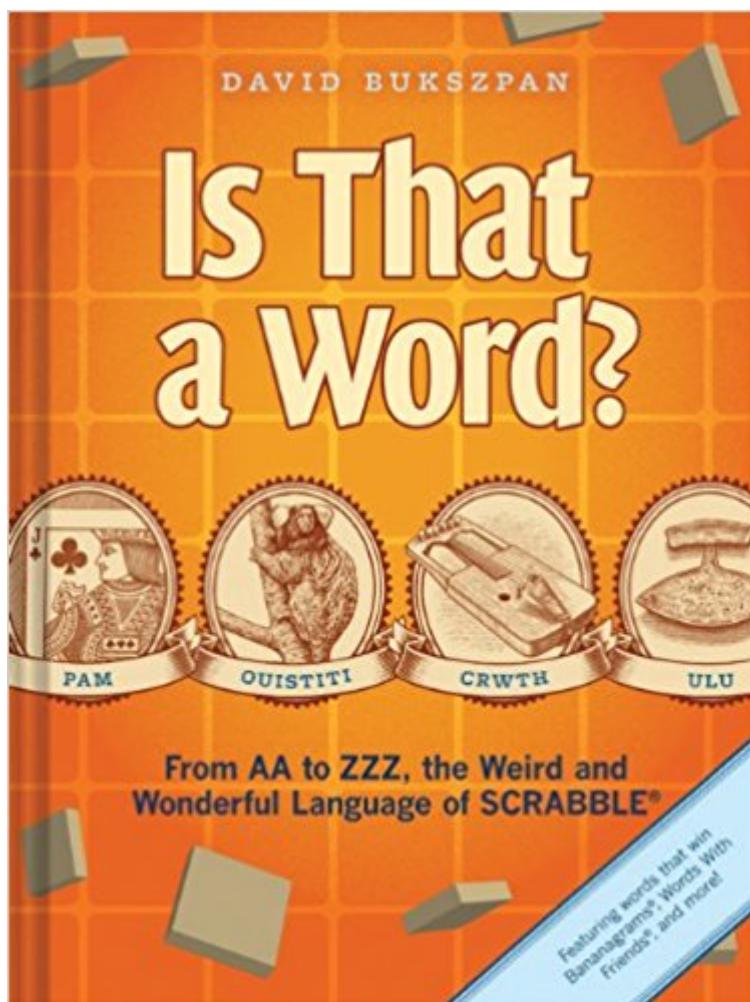


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# Is That A Word?: From AA To ZZZ, The Weird And Wonderful Language Of SCRABBLE



## Synopsis

Scrabble® aficionados may know that both "Brr" and "Brrr" are legitimate plays, but what about everyday names like Peter, Carl, and Marge? They're not listed as proper nouns, but they are certainly playable. For lovers of Scrabble®, Bananagrams®, and Words with Friends®, this lively guide helps readers make the most out of word games, packed with new ways to remember the best words alongside tips for improving game play and much more. Part strategy guide and part celebration of all things wordy, this collection of facts, tips, and surprising lists of playable words will instruct and delight the letterati.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A fresh, amusing, 21st-century guide to everything Scrabble." -Will Shortz, crossword editor, New York Times, and puzzlemaster, NPR "Guides and manuals tend to be grim, charmless things. But not this one! If you consider SCRABBLE (and/or its digital knockoffs) a small key pillar of modern civilization--or even just an intellectually nutritious way of killing time with friends and family--why wouldn't you immediately buy a book as smart and literate and companionable as the game you love to play?" -Kurt Andersen, host of Studio 360 "It's more than a dictionary or list of words to memorize. The way it's arranged by categories should make it easier to recall the words when next you play. And there are lots of surprises." -Psychology Today "Bukszpan makes learning some of the Scrabbish basics a lot of fun." -CNET "Bukszpan begins with a well-researched history of the origins and evolution of Scrabble and then moves on to discuss words that can be used when

playing the game. While admitting that the official Scrabble dictionary is the final authority, the author provides some unusual words and their backgrounds. The illustrations are few but are quaint and antique looking, as in old pen-and-ink sketches. The book describes mutations of the game as well as records that have been set and includes useful lists, curious facts, and a Scrabblish dictionary."-School Library Journal"4 stars" -LitPick

Za. Cwm. Alaska. Laura. Juba. Qi. Magneto. Rousseau. Tsktsk.What do these words have in common?Knowing them will help you master the board in games from SCRABBLE to Words With Friends and beyond.Part strategy guide, part celebration of all things wordy, Is That a Word? explores the often bizarre-but totally playable-words in the SCRABBLE dictionary. Combining tips, tricks, facts, word lists, and more, each page helps take an obsession with word games to the next level.Is That a Word? is your ticket to total word domination.Â

To begin with, to point out the obvious, the book was published in 2012 and thus does not cover anything in or about the Official Scrabble Players' Dictionary, Fifth Edition, published a year ago in August, 2014.I bought this as a \$1.99 "deal," and when I'd read the first part of it, I emailed a friend saying "I think you'd like this, grab it at the bargain price." Now I feel as if I gave her a bum steer. Everyone likes different things, of course, but I think it's a shame that doesn't give a "Look Inside the Book" on this one. You really need to decide whether you are interested in the last 3/4 of the book.The first part, Part 1, "The Story of Scrabble and Beyond," amounts to 25% of the book. I liked it. It has a lot of information on game history, history of the rival word lists and dictionaries. It has interesting observations, comments, and criticism of the word choices and definitions in "The Official Scrabble Players' Dictionary." It has some interesting records--words with maximum possible scores and such--and historical curiosa ("the lowest winning score ever is currently held by Helena Gauthier, who bet her opponent -9 to -11.")Part 2 of the book is nothing more than Bukszpan's compilations of themed groups of what he thinks are interesting Scrabble words. Yiddish Scrabble words, Scrabble words that are synonyms for "ghosts," Scrabble words that are names for different kinds of wind, and on and on and on and on and on. I was not charmed by his efforts to string some of these word collections together to give amusing usage examples: "At the next [Scrabble] table is some schlemiel who's schlepped his schlock in with him," etc.Part 3 of the book is really just more of the same. Instead of themed collections, he presents examples of what he calls "scrabblish," which are simply very densely packed sentences that seek to contain very high percentages of unusual Scrabble words: "Ae blae kae with twae alae hae nae wae if it leks well."So, 1/4 of the book is about

Scrabble itself, and related games. I liked it. The rest is a lightly facetious presentation of perhaps two or three thousand unusual Scrabble words. Is it valuable to serious players seeking to improve their game? I don't know. I suspect not, because in Scrabble nobody cares if you know the definitions, and many of these words are rather long and would be difficult to use in play.

The author goes through a list of the more egregious words in the Scrabble dictionary and provides their definitions. It's a lot of fun. I know lots of people simply learn the words but don't care what they mean. I on the other hand want to memorize not only the entire Scrabble dictionary word list, but also what each word means. This book is a good starting point for word nerds...or as I prefer to call us, word birds - raptors set to pounce on the appropriate word at the appropriate time when the tile gods bless us...

Entertaining and informative information. Nicely organized. Educational. Nice way to build your vocabulary for scrabble and other word games. My children and grandchildren love reading it.

Actually, I can't write a review because I bought the book for my brother who plays scrabble every afternoon with my dear sister-in-law. They said it was a good book and have already worn out an older one.

I got this for my word geek sister who plays Words With Friends all the time. She says she uses this book. I should have read through it just to improve my own vocabulary Ã ÂÃÃ

Book arrived today. More informed than I had hoped for....pleasantly pleased. This replaces my stack of dictionaries and thesaurus for fast look-ups. It will easily fit into a briefcase or travel bag. I absolutely love this book!

This is a fascinating book written by a lover of words, for lovers of words. It's a how-to manual for Scrabble, with inside tips and wonderful lists of unlikely words that are still legal (Scrabblish) words!

Great way for teaching new Scrabble players.

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Word Scrabble, Unscramble Word) Is That a Word?: From AA to ZZZ, the Weird and Wonderful Language of SCRABBLE How To Play Scrabble: Playing Scrabble Like A Pro! Discover The Scrabble Rules, Scrabble Basics, Advanced Scrabble Strategies And Unlock The Secrets Of The Scrabble Game! Unscrambled - The Ultimate Anagram Solver for Scrabble, Words With Friends, and most popular word games! (Word Buff's Totally Unfair Word Game Guides Book 3) Words of Wisdom: Scrabble as a Second language: how to play expert level Scrabble Word Search For Adult 100 Puzzles Book Volume1: Word Search Book Word Find Puzzles Large Print Game (Word Search Book For Adult 1) Random Scrabble Word Lists: And Tips To Help You Improve Your Word Game The Official Scrabble Brand Word-Finder: The Ultimate Playing Companion to America's Favorite Word Game Scrabble Strategy: The Secrets of a Scrabble Junkie My Scrabble Daffynitions: Words from the Scrabble computer game but with new humorous definitions How to Play Scrabble: Learn How You Can Quickly & Easily Master Playing Free Scrabble Online or Off The Right Way Even If You're a Beginner, This New & Simple to Follow Guide Teaches You How "DON'T F\*CK WITH ME I'M COLORING" ADULT COLORING, SWEAR WORD, CUSS WORD, NOVELTY GAG GIFT SWEAR COLORING FUN BOOK FOR HER: A Bad Attitude Bad Language Adult Cuss Word Coloring For Relaxation Book! The Wonderful World of Collecting Perfume Bottles Second Ed (Wonderful World of Collecting Perfume Bottles: Identification &) Secrets of Walt Disney World: Weird and Wonderful Facts about the Most Magical Place on Earth The Odd Brain: Mysteries of Our Weird and Wonderful Brains Explained 101 Ways to Become A World Champion: The most weird and wonderful championships from around the globe Clueless in Tokyo: An Explorer's Sketchbook of Weird and Wonderful Things in Japan Secret Cleveland: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful and Obscure Secret Louisville: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure Wild, Weird, and Wonderful: The American Circus 1901-1927 as seen by F. W. Glasier, Photographer

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