

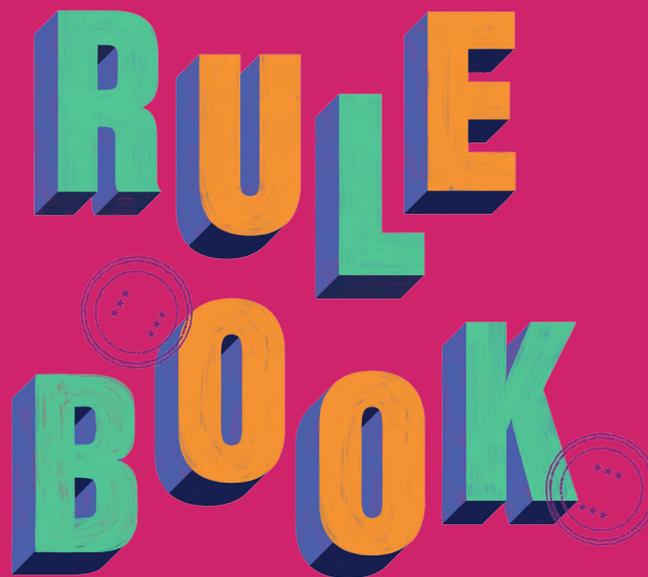


LETTER  
TYCOON

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Build your alphabet empire.

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RULE  
BOOK

## Build your alphabet empire!

In Letter Tycoon, your goal is to form the longest word you can each turn to earn money and stocks.

You'll have a chance to BUY the letters you use, owning the letter patents and collecting royalties from anyone else who plays those letters. Some patents grant unique privileges!

When enough of the alphabet has been acquired, the game will end and all money, stocks, and patents are scored.

## COMPONENTS

102 Letter Cards

26 Letter Patents

35 Bills

18 Stock Certificates

5 Score Cards

4 Goal Cards

1 Patent Stamp Token

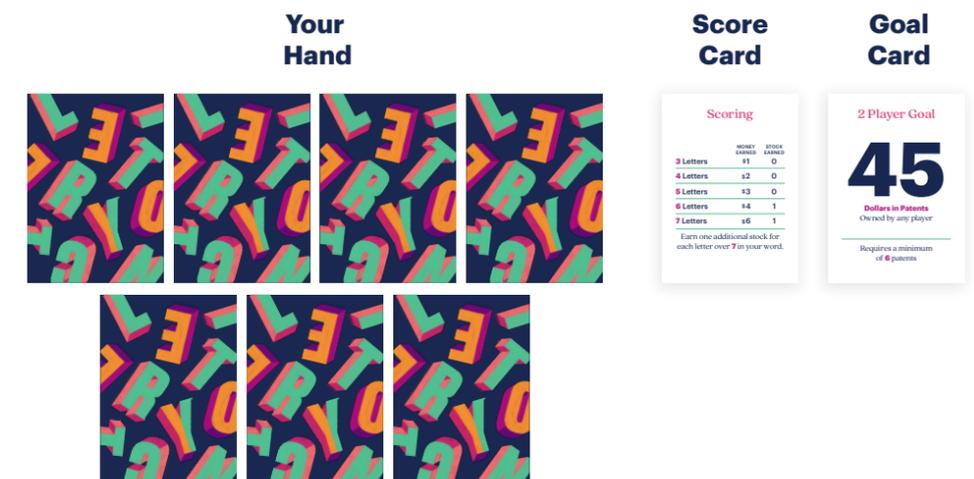
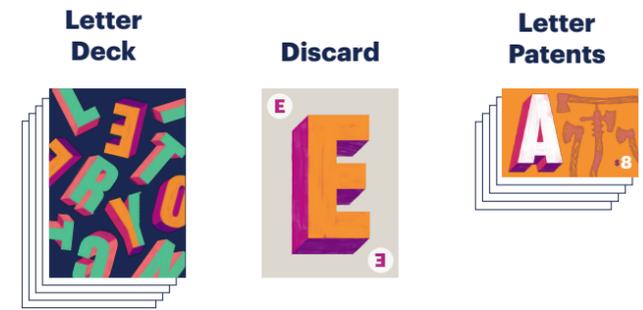
1 Letter Poster

## SET UP

- 1 Each player takes turns cutting the letter deck to expose a letter card. The player who cuts and reveals a card closest to "Z" is the starting player and keeps the patent stamp token for the game.
- 2 Shuffle the letter deck, dealing 7 cards to each player. Create a community pool of 3 face-up letter cards in the middle of the table. Place the remaining deck next to the community pool. Leave room for a discard pile.
- 3 Lay the letter patents out so all players can see them. Arrange these from A-Z or in any layout that is pleasing.
- 4 Place the coins and stocks within reach of the players. Players begin with no coins or stocks.
- 5 Give every player a score card. On the back of the score cards is a quick reference of letter frequency.

Set out a goal card (corresponding to the number of players). When any one player owns the target value in letter patents, the game ends.

Players must agree upon a dictionary (paper or digital) to resolve challenges. All words labeled as a part of speech are allowed provided they are at least three letters long and are not abbreviations, proper nouns, or words requiring an apostrophe or hyphen.



# PLAY

On your turn, take one of these two actions:

## Discard

Discard any number of letter cards from your hand and draw the same number from the letter deck. This completes your turn.

(or)

## Play a Word

Take the following steps in order...

### 1 Build a Word

Make a word using letter cards from your hand and from the community pool (and using any optional abilities from patents you own). At least one letter in your word must come from a card in your hand.

### 2 Earn Money & Stocks

Earn coins and stocks based on the length of your word:

	MONEY EARNED	STOCK EARNED
<b>3 Letters</b>	\$1	0
<b>4 Letters</b>	\$2	0
<b>5 Letters</b>	\$3	0
<b>6 Letters</b>	\$4	1
<b>7 Letters</b>	\$6	1

Earn one additional stock for each letter over **7** in your word.

### 3 Bank Pays Royalties

Each opponent receives payment of \$1 from the bank for each letter card played in your word matching a patent they own.

You do not earn royalties on your own patents.

If your word uses patent abilities to add to a word, those additions do not pay opponent royalties.

### 4 Buy a Patent

You may buy one patent (and only one) that **MATCHES** a letter card used (from your hand or the community pool) to form your word.

The cost to buy a letter is shown on both the letter and patent cards.

You pay the cost in coins to the bank.

### 5 Continue

First, any letter cards used from the community pool are discarded and replaced from the deck (bringing the pool back to 3 cards) so that the next player (clockwise from you) may begin their turn.

Second, you discard all played letter cards **PLUS** any others you choose from your hand, drawing from the deck to refill back to 7 cards. If the deck runs out, shuffle the discards to form a new deck.

## EXAMPLE OF PLAY



James's Hand



Community Cards

James takes a turn. He spots a word in the community cards, but he needs to use at least one letter from his hand. He discovers "J-E-W-E-L-S" buried among his options!

James opts to use the community 'E's and save his own letter 'E'.

James earns \$4 and 1 stock for his 6 letter word!



Stocks are rewards for longer words, but are not spendable income. James saves the stock for end game points.

Money, if unspent, is also worth points at the end of the game.



Rayne is the proud owner of an envelope patent ('E'), so she's excited to collect \$1 each for the 'E's used in James's word.

Luckily for James, Rayne collects royalties from the bank and not his supply!

James has no money from a previous turn, and has \$4 burning a hole in his pocket.

He may buy one patent corresponding to a letter in his word.

With \$4, James can afford the 'J', 'W' or 'L' or he can save his money. Generally, it's best to buy something, so he grabs that 'J' for its special power!

James now discards all cards played.

The used community cards, (in this case all of them) are replaced first. Rayne ponders a new set of letters.

In hand, James is left with an 'E', 'A', 'N' and 'Z'. He can discard any or all of those before drawing back up to 7 cards.

## SPECIAL RULES



Each 'Y' letter card in your word must be designated as either a consonant OR a vowel by you.

This may allow you to use a 'Y' in a grammatically incorrect

but strategic way to score patent abilities. See example on page 7.



If you play a word that uses the 'Q' letter card, double the coins and stocks gained. This is unique to this letter and is different than owning the Q patent.

Note that the double word scoring can stack with other patent abilities.

## CHALLENGES

After a player plays a word, but before the next player starts their turn, any player may challenge a word.

The agreed upon dictionary is consulted. In the case of multiple challenges, the player closest in clockwise order to the active player is the challenger.

**Yes** If the word is found to be acceptable the challenging player must pay \$1 to the active player. If the challenging player has no money, it comes from the bank.

**No** If the word is not acceptable, the active player takes back the letter cards played (and returns any coins and stocks earned with that word) and must discard one letter card from their hand and draw one from the deck. Their turn is now over.

## GAME END

When any player controls an amount of patents equal to or greater in value than the goal card in play, the last round is triggered.

Look to the patent stamp token! Each player clockwise from the starting player who has not yet acted is able to make one final play.

The winner is the player with the highest combined value of patents PLUS coins and stocks! If there is a tie, the player with the highest value in patents is the winner. Congrats on becoming the Letter Tycoon!

**2 Players** — \$45

**3 Players** — \$34

**4 Players** — \$26

**5 Players** — \$21

## LETTER PATENTS

Letter patents pay you \$1 in royalties from the bank for each matching letter card played in an opponent's word. You do not earn royalties on your own patents.

Additionally, some patents have special abilities that you may use no more than once per turn. A reference of these 7 abilities is on the back cover.

## EXAMPLE OF PLAY

Tristan owns \$25 in patents in a 4 player game with his family. (The game goal is \$26).

He knows that if he can buy ANY patent on his turn, he'll trigger the end game. Since his Dad and Mom have played this round (Dad has the patent stamp token), only his brother Aidan will be able to take a final turn.

Tristan finds a "Y-A-C-H-T" among his letters! That 'Y' can be used as either a vowel or a consonant for scoring. Using his 'K' patent special ability, he keeps it a consonant and scores \$6 - a DOUBLE score on his 5 letter word with only one vowel.

He uses his earnings to take control of the clock industry ('C') to end the game.

Aidan takes the final turn. He owns a zipper letter ('Z') so he's counting on boosting his word with an 'S' if possible. And then he sees it:

'S-K-Y-S-C-R-A-P-E-R-S!' (adding his own S for an 11 letter word worth \$6 and 5 stock!). Everyone else gets paid for their patents.



Aidan's Hand



Community Cards

Is it enough to win the game? Everyone counts their patents, money and stock to find out who has become the LETTER TYCOON!

## Credits

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#lettertycoon

*No letters were harmed in the wording of these rules.*

**B** Earn double if your word begins and ends in vowels.

Both coins and stocks are doubled.



Earn \$8 and 2 stock

**J** Earn double if vowels are at least half of your word.

Both coins and stocks are doubled.



Earn \$8 and 2 stock  
(Y as a vowel)

**K** Earn double if your word has only one vowel.

Both coins and stocks are doubled.



Earn \$4

**Q** You may replace a card to start your turn.

You may discard and draw before deciding whether to use your turn to build a word or discard factories.

**V** You may build two words.

Receive coins and stocks for each word individually. Other patent abilities can be applied to one word or the other, not both.



Earn \$1 and \$3

**X** You may use one letter card twice.  
You must use at least three letter cards.



Earn \$4 and 1 stock  
(use A twice)

**Z** You may add an 'S' to the end of your word.

This must form an acceptable word. You may not purchase an 'S' patent without using an 'S' letter. Also, other players do not earn royalties on this extended 'S'.



Earn \$3