



VOCAB

By Rick Cooper
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Play one of America's favorite word games!

For the TANDY Color Computer 3 128K Disk System

1 to 6 Players

OUR NEW ADDRESS

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VOCAB

Vocab is a word game similar to PARKER BROS. SCRABBLE board game. The object of VOCAB is to score more points than your opponents by adding letters from your hand to one or more letters on the "board" forming words. The game ends when all letters in the letter pool are gone or when no player can create a new word on the board by adding a letter or letters from his hand.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

VOCAB is supplied to you on an unprotected disk. Make a backup copy for playing the game with. Store your original disk in a safe place. If you do not know how to make a backup, consult your disk drive owner's manual.

HOW TO PLAY VOCAB

VOCAB may be played by from 1 to 6 players. If you choose to play alone, a computer opponent, named Mr. Vocab, is always ready for a game. He can play none, some or all of the hands.

Place your backup copy in drive zero and type [RUN "VOCAB"] and press ENTER. Press 1 or 2 to select the monitor type you have. The title screen will appear. Press any key to continue. Select the number of players. This can be a number between 1 and 6. If you select 1 you can play alone or watch Mr. Vocab play by himself. Regardless of the number of players you select, you always have the option of including Mr. Vocab in the game. If you don't want him to play, just answer no by pressing the [N] key when asked if he is to play that position.

ABOUT MR. VOCAB

Mr. Vocab has a limited vocabulary. He plays very well but sometimes comes up with some pretty unusual words. (He may even play one you can't find in your dictionary. Although every effort has been made to have him play a good clean game, he might "cheat" occasionally. So don't get too mad at him, he's not all that bright!

After all the players names have been entered, the game screen will appear. The game board occupies most of the screen in the center. To it's left you will see the various point values associated with each colored square on the board. To the right are the individual letter values. At the bottom are each player's name and score. Below that to the left is the number of letters left in the letter pool.

As each players turn comes up, his letters in hand are displayed here also.

The first word of the game will be played by the first player and should be placed using the center square of the board. That is, one letter of the word must cover the center square of the board. Since the program does not check for this requirement, it is possible to start at any place on the board. Doing so might make it extremely difficult to play later in the game.

After a word is entered, the computer will calculate and display the score of the word and the totals for all of the players. Subsequent words must be connected to a letter already on the board. New letters will be added to your hand to keep the number of your letters at seven until there are not enough letters in the pool to do so.

ENTERING A WORD

Use the 4 arrow keys to move the cursor to the square on the board where the first letter of your word will start. If the first letter of the word is already on the board, place the cursor over that letter. Press ENTER. The flashing cursor is replaced by an arrow. Use the arrow keys to point the cursor in the direction you wish to spell the word. Words will always go to the right or down. Now, type ALL of the letters of the word you want to put on the board. Then press ENTER.

Since there are hundreds of words in the English language (assuming you are playing in English), words are not checked for proper spelling. That is up to you and your fellow players. Before a word is actually placed permanently on the board, you are prompted with the question, "SURE?". If you all agree that the word is permissible, just press ENTER. If it is not, press the letter [N] and it will be erased and you can retake your turn.

CORRECTING A MISTAKE

If you make an error entering a word, such as using a letter from your hand that you didn't want to, just press the [CLEAR] key.

If you try to enter a letter that is not in your hand, the cursor will not move and the letter will not be entered.

If you try to type a letter over a letter on the board that is not the letter on the board, the computer will wait until you press the correct letter. If you can't see the letter because the cursor is covering it and you don't remember what it is, press [CLEAR] to start over.

PASSING

If you cannot place any letters on the board on your turn, you may pass by pressing the [P] key. This will skip your turn and go on to the next player.

EXCHANGING YOUR TILES

If you can't place any letters on the board, you may want to turn in your letters for some new ones. Press [T]. Your tiles will be put back into the letter pool and a new set drawn for you. This ends your turn. You cannot exchange tiles and place them on the board in the same turn.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time you create a new word or words on the board, the computer does this. The total value of the word is added up. That is the point values of each letter used. Then the board is checked for special squares used such as double letter values and say triple word values. These are all compiled and the value of the word or words is displayed and then added to your score.

If you have seven letters in your hand and play all seven on one turn, you receive a 50 point bonus.

ENDING THE GAME

To end play, press the [E] key. This ends the game and a winner is declared. If you press [E] you are asked if you want to end the game. Press [Y] to end it or [N] if you pressed the [E] key by mistake. After the winner is declared, the display "freezes". To exit the game, press any key. You will be returned to disk basic.

To start a new game, (with the game disk in the drive) type [RUN "VOCAB"] and press ENTER.

Enjoy VOCAB and keep a dictionary handy to avoid arguments about whether "zebu" is really a word!

For an amusing demonstration of this game, select 6 players and answer yes to Mr. Vocab playing all 6 hands. His whole family will play while you watch!

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VOCAB Program Manual

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