

# USE YOUR BRAIN

## LANGUAGE CHALLENGE



### Words of a Feather

USE A LARGE WORD OR SHORT PHRASE TO TEST YOUR VOCABULARY SKILLS.

The English alphabet only has 26 letters and from these we make every word we use to communicate. It is a pretty amazing system! And we can use it to make lots of different games. Word jumbles, word searches, cryptograms, and crossword puzzles all use this limited number of letters to make fun puzzles. Here is one more super simple game you can play anywhere when you're bored. You just need a pencil and paper.

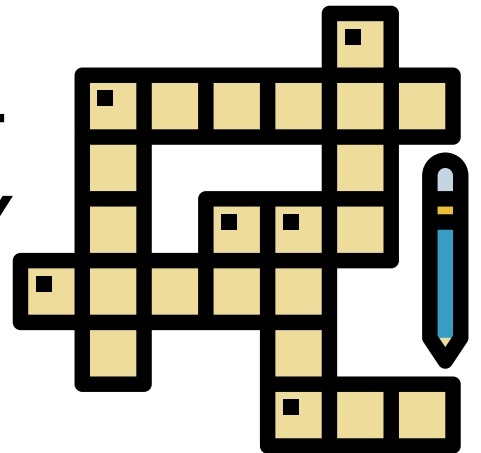
### *The Challenge*

Pick a long word or a short phrase. Something with between 10 and 12 letters is perfect. The more more letters, the easier the game will be. The more rare letters (like q, x, and z) the harder. From these letters try to make as many shorter words as you can. In each word you can use each letter once for each time it appears. So if you start with "Waterfall" you could put the word "tall" because waterfall has 2 l's, but you couldn't put the word "rafter" because waterfall only has one r. You can set a time limit to challenge yourself.

### *Words and Phrases to Try*



AFTERBURNER  
INDIAN ELEPHANT  
OSSINING LIBRARY  
BALDERDASH  
NEW YORK CITY



### *Only in English?*

You don't just have to play in English! Any language with a phonetic alphabet (meaning the letters represent sounds) works fine. You can practice lots of different languages. Spanish, French, Portuguese, and German all work. Just don't try to play in a language that uses pictograms!