

Scrabble Enthusiasts of (Greater) Boston – Scrabble Puzzles #1

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I put together a few puzzles to demonstrate various intermediate/advanced Scrabble strategy. All of the puzzles are made with a free computer program named “Quackle” which is currently the best Scrabble player in the world. Quackle’s “Championship” player generated the choices. Quackle has not yet been updated with the 2014 Tournament and Club Word List, so the 2006 word list is still in effect for all puzzles. Please send me feedback!

For each puzzle, you are given a board position and a rack. Your goal is to find the “best play.” Factor in what your position will be on the next turn or later in the game. In some cases the score of the move that Quackle determined as the best is given as a clue. One or two additional choices may be given when appropriate, especially if the “best play” is only a little better valuation than the second or third best option.

All “best play” words appear on the Scrabble “cheat sheet” or are common English.

We will discuss some of the puzzles in the club.

Puzzle #1

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	3WS			2LS				V ₄				2LS			3WS
2		2WS				3LS		A ₁		3LS				2WS	
3			2WS				2LS	N ₁	2LS				2WS		
4	2LS			2WS			E ₁	D ₂				2WS			2LS
5					2WS		L ₁	A ₁			2WS				
6		3LS				3LS	O ₁			3LS					3LS
7			2LS				N ₁		2LS				2LS		
8	3WS			T ₁	E ₁	R ₁	G ₂	I ₁	T ₁	E ₁		2LS			3WS
9			2LS		P ₃		A ₁		2LS				2LS		
10		3LS			I ₁	3LS	T ₁		⇒	3LS				3LS	
11					T ₁		E ₁				2WS				
12	2LS			H ₄	A ₁			2LS				2WS			2LS
13			2WS	U ₁	P ₃		2LS		2LS				2WS		
14		2WS		E ₁	H ₄	3LS				3LS				2WS	
15	3WS			D ₂					3WS			2LS			3WS

C₃ E₁ F₄ I₁ I₁ R₁ S₁

Quackle's rack:

CEFIIRS

Instructions: Find the best play on the board with the given rack.

The three best options score 78, 38, 38 points.

Puzzle #2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	3WS			2LS				3WS				2LS			3WS
2		2WS				3LS				3LS				2WS	
3			2WS				2LS		2LS				2WS		
4	2LS			2WS				2LS				2WS			2LS
5					2WS							2WS			
6		3LS				3LS				3LS	O ₁			3LS	
7			2LS				2LS	J ₈	A ₁	M ₃	B ₃		2LS		
8	3WS			2LS			V ₄	O ₁	E ₁		I ₁	2LS			3WS
9			2LS				2LS		2LS		A ₁		2LS		
10		3LS				3LS				3LS				3LS	
11					2WS							2WS			
12	2LS			2WS				2LS				2WS			2LS
13			2WS				2LS		2LS				2WS		
14		2WS				3LS				3LS				2WS	
15	3WS			2LS				3WS				2LS			3WS

C ₃	E ₁	E ₁	F ₄	I ₁	L ₁	S ₁
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New Player 1's rack:

CEEFILS

Best plays:
34, 35, and 36 points.

Puzzle #3

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
1	3WS			2LS				H ₄		G ₂		2LS				→
2		2WS				3LS		O ₁		A ₁	D ₂			2WS		
3			2WS				2LS	L ₁	2LS	B ₃	O ₁		2WS			
4	2LS			2WS				Y ₄		O ₁	P ₃	2WS			2LS	
5					C ₃			T ₁		O ₁	E ₁					
6		3LS			A ₁	B ₃		I ₁	N ₁	N ₁					3LS	
7			2LS		L ₁	O ₁	2LS	D ₂	2LS			2LS				
8	3WS			M ₃	I ₁	N ₁	C ₃	E ₁				2LS				3WS
9			2LS		F ₄	E ₁	H ₄		2LS			2LS				
10		V ₄				Y ₄	A ₁			3LS				3LS		
11		I ₁			2WS		I ₁				2WS					
12	D ₂	A ₁	L ₁	T ₁	O ₁	N ₁	S ₁	2LS				2WS			2LS	
13		N ₁	2WS				E ₁	R ₁	U ₂	G ₁	O ₁		2WS			
14		D ₂				3LS				3LS				2WS		
15	3WS			2LS				3WS				2LS				3WS

K ₅	O ₁	R ₁	S ₁	T ₁	U ₁	Z ₁₀
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Quackle's rack: KORSTUZ

Best plays:
34 or 43 points.

Puzzle #4

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	
1	3WS			V	I	L	I	F	Y			2LS				→
2		C	O	R	D	A	T	E		3LS				2WS		
3			2WS	O			2LS		2LS				2WS			
4	2LS			O	P			2LS				2WS			2LS	
5				M	E						2WS					
6		3LS			R	3LS				3LS					3LS	
7			B	P			2LS		2LS				2LS			
8	O	B	O	L	E		W	O	V	E	N	2LS				Y
9	N		D		T	H	E	E	2LS	D	I	T	Z			W
10	S	3LS	Y		U	3LS				3LS	N			Q	I	
11	T		S		A	H					J	U	K	U	S	
12	R		U	2WS	L	O		2LS			A	2WS	O	E	2LS	
13	E		R			A	2LS		2LS			D	R	E	G	
14	A	2WS	F			X	I			3LS			E	N		
15	M			2LS				3WS				2LS				3WS

A **E** **G** **I** **N** **R** **T**

New Player 1's rack:

Best plays: 76, 74, 74, 29.

Puzzle #5

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	3WS			2LS				G ₂				2LS			→
2		2WS				3LS		R ₁		3LS				2WS	
3			2WS				2LS	E ₁	2LS				2WS		
4	2LS		2WS				M ₃	Y ₄				2WS			2LS
5					2WS		A ₁				2WS				
6		3LS				3LS	T ₁			T ₁				3LS	
7			2LS				E ₁		2LS	H ₄			2LS		
8	3WS			2LS			L ₁	O ₁	G ₂	I ₁	L ₁	Y ₄			3WS
9			2LS				O ₁		2LS	A ₁			2LS		
10		3LS				3LS	T ₁			M ₃				3LS	
11					2WS		E ₁			I ₁	2WS				
12	L ₁	U ₁	X ₈	A ₁	T ₁	E ₁	S ₁	2LS	E ₁	N ₁		2WS			2LS
13			2WS					2LS		W ₄	E ₁		2WS		
14		2WS				3LS			E ₁	3LS			2WS		
15	3WS			2LS				O ₁	R ₁	Z ₁₀	O ₁	2LS			3WS

A ₁	F ₄	I ₁	N ₁	O ₁	Q ₁₀	R ₁
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New Player 1's rack:

AFINOQR

Best plays: 40, 37, 28.

Puzzle #6

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	3WS			2LS				3WS				2LS			3WS
2		2WS				3LS				3LS				2WS	
3			2WS				2LS		2LS				2WS		
4	2LS			2WS				2LS				2WS			2LS
5					2WS						2WS				
6		3LS				3LS				3LS				3LS	
7			2LS				A ₁		2LS			2LS			
8	3WS			G ₂	U ₁	I ₁	L ₁	D ₂				2LS			3WS
9			2LS	I ₁		F ₄	E ₁		2LS			2LS			
10		3LS		R ₁		F ₄	E ₁	T ₁		3LS				3LS	
11				L ₁	2WS						2WS				
12	2LS		A ₁	H ₂					2LS			2WS			2LS
13			N ₁	O ₁			2LS		2LS				2WS		
14		2WS	N ₁	O ₁		3LS				3LS				2WS	
15	3WS		A ₁	D ₂				3WS				2LS			3WS

C ₃	D ₂	N ₁	S ₁	T ₁	W ₄	X ₈
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New Player 1's rack:

CDNSTWX

Find the best play.