

Word Wizard

Teacher's Pack

French

Gaelic

German

Spanish

What is Word Wizard 2015?

Word Wizard is a competition for pupils in S1-S3 learning French, Gaelic, German, Spanish or Mandarin (please see separate Mandarin Teacher's Pack). The aim of Word Wizard is to encourage learners to practise and improve their vocabulary, spelling, pronunciation and memory skills in the target language.

Competition Stages

Word Wizard consists of three stages:

1. Class Competition
2. Semi-final
3. National Final

The competition is open to S1-S3 learners of French, Gaelic, German, Mandarin and Spanish, who are not native speakers of that language.

Pupils who have native or near-native competence in the target language should not compete e.g. if they regularly speak the target language at home.

There are two levels of competition - **Beginner** and **Intermediate**.

Beginner - pupils who are learning the language for the first year at secondary school. This could include S1 or S2 learners.

Intermediate - pupils who are in the 2nd or 3rd year of learning the language at secondary school. This could include S2 or S3 learners.

Pupils will be given 75 words to learn at each stage of the competition. After each stage is complete, SCILT will email schools with the next 75 words. By the time of the National Final in May 2015, competitors will be tested on a random selection from all 225 words.

Word Wizard should be introduced to learners when you receive your first set of word lists. Time can be spent in class teaching and practising the alphabet in the target language. As the competition progresses, pupils should be practising in their own time, during breaks or after school. Teachers could engage the help of modern language assistants or older pupils to help learners to practise. If your school competed in last year's Word Wizard, previous contestants could offer advice and support to this year's competitors.

The Rules

- Pupils should be tested individually and cannot use prompts.
- Pupils will have one minute to correctly spell as many words as possible.
- The teacher should choose words in a random order using the word lists or powerpoints provided:
 - The teacher reads out the word in English.
 - The pupil says the word in the target language, including the article if appropriate.
 - The pupil spells the word, using the target language alphabet. The pupil does not need to spell the article.
 - The pupil should identify any accents or special characters as instructed (see pages 6-9 of this booklet).
 - The pupil is allowed to pass on any word by saying 'pass' in the target language (see pages 6-9 of this booklet).
 - When the pupil has finished spelling the word, the teacher reads out the next word.
 - This continues until the minute is over.
 - If the pupil begins spelling a word when the timer goes, they are allowed to finish spelling.

Scoring

Points will be awarded in the following way:

- Four elements are taken into consideration: article (if present), translation, pronunciation and spelling.
- Only if competitors get all four elements correct will they be awarded one point for each word.
- This means that if they spell the word correctly but get the article or pronunciation wrong, they will not be awarded a point.
- It may be useful to think of the following chart:

	Correct Y/N
Article	
Translation	
Pronunciation	
Spelling	

- The teacher could put a mark next to each element that the pupil gets correct. If the pupil fails to get all four elements correct they do not receive a point.

Stage 1 – Class Competition

The deadline to complete the Stage 1 Class Competition is Friday 30th January 2015.

Guidelines for teachers:

- Introduce the first 75 words to participating pupils as soon as possible.
- Ensure they learn the alphabet in the target language and how to spell special characters.
- Mock tests could be run as a starter or plenary.
- Hold your class competition by the end of January, using the rules outlined above.
- It is at your discretion how many pupils progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 as this will be different for each school.

Stage 2 – Semi-final

The Semi-final is due to take place on Friday 27th March 2015 at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. More details will be sent to you nearer the time.

Guidelines for teachers:

- Introduce the second set of word lists to the pupils who progressed past Stage 1.
- Participants can meet outside of class hours during breaks or after school. Mock tests could be given within class as a starter or plenary.
- Modern language assistants could work with the competing pupils to practise.
- Each school will be able to enter a certain number of pupils per language and level for the Semi-final. This number will depend on the total number of pupils entering the competition and we will be able to tell you this nearer the time.
- How you choose the pupils to compete in the Semi-final is up to you; if you have a lot of pupils you may need to run more than one class competition.
- Competitors will be tested on a random selection of words from stage 1 AND stage 2.
- Schools will not need to attend the full day, but will be assigned a time slot for their competing pupils.

- The highest scoring pupils in each language and level will progress to the National Final on 29th May. The number of pupils progressing will depend on the total number entering; we will be able to tell you this nearer the time.
- Pupils will progress to the Final on an individual basis, not as a school.
- Further details and a reminder of the rules will be sent out in early 2015.

Stage 3 – National Final

The National Final will be held on Friday 29th May 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. More details will be sent to you nearer the time.

Guidelines for teachers:

- Introduce the final 75 words to the semi-final winners.
- Participants should practise weekly, in breaks or after school. Use older pupils or previous contestants to help.
- The National Final will follow the same rules as the Semi-final, but competitors will now be tested on a random selection from all 225 words.
- The National Winners in each category will be announced on the day and there will be a prize-giving ceremony.
- Further details and a reminder of the rules will be sent out nearer the time.

Accents and punctuation

French

Accents and other punctuation marks must be spelt in the following way:

Accent / Punctuation	French
circumflex accent â ê î ô û	accent circonflexe
cedilla ç	cédille
acute accent é	accent aigu
grave accent à è ù	accent grave
diacesis ë ï ü	tréma
œ	E dans l'O
space	espace
hyphen	trait d'union
apostrophe	apostrophe
pass	je passe

EXAMPLE:

Teacher: "Goat"

Pupil: "la chèvre – C-H-E accent grave-V-R-E "

Pupils do not need to say 'avec'.

Accents and punctuation

Gaelic

Accents and other punctuation marks must be spelt in the following way:

Accent / Punctuation	Gaelic
grave à è ì ò ù	stràc
space	beàrn
hyphen	tàthan
apostrophe	asgair
pass	rach seachad

EXAMPLE:

Teacher: "Cake"

Pupil: "cèic – C-E stràc -I-C"

Accents and punctuation

German

Accents and other punctuation marks must be spelt in the following way:

Accent / Punctuation	German
umlaut ä ö ü	Umlaut
sharp 's' ß	S-Zett
space	Neues Wort
hyphen	Bindestrich
pass	Ich passe

EXAMPLE:

Teacher: "Bear"

Pupil: "der Bär – B-A umlaut-R"

Pupils do not need to say 'mit'.

German rules :

- Pupils do not need to identify the capitalised letter for each noun.

Accents and punctuation

Spanish

Accents and other punctuation marks must be spelt in the following way:

Accent / Punctuation	Spanish
acute accent á é í ó ú	acento
space	espacio
hyphen	guion
pass	paso

EXAMPLE:

Teacher: "Tree"

Pupil: "el árbol – A acento-R-B-O-L"

Pupils do not need to say 'con'.

CONTACTS

To register, receive your word lists or for any other questions please contact SCILT directly:

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