tiles as well as the 50-point "bingo".

Source: 1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble 2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble%202). <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/entertainment/g19731948/scrabble-tricks>