

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's 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, 2017 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, real-time leaderboards to follow the action, and custom league play, 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.

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.

League play gets everyone in on the action.

User-created leagues give you the power to engage in the epic battle for word glory in a whole new way. Perhaps you'd relish the chance to challenge a local rival to a school duel. Create your own "League of Two" (or whatever else you want to call it!) and share a link to your leaderboard. To help you get started, when you create a league, we'll suggest some schools based on your location, and if you're feeling creative you can come up with your own league configurations.

Divisions bring a new angle to the leaderboards.

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 READ. 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, 2016 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
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.						 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 2016 -2017 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 2nd of the month. Check out the blog for last month's "overall words mastered" champ.



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

N O V E M B E R

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
What happenings 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? This 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	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

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.			



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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 league and get fired up!				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 is the last month of the official 2016 - 2017 Vocabulary Bowl season. Note that the competition ends on Sunday night, April 30, at 12 PM EST.						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	Stay tuned for the announcement of the Vocabulary Bowl champion and other feats of word-learning glory 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, 2017 at 12 PM EST!



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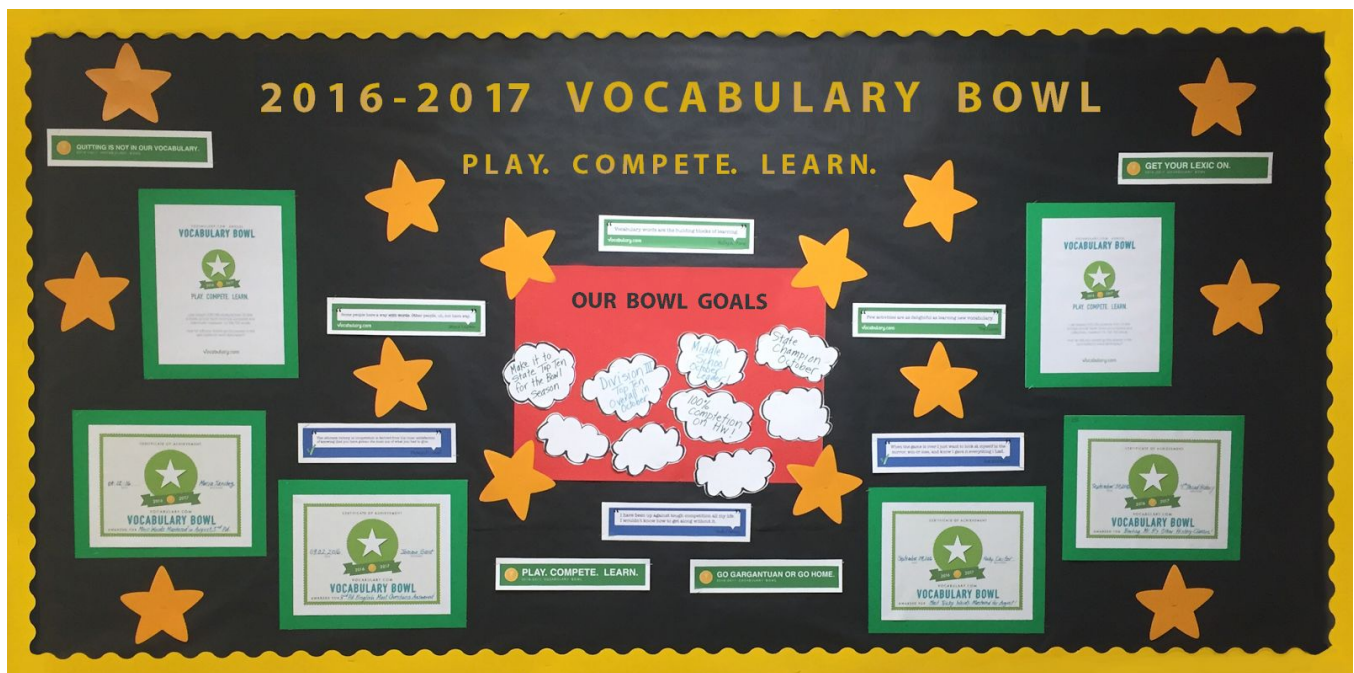
Notes & Ideas:

Display-Worthy Printables

On the next pages of this Teacher 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:

- 8.5 x 11 Vocabulary Bowl Mini-Poster
- 8.5 x 11 Certificate of Achievement
- 4 “compete” slogan strips (on one 8.5 x 11 sheet)
- 9 “great quotes” strips (on three 8.5 x 11 sheets)



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

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VOCABULARY BOWL



PLAY. COMPETE. LEARN.

Last season 528,785 students from 23,804 schools across North America competed and collectively mastered 14,108,105 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.

2016-2017 VOCABULARY BOWL



GO GARGANTUAN OR GO HOME.

2016-2017 VOCABULARY BOWL



PLAY. COMPETE. LEARN.

2016-2017 VOCABULARY BOWL



QUITTING IS NOT IN OUR VOCABULARY.

2016-2017 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

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