

## The New York Times buys Wordle

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The New York Times newspaper has bought the online word game Wordle. The paper is well known for the games it publishes. Wordle is the latest addition to its list of puzzles. Wordle is a new online game. Its creator, Josh Wardle, only

uploaded it in October. In the past four months, it has become a craze around the world. Social media sites are now full of posts from people playing the game and sharing their score. The New York Times said it paid "an undisclosed price in the low seven figures" for the game. A spokesperson was excited the paper would be able to publish the game. She wrote: "We could not be more thrilled to become the new home and proud stewards of this magical game."

Mr Wardle is a former software engineer for the website Reddit. He created Wordle for his partner to play. He released it in October. He was surprised after 90 people played it on the day of its release. It is now played by millions every day. Mr Wardle tweeted: "The game has got bigger than I ever imagined (which I suppose isn't that much of a feat, given I made the game for an audience of one)." Wordle players have six attempts to guess a five-letter word. After each attempt, the game gives the player feedback on which of the letters they have used are in the correct place, or are correct letters but are in the wrong place. The New York Times said that "initially" the game would remain free.

Sources: [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) / [sky.com](https://www.sky.com) / [theverge.com](https://www.theverge.com)

### Writing

Word games are great for learning English. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

newspaper / online / word game / puzzle / craze / score / price / publish / magical / software / engineer / partner / release / bigger / audience / feedback / correct / free

### True / False

- 1) Wordle is the first game the New York Times has ever bought. T / F
- 2) The creator of Wordle first uploaded it this year. T / F
- 3) The New York Times paid over \$10,000,000 for Wordle. T / F
- 4) The New York Times called Wordle a magical game. T / F
- 5) Wordle's creator originally created it for his English students. T / F
- 6) Over 90 million people now play Wordle every day. T / F
- 7) Players of Wordle have six guesses at an unknown word. T / F
- 8) Wordle is still free, for now. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>well known</b>   | a. ex-            |
| 2. <b>latest</b>       | b. excited        |
| 3. <b>craze</b>        | c. at first       |
| 4. <b>spokesperson</b> | d. famous         |
| 5. <b>thrilled</b>     | e. issued         |
| 6. <b>former</b>       | f. trend          |
| 7. <b>released</b>     | g. tries          |
| 8. <b>feat</b>         | h. most recent    |
| 9. <b>attempts</b>     | i. achievement    |
| 10. <b>initially</b>   | j. representative |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What is your favourite word game?
- c) Are word games good for learning English?
- d) Do you think a seven-figure price for Wordle is good value?
- e) Are word games better than gaming games?
- f) Are you good at word games in your language?
- g) Should Wordle stay free for people to play?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr Wardle?

## Phrase Match

1. The paper is well known
  2. Wordle is the latest addition to
  3. it has become a craze
  4. it paid an undisclosed price in the low
  5. We could not be more
  6. a former
  7. 90 people played it on the
  8. Wordle players have six attempts to
  9. the game gives the player
  10. in the wrong
- a. around the world
  - b. place
  - c. seven figures
  - d. day of its release
  - e. feedback
  - f. for the games it publishes
  - g. thrilled
  - h. its list of puzzles
  - i. guess a five-letter word
  - j. software engineer

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you know about Wordle?
- b) What do you think of word games?
- c) What do you know about the New York Times?
- d) Are online games better than paper-based games?
- e) Why do you think Wordle has become a "craze"?
- f) What games do you like to play?
- g) What do you think of the name Wordle?
- h) How is your spelling?

## Spelling

1. the latest addition to its list of zezpuls
2. it has become a zearc around the world
3. it paid an edincosdllu price
4. would be able to ibhlusp the game
5. We could not be more ertilldh
6. proud stewards of this agalcmi game
7. a former software rneineeg
8. on the day of its laerese
9. an iuaceend of one
10. After each tpetatm
11. in the cocrert place
12. nitlliya the game would remain free

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. d | 2. h | 3. f | 4. j | 5. b  |
| 6. a | 7. e | 8. i | 9. g | 10. c |

## Role Play

### Role A – Word Games

You think word games are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): board games, party games or video games.

### Role B – Board Games

You think board games are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): word games, party games or video games.

### Role C – Party Games

You think party games are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): board games, word games or video games.

### Role D – Video Games

You think video games are best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their games. Also, tell the others which is the least fun of these (and why): board games, party games or word games.

## Speaking – Games

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Card games
- Chess
- Quiz games
- Party games
- Word games
- Board games
- Video games
- Sports

### Answers – True False

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 F | 2 F | 3 F | 4 T | 5 F | 6 F | 7 T | 8 T |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.