

VOCABULARY.COM ANNUAL
VOCABULARY BOWL



PLAY. COMPETE. LEARN.

TEACHER KICK-OFF KIT

MAKE THIS YOUR SCHOOL'S BEST WORD-LEARNING SEASON EVER.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



What is the Vocabulary Bowl?

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, 2018 the high school and the middle / elementary school that mastered the most words will each hoist a trophy at a special awards ceremony. With monthly banners awarded to top schools, new State & Province Champion banners on the line, and real-time leaderboards to follow the action, there is plenty of excitement to keep students striving for academic excellence all year long.



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.

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.



County leaderboards bring competition closer to home.

What fuels that competitive Bowl spirit — beyond the thirst for word knowledge and the fact that playing Vocabulary.com is just plain fun? We think it has a lot to do with rivalries, and that's why this year we've brought you a new set of leaderboards — [county leaderboards](#). This new level of competition really brings it home in terms of setting your sites on a school to beat.



New! Vocabulary Bowl State & Province Champions banners up for grabs.

Starting with the 2017 - 2018 Vocabulary Bowl, we will crown a champion in each of the U.S. States and Territories and each of the Canadian Provinces for the season when the final bowl buzzer sounds on April 30th. Imagine hoisting a glorious green champions banner to the rafters of the gym, and claiming the bragging rights that go with it! With a smaller field of competitors, this new award makes it possible for any school across the map to attain Vocabulary Bowl glory.

ON YOUR WORD... GET SET...

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



Read the [official rules](#) and eligibility guidelines.



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.



Check out the “you-centric” [leaderboards](#), where you’ll see real-time Bowl updates all season. Bookmark the leaderboards in your browser so that following your school is just a click away.



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](#). [Create your own lists](#). Have students put in open-ended practice time using the [Challenge](#). Or choose any combination of these, and be sure to set expectations.

GO!

October 1, 2017 is opening day! Try these activities, assignments and events to increase word-learning and drive bowl participation.



Just start playing the Challenge.

Not sure how to get going? It's easy. Just have your students sign up, select your school, and [start playing the Challenge](#). Every word they master will count toward your school's overall words mastered total, and will improve their vocabulary to boot!



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 real-time leaderboards. Whether you're focused on how your school is faring in your county, your state, or overall, you can watch as you master words and climb the ranks. WARNING: 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, and homeroom be Vocabulary Bowl events? They 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.

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.

Bowl Season Calendar

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<p><i>Schools and their students observe many cultures and traditions, and current events are happening, well, all the time. Consider integrating these into student learning by creating lists from holiday themes or recent newspaper articles. Browse the list library for resources on historical speeches and primary documents related to this month and its significant dates in history.</i></p>						
 1	  2	3	4	 5	 6	7
8	 9	10	11	12	 13	14
15	 16	17	18	19	 20	21
22	 23	24	25	26	 27	28
29	 30	 31				



Opening Day 2017 - 2018 Season! Watch the real-time leaderboards and make predictions about top schools and *your* school.



On the first school day of the month, set daily, weekly, or monthly goals for each class. Get students involved!



Banner Day is the 5th of the month. Check out the blog for last month's "overall words mastered" champ and the Bowl Roundup Video.



Mondays are often assignment days, so assign some lists or set a specific expectation for points gained to encourage practice time.



Make Friday the day to check the leaderboards with each class. You'll see your state, division and more!














Toward the end of the month, recognize achievements and efforts with certificates, rewards, or school-wide announcements.



Notes & Ideas: _____

Bowl Season Calendar

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
What events in the world or the country could connect to word-learning this month?				1	2		3	4	
	5		6	7	8	9		10	11
12		13	14	15	16		17	18	
19		20	21	22	23		24	25	
26		27	28	29		30			



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Notes & Ideas:

Bowl Season Calendar

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
Wondering what to provide as meaningful practice for students to do independently over the winter break? Playing the Challenge is "work" that doesn't need correcting, is fun, and improves learning!					 1	2		
3		4	 5	6	7	 8	9	
10		11	12	13	14		16	
17		18	19	20		21	 22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	



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Notes & Ideas:

Bowl Season Calendar

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1		2	3	4		5	6
7		8	9	10	11		12	13
14		15	16	17	18		19	20
21		22	23	24	25		26	27
28		29	30		31	January is a month when many educators think about what they want to accomplish in the coming months. It's a great time to set new goals for how you're using Vocabulary.com.		



On the first school day of the month, set daily, weekly, or monthly goals for each class. Get students involved!



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Notes & Ideas: _____

Bowl Season Calendar

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Take a break from test-prep stress (and STILL get the practice accomplished!) by encouraging students to learn while they play the Challenge.					1 	2	3
4	 	5	6	7	8 	9	10
11		12	13	14	15 	16	17
18		19	20	21	22 	23	24
25		26	27		28		



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Notes & Ideas: _____

Bowl Season Calendar

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Need a new angle on the competition to rekindle the drive to play, compete, and learn? It's not too late to create your own custom leaderboard!					1 	2	3
4	 	5	6	7	8 	9	10
11		12	13	14	15 	16	17
18		19	20	21	22 	23	24
25		26	27	28	29  	30	31



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Notes & Ideas: _____

Bowl Season Calendar

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
THIS IS THE HOME STRETCH! April 30th is the end of the official 2017 - 2018 Vocabulary Bowl season.									
1	 	2	3	4		5		6	7
8		9	10	11	12		13	14	
15		16	17	18	19		20	21	
22		23	25	25	26	 	27	28	
29		30	Stay tuned for the announcement of the Vocabulary Bowl champions in the coming days. And remember, May 1st is the start of off-season play, when many schools continue the quest for a monthly champion's banner as part of their summer learning.						



SEASON ENDS APRIL 30, 2018!



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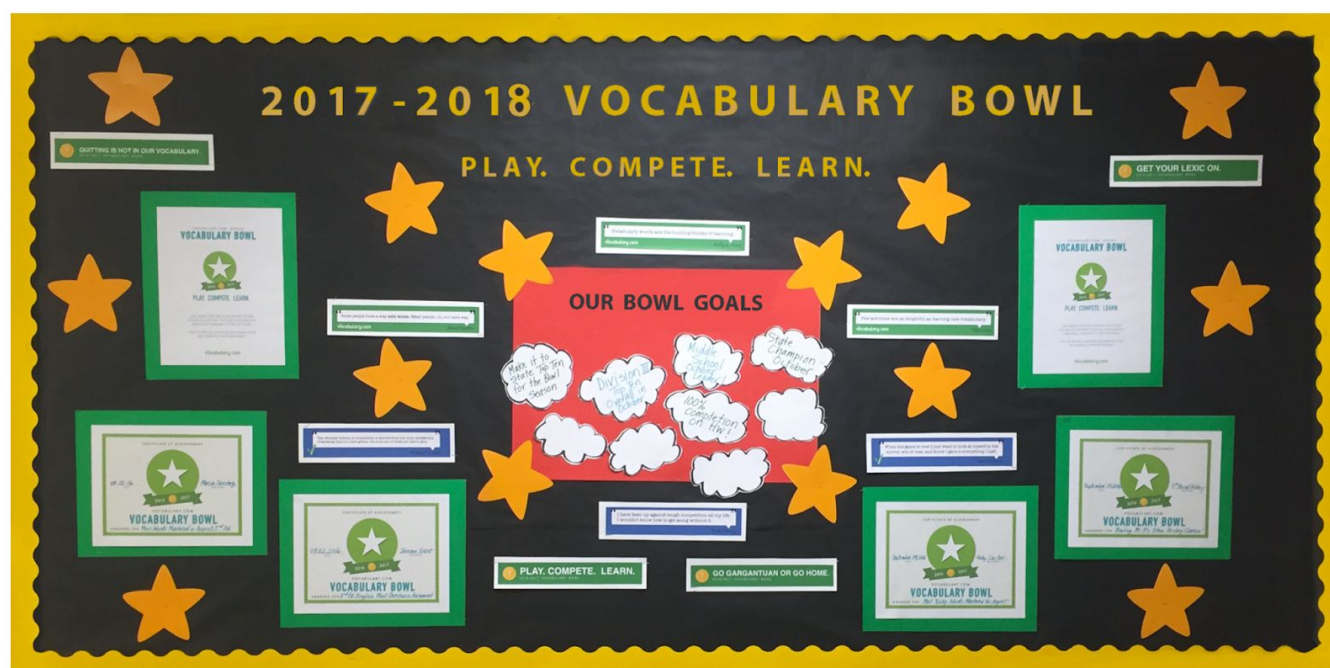
Notes & Ideas:

Display-Worthy Printables

On the next pages of this Teacher Kick-off 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:

- 8.5 x 11 Vocabulary Bowl Mini-Poster
- 8.5 x 11 Certificate of Achievement
- 4 “compete” slogan strips
- 9 “great quotes” strips



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

VOCABULARY.COM ANNUAL
VOCABULARY BOWL



PLAY. COMPETE. LEARN.

Last season 970,471 students from 38,828 schools across North America competed and collectively mastered 26,876,833 words.

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

✓vocabulary.com

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



DATE

RECIPIENT

VOCABULARY.COM

VOCABULARY BOWL

AWARDED FOR



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

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

Steve Martin

“

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

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

Henry Hazlitt

”

“

Few activities are as delightful as learning new vocabulary.

✓vocabulary.com

Tim Gunn

“

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.

✓vocabulary.com

Ruby K. Pane