

HIGH SINGLE-TURN SCRABBLE SCORES

JEFF GRANT

Hastings, New Zealand

According to *Guinness World Records* (2008), the highest single-turn Scrabble score in a real game is 392 points achieved by Karl Khoshnaw (UK) on 11 April 1982 when he played the nine-timer CAZIQUES spanning two triple word squares. Another less-heralded 392 score was gained more recently by Malta's first national Scrabble champion Godfrey Magri Demajo with the triple-triple MEZQUITE.

A higher legitimate single-move score is unlikely to occur in normal competition, but it is possible, particularly if a collaborative 'set-up' style is adopted. In a (very) friendly game between my wife Pat and I on 14 August 1998, I was 'fortunate' enough to play the allowable Chambers-only word QUIZZIFY on a triple-triple for 419 points (*Forwards*, NZ Scrabble magazine, Dec 1998).

In theory, much higher scores are possible using a 15-letter word to span all three 'triple word' squares on the side of a Scrabble board. This means that the sum of the letters in the long word is multiplied by 27 (3x3x3) before adding the 50-point bonus for playing all seven tiles. In addition, all the tiles played can theoretically hook onto other words already on the board, which can greatly increase the total score for the move.

In the realm of theoretical Scrabble moves there are several categories. Here are some of the highest-scoring words from the past 40 years.

Single Dictionary (Scrabble)

Chambers Dictionary, 11th Ed., 2008. Allowed in international Scrabble.

PSYCHOANALYZING 1691 (unpublished 2013, J Grant)

A score of 1700+ should be possible.

Collins Official Scrabble Dictionary, 2nd Ed., 2007. International Scrabble reference.

OXYPHENBUTAZONE 1785 (*Forwards*, Sep 2007, J Grant)

Single Dictionary (non-Scrabble)

Webster's New International Dictionary, 3rd Ed., 1972.

PHENYLHYDRAZIDE 1716 (*Word Ways*, May 1981, K Corbin)

Webster's New International Dictionary, 2nd Ed., 1961.

DISQUISITIONARY 1261 (*Word Ways*, May 1972, D Francis)

BENZOXYCAMPHORS 1900+ The record one-dictionary single move will probably come from Web2 using this base word. Can anyone devise a 1900-point solution?

Multi-Dictionary

Uncapitalised words found in any English dictionary, including not only headwords, but variant forms and inflections found after the headword, in separate lists or in citations of use.

BENZOXYCAMPHORS 1961 (*Word Ways*, May 1974, R Jerome, D Francis)

1970 (*Word Ways*, Feb 1993, J Grant)

The 1970-pointer is a modification of the 1961-point move devised by Ron Jerome and Darryl Francis in response to a challenge in the Nov 1972 edition of the British *Games & Puzzles* magazine.

Open Sources

Using words found in any published work, the boundaries can be pushed even further with single moves based on the following 15-letter terms.

SESQUIOXIDIZING 2037 (*Word Ways*, Feb 1974, J Heifetz)
 2064 (*Word Ways*, Nov 1979, J Grant)

BENZYLHYDROXIDE 2000+

This term was suggested in the Aug 1979 *Word Ways* as a potential high-scoring word (it has the same points value as SESQUIOXIDIZING).

The word appears in *The Collected Works of Sir Humphry Davy* (1898, p275):

'... this, when heated with silver oxide and water, yields both benzylidene and **benzylhydroxide** base.'

Contrived Base Word

BENZHYDROXYQUIN 2278 (*Word Ways*, Nov 1979, J Grant)

Darryl Francis commented in a recent email, 'Maybe a wider-ranging look at this whole subject is needed - what's the best Webster's 3rd-only solution? and the best Webster's 2nd-only solution? and the best OED-only solution? ... repeated for various dictionaries, eg Collins, Chambers, OSPD, etc. And then what's the best solution using multiple sources?' Anyone care to give it a go?