

A HIGH-SCORING SCRABBLE GAME

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Games between average Scrabble players are likely to produce a total score somewhere between 400 and 600 points; games between experts (e.g., those who qualify for the National Scrabble Championships held in London each June) often score twice as much. However, if the two Scrabble players co-operate instead of compete with each other, far higher scores can be achieved. For example, in the May 1972 *Word Ways*, Darryl Francis detailed a Scrabble game in which the combined scores of the two players was 3108 points!

Interest in this type of Scrabble has been rekindled by the announcement of a new Scrabble competition in the June 1974 issue of *Games & Puzzles* magazine. Using only Chambers 20th Century Dictionary as their word source, readers are challenged to produce the highest possible Scrabble score. The prize is 5 pounds sterling the first month, and 1 pound sterling for each of the next five months, to the highest-scoring game received since the start of the contest.

About a year ago, I investigated this problem in some detail. Using as my sources the Oxford English Dictionary, Webster's New International Dictionary (Second Edition), and Webster's Third New International Dictionary, I was able to raise the total to 4047 points. Details of the solution are presented below:

S	E	S	Q	U	I	D	U	P	L	I	C	A	T	E
L		O	U	T	G	O*	N	E		V	O	N	E	D
Y	U	G	A					W	A	I	F	E	S	
G			I					E			F	I	T	
H			N			E	D				L	I	J	
T			T*			R					V	A		
E						O					E	W		
D						T						B		
						O						R		
						A						E		
						M						A		
						A						K		
			R			N						E		
			I			I						R		
O	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L						
B	E	N	Z	O	X	Y	C	A	M	P	H	O	R	S

The asterisks indicate blank tiles. *Ig* is a variant spelling of *I* listed in the Oxford English Dictionary; similarly, *aneil* is a variant of *anele*, *lij* is a variant of *lie*, *lyghted* is a variant of *lighted*, and

slyghted is a variant of slighted. The detailed moves leading up to the depicted final position:

Player A		Player B		
Turn	Word(s), Score	Turn	Word(s), Score	
1	tom	10	2 erotomania	63
3	rational	70	4 ox, ox, io	20
5	oxy, ny	18	6 it	2
7	rit	6	8 orational	9
9	am, la	6	10 amp	7
11	en, re, an	6	12 ed, ed	6
13	wa, wed	20	14 wai	6
15	vi, vo	10	16 li, ivi	8
17	waif, of	15	18 von, ne, walfe	32
19	nei	3	20 testive, vone, it, waifes	114
21	voned	9	22 li, neil	6
23	aneil, at	7	24 ja, lij, va	24
25	jaw, ew	18	26 jawbreaker	143
27	outgone, ewed	69	28 id, ig, do	8
29	es, so	4	30 ug, sog	14
31	lyghted, yug	108	32 sesquiduplicate, qu, slyghted, ut, pewed, un, cof, ed	1292
33	coff, fit	36	34 qua, yuga	20
35	quai	26	36 quain	14
37	quaint	14	38 benzoxycamphors, ob, ritz, erotomaniac, jawbreakers	1804
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		455		3592