

VOCABULARY.COM ANNUAL

VOCABULARY BOWL



PLAY. COMPETE. LEARN.

CLASSROOM GUIDE

MAKE THIS YOUR BEST WORD LEARNING SEASON EVER.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



What is the Vocabulary Bowl, and what's in it for my school?

The [Vocabulary Bowl](#) is a national online word-learning competition for schools that kicks off on October 1st each year. At the end of the playing season on April 30, 2020 the high school and the middle / elementary school that mastered the most words will each hoist a trophy at a special awards ceremony. The winning high school and the winning middle school will also receive achievement medals to award to their top one hundred students. We'll also award trophies in Divisions I, II, and III to the top high school and the top middle school, and to the high school and middle school runners-up. Plus, we're giving out banners to all of the above, as well as to the top ten high schools and middle schools and the top ten schools in Divisions I, II, and III. Banners will also be awarded to the school in each U.S. state and territory and Canadian province that masters the the most words.

See official contest rules for details: www.vocabulary.com/bowl/rules/



It's about motivation, achievement, and pride.

The Vocabulary Bowl is not just a platform for word learning, it's an opportunity to set goals and to strive for success. When it comes to practice, sometimes we could all use a little extra motivation, and many folks find that a healthy dose of competition can be just the spark to ignite that inner drive to keep at it. The Vocabulary Bowl taps into the power of friendly competition to drive academic achievement.

And because different learners have different attitudes toward competition, we carefully designed the game to emphasize and reward individual progress, too. When students see themselves making gains, whether it's mastering a word or earning an achievement badge, that's some pretty powerful motivation to keep learning.



Divisions leaderboards offer multiple levels of competition.

In addition to watching which schools hold those coveted spots on the overall [leaderboard](#), you can also follow these Divisions: High School, Middle & Elementary School, and Divisions I, II and III, which are based on school size. You can easily customize the leaderboards to follow your favorites all season long.

GET READY. GET SET...

Pre-season steps and ideas will get your class in competition condition.



Read the official competition rules and eligibility guidelines:
www.vocabulary.com/bowl/rules/



Use the printables at the end of this kit, including bulletin board materials and a certificate of achievement, to create awareness and provide a visual reminder of goals and successes.



Let colleagues know about the bowl. Students who are not in your classes can still sign up for a free account, select your school, improve their vocabulary, and earn points for your school: www.vocabulary.com/bowl/#signup



Think locally and [create your own league](#) in which you choose the competitors that matter the most to *your* students and *your* school.



Create classes and invite students. Make sure that invited students have joined and selected your school.



Show your students Vocabulary.com. Spending even 15 minutes teaching students about Vocabulary.com is linked to more usage and more satisfaction.



Assign work. Peruse the list library: www.vocab.com/lists. Create your own lists. Have students put in open-ended practice time playing The Challenge. Or choose any combination of these, and be sure to set expectations.

GO!

October 1, 2019 is opening day! Try these activities, assignments and events to increase word-learning and drive bowl participation.



Jump into league play.

We know that not every school will set its sights on topping the Overall Words Mastered Leaderboard, but who wouldn't want their students to be champions? With League Play they've got a shot. There is something palpably motivating about battling wits with the other schools in your district, your county, or maybe even the schools in your athletic conference. And an added benefit of creating a smaller playing field is that you're up against fewer competitors, meaning that your shot at vocabulary greatness is truly attainable. Imagine besting the school that snatched the Debate Club championship from you last year, or even taking down your rivals on the football field by choosing words as your weapon.



Make vocabulary learning a spectator sport!

Maybe your school doesn't have a jumbotron. But a projector and a screen or an interactive whiteboard are all you need to make a captivating display of the new real-time leaderboards. Whether you're focused on how your school is faring in your state, your division, your school type, or a combination of these, you can watch as you ratchet up the words mastered *each moment you earn them*. The display is truly mesmerizing, so you might need to turn it off if you want your students to get back to word-learning!



Host bowl events, big and small.

Can seat-work, bell-work, morning-work, or homeroom be a Vocabulary Bowl event? It can if you allow students to log on to Vocabulary.com to play and learn! How about having an "Eat Your Words" lunch period marathon, where kids BYOD (*bring your own device*) and fuel up on words as well as food? Maybe you want to host an after school session where students get together and work as a team to meet a Vocabulary Bowl goal. Get creative, and let us know how you are coming up with new ways to play. We might even feature you and your school in our blog, giving your students some well-deserved recognition.



A plan without a goal is just a wish.

Work with your students to monitor your progress and set goals. How many words can they master in a day? A week? Can you set a new all-time high for your position on one of the leaderboards? Use goals to motivate teamwork and learning, and watch your students soar.

WINNING ROUTINES



Set goals on the 1st. On the first school day of the month, set new goals for each class. Get your students involved in the process so they're invested in meeting these milestones together.



Banner Day is the 5th of each month. Check out the latest [Bowl Roundup Video](#) for all the latest shoutouts and highlights. Want us to mention your school? Create a short video of your kids making some noise for the Bowl and sent it to bowl@vocabulary.com. You just might be featured in our next production!



Make Monday assignment day! What are you teaching in class this week? Head to the list section of [Vocabulary.com](#) and search for a title, topic, or genre. Once you find a list you like, assign practice and get your students prepped for their reading.



Get students involved. Did you know that students can create their own vocabulary lists, just like teachers can? Have small groups work together to make a 10 - 15 word list based on a topic, text, or theme. Each group can practice their student-made lists. If you *really* want to see them get them into it, have the class vote for their favorite.



Wrap up with “This Week in Words”. Whether you’re looking for ways to connect language learning with different content areas or trying to [bring current events into your curriculum](#), our “This Week in Words” lists are a great resource. Try assigning practice for the weekend, or using one for a Vocab Jam.



Have fun on Fridays, too! The last day of the week is the perfect day to [host a Vocab Jam](#) (maybe after a quick quiz!). Our “[Just for Fun](#)” lists make for great Jams! Friday is also the perfect day to check the leaderboards with each of your classes and see how they stacked up against one another.



Celebrate monthly milestones. Remember to recognize effort and celebrate success along the way. Who’s made a ton of progress this month? Who’s giving it their all? Who deserves a high five for finally mastering that super hard word? These are all great reasons to award a certificate, write a few students’ names on the board, or give them a shoutout during morning announcements.

Tricks & Tips

Try one of these tried and tested tips from real teachers.



Think outside the list - create virtual classes.

Your Vocabulary.com class lists don't necessarily have to match the lists for the periods you teach. Some teachers have set up purely virtual classes for students who want to compete against one another.



Bye-bye, boring bus rides.

Whether it's on a field trip or a drive to an away game, those bus rides can get very tiresome. How about encouraging students to log on to Vocabulary.com and play the Challenge? Who can master the most words in a round trip?



Create a classroom currency.

Some students will answer more questions than others as they strive to master words, so remember to reward *effort for its own sake*, which you can think of in terms of points earned or questions answered. Design a million-dollar bill to award students when they reach the level of Sesquipedalianist. Create a token worth 1,000 questions answered. Students will love working with you to create a currency that rewards their time and effort, and can be redeemed for privileges and perks that you come up with together.



Display, announce, recognize!

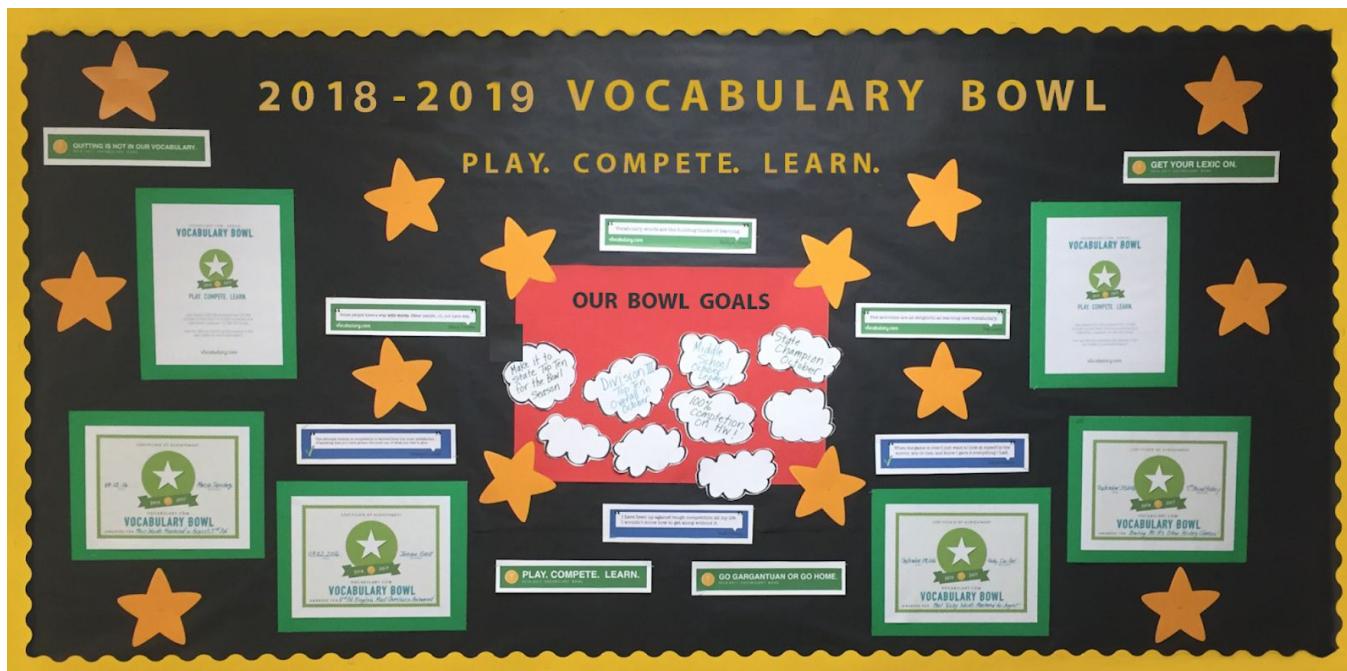
Some good-old-fashioned school traditions never go out of style. Schools still have bulletin boards, and you might be happy to get some new ideas for a great-looking display that promotes your students' word-learning efforts and does not take multiple trips to the craft store and several hours to create. Print the display-worthy resources on the last pages of this Kick-off Kit to create buzz and generate awareness of your commitment to vocabulary. Does your school still do announcements over the PA system? Many schools do, and it would be great to promote academic competition when the next day's news is read. Free publicity for your Bowl efforts! And nothing says *recognition* like a handsome certificate of achievement printed on sturdy cardstock, presented at an assembly, or just casually handed to a student who deserves some recognition. Sometimes, the classics are the best.

Display-Worthy Printables

On the next pages of this Kickoff Kit you'll find printables that you can use to create Vocabulary Bowl displays in your school. Making a visual impression with these resources builds community awareness of your students' commitment to word learning and validates the time and energy they invest in this endeavor.

The printables include:

- Vocabulary Bowl Poster
- Vocabulary Bowl and Vocabulary.com Achievement Certificates
- 4 bookmarks
- 9 inspiring quotes



Here's how one school uses the Kickoff Kit printables to make a bulletin board.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



RECIPIENT

DATE

VOCABULARY.COM

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AWARDED FOR

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



RECIPIENT



DATE

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PLAY. COMPETE. LEARN.

Last season 1,378,387 students from 39,000 schools across North America competed and collectively mastered 35,513,120 words.

How far will your school go this season in the epic battle for *word* domination?

Vocabulary.com

GET YOUR LEXIC ON.

PLAY THE VOCABULARY BOWL.



GO GARGANTUAN OR GO HOME.

PLAY THE VOCABULARY BOWL.



PLAY. COMPETE. LEARN.

PLAY THE VOCABULARY BOWL.



QUITTING IS NOT IN OUR VOCABULARY.

PLAY THE VOCABULARY BOWL.



“ I like good strong words that mean something. ”

[Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com)

Louisa May Alcott

“ I have been up against tough competition all my life. I wouldn't know how to get along without it. ”



Walt Disney

“ Some people have a way with words. Other people, uh, not have way. ”

[Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com)

Steve Martin

“ I collect words — they are sweets in the mouth of sound.

Vocabulary.com

Sally Gardner

“ The ultimate victory in competition is derived from the inner satisfaction of knowing that you have gotten the most out of what you had to give.

Howard Cosell

“ A man with a scant vocabulary will almost certainly be a weak thinker.

Vocabulary.com

Henry Hazlitt

”

Few activities are as delightful as learning new vocabulary.

Tim Gunn

Vocabulary.com

”

When the game is over I just want to look at myself in the mirror, win or lose, and know I gave it everything I had.

Joe Montana



”

Vocabulary words are the building blocks of learning.

Ruby K. Pane

Vocabulary.com