

WORDS IN MIND

Age: 7-99

Players: 2-4

Duration: 30 minutes

A game by: *Frankese*

Contents: 69 letter cards; 4 wildcards;

10 category cards; 1 whiteboard;

1 scoreboard; 1 erasable marker; Rules

Spread the letter cards out face down in the centre of the table. Shuffle the category cards and place the deck face down. Each player takes a wildcard (with the face) of a given colour. Keep the whiteboard and the dry-erase marker in reach.

How to play

Players draw 5 letter cards of each colour (5 blue, 5 green and 5 red, for a total of 15). The player whose turn it is draws a category card. At this point, all players must form a word of the category drawn using the available letters, and the wildcard if needed. When one of the players believes they have formed a correct word, they count to 15 and then stop the game, at which point the points are calculated. The next round then begins. With each new round, each player may decide to draw a new letter, but they must discard one of the same colour. After three consecutive rounds, the players must shuffle all the letter cards again, and then draw five new ones of each colour. The game continues in the same manner, with the winner being the first player to reach 50 points (this can be raised or lowered by player agreement before the game begins).

Scoring

Points are calculated on the basis of the type of letters used to make up the word: each blue letter used is worth one point, green letters are worth two points, and red letters are worth three points. The wildcards can be used to represent any letter for the purposes of word formation, but do not score any points.

If a player does not form a word, they obviously do not earn any points. If the category cards run out during the game, they are reshuffled into a new deck.

Whiteboard

When it is their turn, players can take the whiteboard and write a category of their choice using the dry-erase marker. Players can use the whiteboard once each only during the course of a game. Below are some suggested categories for playing the wildcard category, but these are effectively infinite and limited only by the players' imaginations; players can also choose one best suited to their hand when it is their turn!

French names

English surnames

Foreign verbs

Past-tense English verbs

Months/days/seasons

Poets and writers

Famous scientists

Artists

Celebrities

Sports personalities

Fantasy characters

Historical people

Countries of the world

Capitals of the world

American states

Coins of the world

Seas and mountains

Lakes and rivers

Holiday resorts

Famous monuments

Plants and flowers

Rocks and minerals

Natural phenomena

Parts of the body

Birds

Fierce animals

Fruits and vegetables

Foods and drinks

Starters

Main courses

Bread and desserts

Pizza toppings

Tools and equipment

Communication devices

Homewares

Work

Free-time items

Items for school

Toys and games

Methods of transport

High-tech devices

Musical instruments

Stories and fables

Films and novels

Sports

Colours, shapes and numbers

Fields of study

Feelings

Famous brands

Songs and musical works