

A 1961-POINT ONE-MOVE SCRABBLE SCORE

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In the February 1974 issue of Word Ways, the editor summarized the results of the year-long Games & Puzzles competition to devise a single Scrabble move scoring as many points as possible. The article detailed the winning solution, a 1949-point construction based on the key word BENZOXYCAMPHORS. The article suggested that it would be "extraordinarily difficult, perhaps impossible" to improve this solution by as much as ten points. This task has now been accomplished, in a collaboration between myself and Ron Jerome of Bracknell, Berkshire, England. He is the one responsible for the final modifications leading to the solution below, scoring 1961 points:

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

Letters marked with an asterisk are represented by the two blank Scrabble tiles. The moves leading up to this were as follows:

1. fet 2. daffodil 3. daffodill 4. adnote 5. er, fro, to 6. ad, squander 7. da, in, la, li, om, squandermania 8. rutin 9. wertu 10. riew 11. prover 12. ri 13. en, ie 14. elat 15. ex, ox 16. amp, ta 17. ee, ee 18. ee, eevn 19. vagabond 20. vagabondage 21. quink 22. gullis 23. io, lod 24. ah, ar, bi, ew, ga, lods, oc, rickshaw 25. an, gy, jinnyrickshaw 26. stew, to 27. benzoxycamphors, daffodilly, gullish, jinnyrickshaws, proverb, squandermaniac, vagabondage, wertuz.

Can any readers improve on this? The most promising possibility is the substitution of TRELESEZ for WERTUZ, freeing the four-point W for use in a word replacing the relatively low-scoring GULLISH. In any event, I conjecture that the maximum possible score is 1965.