

NOMEN

Age: 8-99

Players: 2-4

Duration: 40 minutes

A game by:

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Contents: 36 letter cards; 36

activity cards; 1 spinner;

4 boards; 4 erasable markers;

4 bonus tokens; 1 hourglass; 1

scoreboard

Nomen is a game which can help train lexical and grammatical skills. The letter cards and activity cards are shuffled into two decks, which are placed in the centre of the table. Place the spinner and the scoreboard within reach of everybody. Each player takes a board, a bonus token and an erasable marker.

How to play

The youngest player starts by drawing a letter card and an activity card and placing them face up. After the other players have had the chance to look at the cards, the youngest player spins the spinner to select a category. At this point the hourglass is turned over, and all players must write down as many words as possible which start with the letter on the letter card and which meet the requirements specified by the activity card. The words must also belong to the category indicated by the spinner. Once the turn is over, another one begins and turns continue until one player reaches 100 points (this can be raised or lowered by player agreement before the game begins): they are the winner.

Scoring

Players score 3 points for each "original" word (not written down by any other players), and one point for words which at least one other player has written down. The scores are kept on the scoreboard using the dry-erase marker.

Players can decide to play their bonus token after the category for the turn has been selected, depending on their own knowledge and inclinations. The bonus token (which may be played twice over the course of the game) earns the player one extra point for each original word.

Word rules

As well as beginning with the initial letter drawn and complying with the rules of the activity card, words must belong to, or be clearly connected to, the selected category. If there is any doubt, a majority verdict of the players shall apply. Plurals and other declinations of a word which has already been written do not count: for example, if lion has already been written, lions or lioness cannot be used. Homographs are also not allowed, so dove (bird) and dove (past of dive) would not be permitted, but dive and dove would be possible as they could have different meanings in this case. Obviously some words can belong to multiple categories, for instance banana which belongs both to the food category and the flora and fauna category.

Tip

The game can be played with various levels of difficulty. With children between the ages of 8 and 12, it is advisable to avoid the more complex activity cards.

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Note: the boards should be cleaned with a damp cloth after use.