

Word Squares

Explain what a word square is and tell the children that their task is to complete the following and then to make some of their own to test their parents and friends.

The 3x3 grids are quite simple to complete, there are many different solutions to the examples on the task sheet. Here are some possible solutions.

	a	
a	r	e
	e	

t	a	p
a	r	e
p	e	n

b	a	t
a	r	e
t	e	n

c	a	t
a	r	e
t	e	a

	e	
e	m	u
	u	

b	e	t
e	m	u
t	u	b

p	e	n
e	m	u
n	u	t

b	e	g
e	m	u
g	u	n

	a	
a	c	e
	e	

p	a	t
a	c	e
t	e	n

m	a	n
a	c	e
n	e	t

r	a	g
a	c	e
g	e	t

It is worth pointing out that the central word through the 3x3 grid is always vowel/ consonant/vowel. This will help when the children design their own 3x3 word squares.

4x4 word squares are more complicated. Here are possible solutions for the examples on the homework task sheet.

s	n	o	w
n	n		
o	n	c	e
w	e		

s	n	o	w
n	i	n	e
o	n	c	e
w	e	e	k

f	l	o	g
l		v	
o	v	e	r
g		r	

f	l	o	g
l	o	v	e
o	v	e	r
g	e	r	m

d	a	f	t
a	b	l	e
f	l		
t	e		

d	a	f	t
a	b	l	e
f	l	e	a
t	e	a	m

Word Squares

Can you fill a square with a set of words that both go across and down at the same time?

Here are two examples using three letter words in a 3 x 3 grid.

b	i	n
i	c	e
n	e	w

m	a	t
a	t	e
t	e	n

Can you find a way to complete these three grids below?



	e	
e	m	u
	u	

	a	
a	r	e
	e	

	a	
a	c	e
	e	

As the square gets bigger, it becomes more difficult to make a 'word square'.

t	r	o	t
r	a	v	e
o	v	e	r
t	e	r	m

Can you now find a way to complete these 4 x 4 grids?



s	n	o	w	f	l	o	g
n		n		l		v	
o	n	c	e	o	v	e	r
w	e			g		r	

d	a	f	t
a	b	l	e
f	l		
t	e		

Try to make some grids of your own.

