



by Isaac Shalev and Matt Loomis

3-16+ Players | 15-30 Minutes | Ages 10+

Components

62 Q Cards

60-second timer

Player sheets

Dry erase markers

[Optional - 18 Bonus/Bogus Cards]

Overview

Use as many of the letters of the letters of the alphabet as you can, but don't get caught with the longest word!

Setup

Give each player a sheet and a marker. Shuffle the deck of Q cards and pick a player to go first.

How to Play

Flip over the top Q card and turn over the timer.

Write down an answer in secret on your sheet. The answer can be a **word or phrase**. Do not leave blank spaces between words. When anyone notices that the timer has run out, they start counting down, out loud, from 10. When the countdown is finished, all players must stop writing. You may use your phone to check spelling or anything else during play.

Scoring

You'll score points for **word length** and for **using up the Alphabet**.

Go around the room and have players read their answers, and score as follows:

1. **Word Length:** Score 1 point for the length, in letters, of your answer, as shown on your sheet (circle the number beneath the letter)
2. **Using up the Alphabet:** Cross off each unique letter you used from the alphabet at the top of your sheet. Each letter used is worth 2 points at the end of the game.
3. Answers must be at least **7 letters long**. Shorter answers count for points for length, but do not let you cross out letters from your alphabet. You may wish to play with a shorter minimum length with younger audiences, or increase the length by one or two letters for expert lexicographers!
4. If you have the same answer (including plurals, gerunds, etc.) as other players, do not score for answer length, and cross off only 3 of the letters you used from your alphabet.
5. If you had the longest answer, you may cross off only 3 of the letters you used from your alphabet. If two or more players are tied for the longest answer, **no player** suffers the penalty.

A few things to keep in mind:

- Spaces don't count when figuring out who has the longest answer, so don't leave a blank space on your sheet for spaces between words
- If you have a misspelling, other players should correct that misspelling with no penalty to you. However, if the answer, correctly spelled, is now the longest word, you will only be able to cross off 3 letters, as per usual. Feel free to use your phone to check your spelling - even while the timer is running in the answering phase

You can decide how you wish to play, but we recommend using the following baseline rules:

- Proper nouns (eg France, Amazon, etc.) are allowed
- Foreign languages are **not** allowed
- Contractions (wasn't, isn't, can't, etc.) are fine, and the apostrophe should not get its own space on the answer sheet
- Acronyms are allowed, including traditional acronyms and SMS-style acronyms like imo, hmu, srsly, etc.
- Symbols are not allowed (&, #, etc.)

Sometimes, players will disagree about whether an answer counts, or whether two or more answers are duplicative. Vote to resolve whether or not the answer is acceptable. A majority of players must vote against the answer to reject it, or to declare answers as identical. To vote, all the other players (not the player(s) whose answers are being voted on) simultaneously put a thumb up to accept or thumb down to reject. If the answer is rejected, the player(s) crosses off only 3 letters. The rejected word still counts as the longest word if it happens to be the longest. (Note, if a player writes a non-word, like all Zs, just to cross off the letter, point them to this section of the rules, where we give that kind of behavior the side-eye.)

After scoring, begin a new round. You may re-use letters you crossed off previously.

Winning

Play for 6 rounds. Flip over your player sheet to tabulate scoring. Score your total answer lengths, 1 point per letter, and gain 2 points for each crossed off letter in your alphabet, to calculate your final score. The player with the highest score wins. If there is a tie, the player who used the most unique letters wins.

Adding Players in During the Game

Joining late? No worries! For each round you've missed, score 10 points. If you're entering in round 3 or later, instead of scoring 2 points per used letter at game end, score points per letter equal to the round you came in at. So, if you came in at round 4, score 4 points per used letter.

Bonus/Bogus Cards Variant

Ready to spice up your game? Shuffle the Bonus/Bogus cards. For your first few games, use the bonus cards only in the last three rounds. Deal 6 bonus cards, face-up, before flipping the Q card. The bonus cards show a bonus letter in black, or a bogus letter in red. Players earn a point for each bonus card they use - and must avoid using bogus letters in their answer. Answers with a Bogus letter get the usual penalty - only scratch off 3 letters, and don't score for word length. Once you're comfortable, you can use the bonus cards in every game, if you wish.

**WHAT DO YOU DO
FIRST WHEN
CHECKING INTO A
HOTEL?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVORITE DESSERT?**

**NAME A BAND YOU
LOVE**

**WHO IS YOUR
FAVORITE
ANIMATED
CHARACTER?**

**WHICH VILLAIN
SCARES YOU MOST?**

**NAME A HABIT YOU
SHOULD BREAK**

**WHAT CATCHES
YOUR EYE IN THIS
ROOM?**

**WHAT'S ON YOUR
NIGHTSTAND?**

**WHERE DO YOU
LIKE TO
VACATION?**

**WHAT DO YOU
ORDER FOR
BREAKFAST AT THE
DINER?**

**WHAT DO YOU
HATE ABOUT YOUR
JOB?**

**WHICH ANIMAL
ARE YOU MOST
AFRAID OF?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
KARAOKE TRACK?**

**WHAT'S
SOMETHING YOU
SHOUT OUT LOUD?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVORITE CANDY?**

**WHAT'S IN YOUR
PURSE OR WALLET?**

**NAME SOMETHING
YOU KEEP IN THE
KITCHEN**

**MAKE UP A NEW
ICE CREAM FLAVOR**

**WHAT'S
SOMETHING YOU
PACK IN YOUR
SUITCASE?**

**WHO IS YOUR
FAVORITE
HISTORICAL
CHARACTER?**

**WHAT CELEBRITY
DO YOU LIKE TO
GOSSIP ABOUT?**

**WHAT'S IN YOUR
FAVORITE DRINK?**

**WHAT'S
SOMETHING YOU DO
ON A DATE?**

**WHY ARE YOU SO
TIRED?**

**WHAT IS
SOMETHING YOU
HIDE?**

**WHY ARE YOU
LATE?**

**WHAT'S ONE OF
YOUR HOBBIES?**

**WHAT'S
SOMETHING YOU'RE
AFRAID OF?**

**NAME SOMETHING
THAT MAKES YOU
SMILE**

**WHAT'S A CHORE
YOU HATE?**

**WHAT'S IN YOUR
FRIDGE?**

**WHAT DO YOU
KEEP LOSING?**

**IF YOU COULD
CHANGE CAREERS,
WHAT JOB WOULD
YOU PICK?**

**WHAT'S
SOMETHING YOU DO
EVERY DAY?**

**TELL US ABOUT A
MEMORABLE
HALLOWEEN
COSTUME**

**WHAT'S THE BEST
GIFT YOU'VE
RECEIVED?**

**WHAT DO YOU DO
FOR EXERCISE?**

**WHAT'S ONE THING
YOU LOVE ABOUT
YOUR WORK?**

**WHAT WOULD YOU
BUY AFTER
WINNING THE
LOTTERY?**

**WHAT'S A
CHARITABLE CAUSE
YOU SUPPORT?**

**WHAT'S THE MOST
UNUSUAL THING
YOU'VE EATEN?**

**YOUR MOM JUST
TEXTED 'WHERE
RU?' WHAT DO YOU
TEXT BACK?**

**HOW DO YOU TAKE
YOUR COFFEE?**

**WHAT'S A TREND
YOU'RE NOT ON
BOARD WITH?**

**WHICH CELEBRITY
WOULD YOU GO ON
A REALITY TV
SHOW WITH?**

**WHAT
SUPERPOWER DO
YOU WISH YOU
HAD?**

**WHAT WOULD YOU
NAME YOUR NEW
PUPPY OR KITTY?**

**IT'S A SNOW DAY,
WHAT DO YOU DO?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVORITE COMFORT
FOOD?**

**HOW WOULD YOU
CELEBRATE YOUR
90TH BIRTHDAY?**

**HOW WOULD YOU
CELEBRATE YOUR
50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY?**

**YOU JUST BOUGHT
A NEW HOME.
WHERE IS IT?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVORITE BRIDGE?**

**WHAT ARE YOU
MOST PROUD OF?**

**WHICH BREAKFAST
CEREAL DO YOU
IDENTIFY WITH?**

**HOW WOULD YOU
DESCRIBE YOURSELF
ON YOUR DATING
PROFILE**

**WHAT IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT THING
YOU LEARNED IN
COLLEGE?**

**WHY WERE YOU
ARRESTED?**

**WHAT WOULD YOU
DO AFTER THE
APOCALYPSE?**

**THE HOUSE IS ON
FIRE. WHAT DO YOU
GRAB?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVORITE WRITING
IMPLEMENT?**

**WHAT'S YOUR
FAVORITE TYPE OF
RESTAURANT?**

Q

Z

K

X

J

B

V

S[⊘]

T[⊘]

W

Y

F

B

G

H

R 

N 

E 