



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

New game takes the competition out of Scrabble

KEYWORDS

- Cooperate:**
Work together
- Adversary:** The person you're playing against, or your enemy
- Decried:**
Complained about
- Competitive:**
Trying to win



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Scrabble is a board game where players use tiles with letters to spell words. It was invented by Alfred Mosher Butts in 1938 and has been wildly popular since the 1950s. It's even been played on a space station, where the board had to be stuck to the ceiling!

Scrabble, the classic board game, has been given an update to let players work together rather than compete.

Double word score

In Scrabble, the word “**cooperate**” is worth 13 points. Actual cooperation, on the other hand, is worth nothing. The aim of the game is to beat your **adversary** (16 points) by coming up with the highest scoring words.

But times are changing. Mattel, the company that owns Scrabble, is issuing a

new version of the game, Scrabble Together.

In it you can collaborate, rather than compete.

Less hard Scrabble

It will also have cards that give you tips and will take less time to play.

Tile and error

Not everyone likes the idea of teaming up. Some have **decried** the decision to “dumb down” the world’s favourite word game.

On board

Others think that the new

version is inclusive fun for everyone.

Ray Adler, vice-president and global head of games at Mattel, described Scrabble Together as “ideal” for “anyone who's ever thought 'word games aren't for me'.”

Brett Smitheram, the 2016 World Scrabble Champion, said: “The game speaks to a trend in younger people who want to avoid **competitive** games, instead favouring teamwork and collaboration, working towards a fun goal together.”



INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

BUT IS RIVALRY GOOD FOR YOU?

WHAT
is the aim of
the original
Scrabble?

WHO
says Gen Z
doesn't want
competition?

WHERE
is the word
"cooperate"
worth 13
points?

WHEN
did Brett
Smitheram win
the Scrabble World
Championship?

WHY
do some people
not like the
change?

HOW
will the game
help players?

1 CHECK YOUR FACTS

Make sure you have all the facts before you start your investigation. Can you answer these questions?

2 KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS

Can you remember what these keywords mean? Match the word to the correct meaning.

1=D

2=

3=

4=

1. Cooperate

2. Adversary

3. Decried

4. Competitive

A. Complained about

B. Trying to win

C. The person you're playing against, or your enemy

D. Work together

3 LOOK AT ALL SIDES

There's always more than one side to every story. How might the people involved feel about the story?



People who love the old Scrabble



People who don't like competition



People who hate word games



People who have never played Scrabble



Happy



Sad



Calm



Excited



Surprised



Angry



Scared



Bored



Disgusted



Confused

4 DISCUSS THE QUESTION

But is rivalry good for you?

What do you think? Use the speaking prompts here to help you get started.

I disagree with...

I agree with...

I'm not sure about...

I'd like to know more about...

I think that...

I don't think that...



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5 REPORT BACK

Write, present or record a report that communicates your view. Share this with your class, family and friends. What's their opinion?