

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, 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, 2018 the high school and the middle / elementary school that mastered the most words will each hoist a trophy at a special awards ceremony. Banners will also be awarded to the school in each U.S. state and territory and Canadian province that masters the most words. Banners will be awarded to several top ranked schools in Divisions I, II and III and in both the middle / elementary and high schools divisions. See 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 Words Mastered 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 to 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: 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, 2018 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.

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
<i>It's the first month of the 2018- 2019 Vocabulary Bowl season! We'll award a champions banner in May to the school that masters the most words in each state and division. The top schools in the middle/elementary and high school divisions will be awarded the 2018 - 2019 champions cup. Have big Bowl dreams for your school? Start by challenging your students to crack the top ten on your state leaderboard, then see if they can extend their streak.</i>						
	 1	2	3	4	 5	6
7	 8	9	10	11	 12	13
14	 15	16 National Dictionary Day	17	18	 19	21
21	 22	23	24	25	 26	27
28	 29	30	 31			



October 1st is Opening Day of the 2018 - 2019 Season! Get off to a spectacular start with a challenge: Can your students each master 15 words this week?



On the first school day of the month, set new word-learning goals for each class. Can your school top the county leaderboards? Can each student master 50 words this month?



Banner Day is the 5th of the month. Check out the Vocabulary Bowl page for the latest Vocabulary Bowl news and watch our monthly Bowl Roundup Video. www.vocab.com/bowl



Make Monday assignment day! Give your students a practice assignment for a vocabulary list that's connected to what you're reading in class. Tell them to play The Challenge when they finish!



Make Friday the day to check the leaderboards with each class. Who are this week's class leaders? Where does your school stack up on your county and state leaderboards?



Toward the end of the month, recognize achievements and effort with certificates or a shout out on the morning announcements.














October Ideas:

National Dictionary Day is 10/16. Have your kids try our Random Word feature to discover new words to master.

Bowl Season Calendar

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Have you played a Vocabulary Jam yet? You can create one based on any list in seconds, and your students will love competing head-to-head with their classmates.				 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	



On the first school day of the month, set some new goals. How many words did your classes master in October? Can they up that number by 10% in November?



Banner Day is the 5th of the month, when we release the latest Bowl Roundup Video. Want a few seconds of fame? Make a 5-10 second video of your students going wild for the Bowl and send it to bowl@vocabulary.com and we'll try to include it in our next Roundup.



Mondays are a great day to assign a new list to practice. Are you grading practice assignments? We recommend using the percentage complete, since list practice is adaptive. Remember - any words that a student struggles with are automatically added to their personal learning program. When your kids play The Challenge, they'll get individual follow-up on their trouble words.



Make Friday the day to check the leaderboards with each class. Give some recognition to students putting in the effort to propelling your school to the top of your county, state and division.



Toward the end of the month, recognize achievements and effort with certificates or even a small reward. Rewards don't have to cost money! Try lunch in the classroom or extra free-reading time.











November Ideas:

Thanksgiving break is the perfect time to make huge progress on vocabulary.com. Set a goal for how many words each class should master while they're away. If they make it, reward them with a Vocabulary Jam.

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 the perfect assignment! Students work on the words in their personal learning program, and every word they master is a point for your school in the Bowl!						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	31									



On the first school day of December, try finding a date on the calendar this month when you can set aside a little extra time for vocab in class. Then project your school's Bowl page that day and watch how fast you rise in the ranks when students work together.



Banner Day is the 5th of the month. Check out the Vocabulary.com blog for a recap of all the Bowl action and the latest Bowl Roundup Video. Do you watch the video in your school? Would your kids be psyched if they were mentioned? Tell us why you love the Vocab Bowl and we'll try to give you a shout out next month. Email us at bowl@vocabulary.com



Monday is assignment day! How about letting your kids vote on which list they want you to assign for homework this week? For a little boost, try giving them a 5 minute head start in class.



Make Friday the day to check the leaderboards with each class. Are you meeting your goals? Is it time to raise the bar and see if they can do more next week?



Toward the end of the month, recognize individual achievement and effort with certificates, rewards, or a shout out on the morning announcements.










December Ideas:

Are you a social media user? Grab a screenshot of your school's impressive standing on the Bowl leaderboards, or snap a photo of them getting their game on in class. Tweet us @VocabularyCom #VocabBowl so we can spread the word!

Bowl Season Calendar

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1		2		
6		7	8	9	10	11
13		14	15	16	17	18
20		21	22	23	24	25
27		28	29	30		31

January is a great time to set new goals. Challenge your students to master 15 words each week.



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 the month. Check out the latest Bowl Roundup Video for all the highlights. If you want us to mention your school, make 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!



Monday is assignment day! 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, or have the class vote for their favorite.



Make Friday the day to check the leaderboards with each class.



Remember to recognize effort and celebrate success this month! Who's giving it their all? Who could use a little boost?




January Ideas:

Have you checked out our This Week in Words vocabulary lists? Each week, we round up the words that popped up in the news so that your students can learn vocab in the context of current events. Try having your students practice the list in class, then wrap up with a This Week in Words Vocab Jam.

Bowl Season Calendar

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
When your students play <i>The Challenge</i> on vocabulary.com , they're building their academic vocabulary and earning points for your school in the Vocabulary Bowl.					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		



On the first school day of the month, check put your state leaderboard. Who won last month? How many words do you think it will take to crack the top ten this month, or even take first place?



Banner Day is the 5th of the month. Have you watched the monthly Bowl Roundup videos yet? Each month we recap how schools from all over North America are faring on the leaderboards. To watch the latest Roundup and catch up on all things Bowl, go to www.vocabulary.com/bowl



How are your weekly word-learning routines going? Here's a proven model that many teachers follow: Monday - assign a list to practice. Wednesday - check your teacher dashboards to see who's completing the work, and which words you might want to go over in class. Friday - assess with a custom quiz, then wrap up with a live Vocabulary Jam in class.



Have you been checking your county leaderboards, too? It's fun to see how your school stacks up against local rivals. You can even create a custom leaderboard and hand pick the schools you want to compete against.



Which of your students will get a little extra recognition this month? It might surprise you and your kids to see who is at the top of the class leaderboards. Class leaderboards are based on points, so its the students who put in the most effort who top the standings. And every week starts fresh, so from one week to the next, it's anyone's game.













February Ideas:



We've got ready-made resources for hundreds of the texts, historical documents and speeches that are often taught during Black History Month. Search our list library at www.vocab.com/lists and stay tuned to our blog for more ideas: www.vocab.com/articles/tips-and-tricks

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							



On the first day of March, see where your school stacks up on your state leaderboard. The school that masters the most words in each U.S. state, territory and Canadian province will take home their very own Vocabulary Bowl Champions banner!



Banner Day is the 5th of the month. Check out the latest Bowl Roundup video for a recap of all the leaderboard action. Check out our hub for Bowl news: www.vocab.com/bowl



Monday assignments don't always have to be list practice. Try a spelling bee!



With just two months to go in the season, keeping an eye on those leaderboards is crucial in terms of motivating your students to keep playing and keep learning.



Toward the end of the month, recognize the achievements and effort of your hard-working students!















March Ideas:

Bring March Madness to your students' vocab learning! Throughout the month, have daily and weekly challenges to motivate your kids to put in the time and effort to build their skills and to earn points as they master words.

Bowl Season Calendar

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<i>THIS IS THE HOME STRETCH! April 30th is the end of the official 2018 - 2019 Vocabulary Bowl season.</i>						
	  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	2
28	 29	 30	<i>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.</i>			



The 2018 - 2019 season ends on April 30.



This is it - the home stretch! Set your word-learning targets for the week and for the month.



Banner Day is the 5th of the month. Check for the latest news on www.vocab.com/bowl



Keep up your routines during these last few weeks!



Check those state and division leaderboards before your students head home for the weekend.



Celebrate success and recognize achievement. Share your photos of students whooping it up. Email us at bowl@vocabulary.com or post them with #VocabBowl.

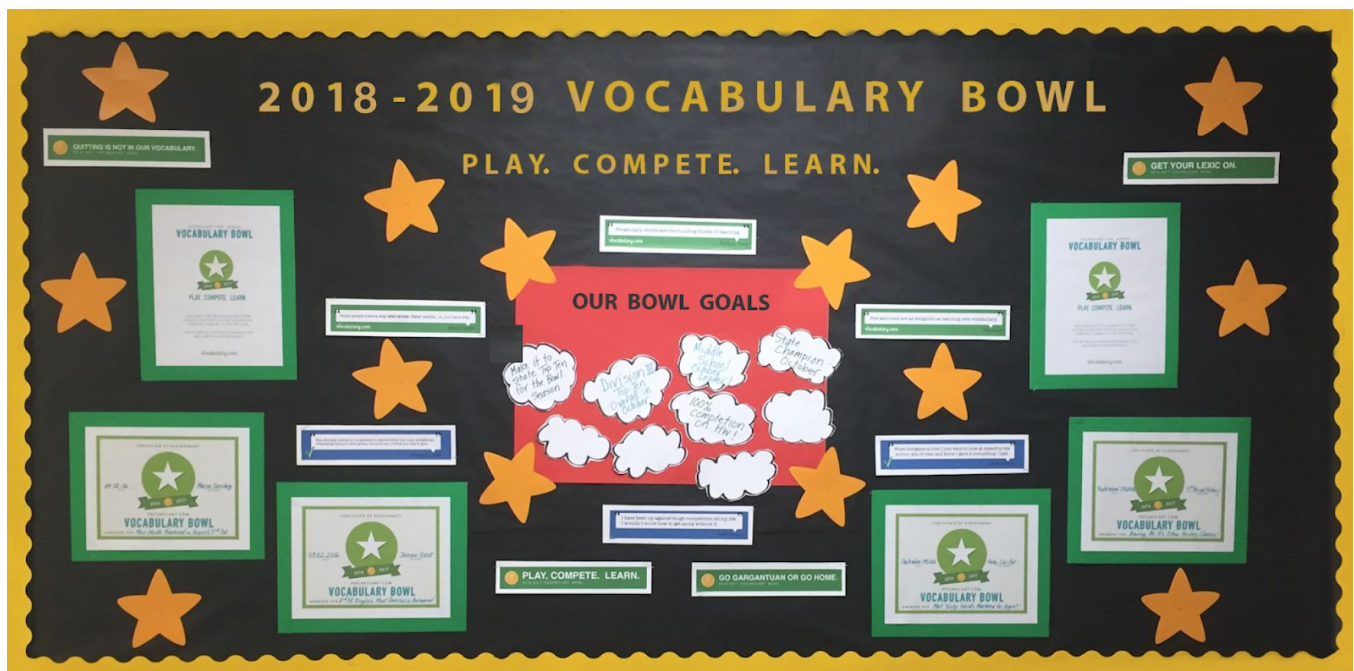
Remember - we award those monthly champions banners from May through August, too! Summer is a great time to go for a Bowl win. Try pairing your summer reading assignment with list practice on Vocabulary.com.

Display-Worthy Printables

On the next pages of this Kick-off Kit you'll find printables that you can use to create Vocabulary Bowl displays in your school. We've designed the pages to be color printer-friendly, meaning that they are on letter-size paper (*as opposed to legal or ledger*), and there is still some white space left to conserve ink! 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 Mini-Poster
- Vocabulary Bowl and Vocabulary.com Certificates of Achievement
- 4 "compete" slogans
- 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 1,182,635 students from 41,278 schools across North America competed and collectively mastered 32,489,125 words.

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

✓vocabulary.com

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



DATE

RECIPIENT

AWARDED FOR

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

✓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