

## Questions

### **Re: The Game of Scrabble**

Radio Interview - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 - 2AIRFM

These questions are in a specific order.

1. What is Scrabble? 2:30 sec.
2. Who invented it? 1:40 sec
3. Why is it called Scrabble? 30 sec
4. Why play Scrabble? 1:30 sec
5. Why should I join a Scrabble Club? 2:30 sec
6. What dictionary should I use? 3:00 mins.
7. Why are there weird words in the Scrabble Dictionary? 3:00 mins
8. What should I know? 2:30 sec
9. What is a good score in Scrabble? 1 min
10. How can I improve my Scrabble score? 1 min
11. How did you get interested in Scrabble? 1 min

That's eleven questions the volume has been turned up to 11!

These are some suggestions for songs to be played between breaks:-

- Words of love – the *Beatles*
- G.L.O.R.I.A. - *Them* featuring Van Morrison
- Words - the *Bee Gees*
- V.A.C.A.T.I.O.N. - *Connie Francis*
- Words - *Neil Young*
- D.I.V.O.R.C.E. - *Tammy Wynette*

<https://soundcloud.com/user147680538/community-interview-14th-march-2019>

## 1. *What is Scrabble?*

The game of Scrabble has been around since 1933 in one form or another in Western society, so I've always thought that everyone would have least heard of it. It wasn't until recently that I realised there are people out there who don't know what it is. Oddly enough, one of my relatives who is a very worldly character having run various clubs in his day, whom you would have thought was very knowledgeable brought this fact home to me, he was unaware of what it is. Globally, 30,000 games are commenced each hour. In Thailand, it is compulsory in schools as a way of learning the English language and around the middle of the year they hold the biggest tournament globally with around 10,000 contestants.

The game is sold in 121 countries and is available in 29 languages; approximately 150 million sets have been sold worldwide and roughly one-third of American and half of British homes have a Scrabble set. There are around 4,000 Scrabble clubs around the world. I should say 4,001 clubs as Coffs Scrabble Club has just been added. The Japanese play in English but have their rules in Japanese.

It is the second most popular game globally after 'Monopoly'. In regards, to 'Monopoly' the British Royal Family are forbidden to play 'Monopoly', but they are allowed to play 'Scrabble'. In fact Will & Kate play it on a regular basis, and I'm led to believe that if one of them is losing they pick the board up and throw it out the castle window. Will & Kate if you're listening please contact us we maybe able to help with your 'anger management' issues.

So, if you haven't heard of Scrabble I'm mind-boggled, nay flabbergasted. You would have heard of it but never paid no mind to it.

To answer the question, Scrabble is a word game played on a board, much like chess or checkers except in the case of Scrabble the board has a grid of 15 squares long by 15 squares wide. It involves 2-4 players forming words from a rack of seven letters or tiles in front of each player, each tile has just one letter on it with a certain value. The object of the game being, to cojoin existing words on the board with new ones, much like a crossword puzzle, words can only go horizontally or vertically, scoring points for each word and any new words formed in the process.

Players top-up their racks by redrawing from the tile bag. The game becomes progressively more difficult as the it goes on, as more words are gathered the further you are from the centre starting point on the board. So double letter points are nearest the middle, then double word scores, then triple letter scores. Triple word scores are furthest from the centre.

*Play continues till all the tiles are drawn, the first player to use all their remaining tiles is not necessarily the winner as the scores need to be tallied-up to declare who is the winner.*

## **2. Who invented it?**

The game was invented by Alfred Mosher Butts around 1932, the same year Johnny Cash was born. It wasn't until 1933 that he tried to market it. He was an out of work designer of buildings, due to the Great Depression, and had the idea of designing a game that encompassed a number features of other games on the market which might be appealing to the general masses, and therefore saw it as a means to earn an income, in difficult times.

He cut the tiles out of wood and used wooden architrave from a house as the rack. At first, he used to play on the floor or a table, without a board, with Nina his wife as the guinea pig opponent. Legend has it that she once scored 128 points on a first move with 'Quixote'. Initially, he used nine letters on a rack, until he found it too difficult and then decided on seven letters as the optimum number. He then designed a board with the bonus squares, with the starting point at the top left hand corner.

*To come up with the number of tiles for each letter, known as the tile distribution, he counted up the letter frequency from pages of a number of various newspapers at the time. He decided on 100 tiles, as it was easier to work out percentages. Despite popular belief, Scrabble is based on mathematics more than word power. In fact, the top players are mathematically inclined, looking for words that have the most chance of appearing given the tile distribution.*

### 3. *Why is it called Scrabble?*

In 1948, James Brunot took over marketing and changed the starting point on the board to the middle square and some bonus squares moved around and the name changed to 'Scrabble' a word meaning to *scrawl* or *scratch* around. Prior to that it had been called Lexiko and then Crisscross.

*When I talk about to scrawl or scratch around, I think of Levi Strauss & Jacob Davis the inventors/designers of denim jeans. There are a few theories about how they came up with the name 'denim', one being it's from French extraction. Nay, I think not, there is a simpler explanation. They wanted a hard wearing material for 'scrabbling' around the mines in the goldfields. If you 'scrabble' 'denim' backwards you have 'mined' a simple word they could easily have thought of. But then again I am a Scrabblor, I know not the meaning of words.*

#### 4. *Why play Scrabble?*

For recreation, as a hobby but mainly for the health of your brain. While people see the benefits of physical exercise most neglect the well-being of their brain – which requires exercise too. Even though your brain is not a muscle in the true sense, it reacts like a muscle. As you age your brain begins shrinking and it's this shrinking you need to arrest and create new neuron connections to avoid possible Dementia.

Fortunately, Dementia is not a symptom of getting older. The problem being; certain circumstances may make you susceptible to it including genetics, substances, chemicals, medical drugs, brain trauma etc. It takes 20-30 years for Dementia to manifest itself. There are over 100 types and the one you hear most often about, is Alzheimers. The reason being is that 70% of people in nursing homes with Dementia have this type.

On a scale of most important things to do:-

1. Learn a new language; or
2. Play a board or card game regularly; or
3. Regularly, do puzzles & quizzes that challenge you.

I believe Scrabble has all these ingredients. When you consider the average person's vocab only extends to about 30 - 40,000 words at most, learning the rest of our language is like learning a new language anyway. It also needs strategy and mathematical skills as well.

*A recent study conducted by the Mayo Clinic in the US confirmed that elderly people who'd kept up a hobby – such as arts & crafts, social activities (board games etc) or computer use – since middle age were less likely to be affected by Dementia. It's due to a phenomenon called “cognitive reserve” - or the mind's resistance to damage of the brain. It's thought that complex activities boost new brain cells, which means less **atrophy** (Bingo) & shrinkage.*

## 5. *Why should I join a Scrabble Club?*

Besides the social interaction of playing in a club, it is quite different to what experts call “kitchen table” Scrabble – friendly, easy going matches played at family gatherings.

In addition, it is completely different to playing against a computer, which at the present time doesn’t understand strategy nor against a human competitor on the Internet who may be using any number of devices to win.

At this point, I should say, strategy sits on top of word power. Carl Sagan once said:-

*“Knowing a great deal is not the same as being smart. Intelligence is not information alone but also judgement, the manner in which information is collected and used.”*

Obviously the more you know the better decisions you can make. Scrabble is to a degree a game of luck, and the more you know the luckier you get. Because of the luck factor involved with the tiles you pull out of the bag, tournaments are played over a number of games in an endeavour to even-out the tile distribution. Sometimes, as you undoubtedly know the tiles are against you. Will & Kate know this, all too well.

In Clubs - play is usually one-on-one. This gives players a 50-50 chance of accessing a good tile spread. On occasions an odd number of players may turn up, then 3 to a board is not uncommon. However, some social players prefer to play 4 to a board.

So what are the advantages of playing in a Club:-

- you are more likely to learn the complexities of the game;
- will be made aware of any new changes or development of the game;
- you will be aware of the current interpretation/clarification of the rules;
- you will learn mnemonics tips & tricks to remember lists of words;
- support for tournament play, if you are inclined;
- social interaction with like-minded individuals;
- in our Club I produce a weekly informative Newsletter;
- players within the Club will assist you in your Scrabble education;
- your brain will thank you: &
- and more importantly have some ‘fun’.

## 6. *What dictionary should I use?*

### **The Dictionary:**

In worldwide Scrabble clubs & tournaments the following applies:-

*In the USA & Canada* – the Scrabble patent is distributed by Hasbro and therefore they default to the Meriam-Webster Official Dictionary. *Israel* is included as far as using the Meriam- Webster.

*The Rest of the World* – the Scrabble patent by Hasbro was given to Mattel for distribution outside North America and therefore they default to the Collins Scrabble Dictionary (CSD) at present the 4<sup>th</sup> edition. However, there was a period where the Chambers Dictionary was used and had the publishing rights.

*For International Competitions & Tournaments* – there is an International Official List. Scrabble is the only International contest/sport where swear words are allowed.

### **Compare the Pair?:-**

*Meriam-Webster*

- doesn't contain offensive or swear words;
- does contain American slang;
- & some other words Collins does not;
- however for tournament play the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary is augmented to include the 'sanitised' words & expands the list to 190,000 words.

*Collins*

- contains offensive & swear words;
- contains about 90,000 more words than Meriam-Webster;
- contains words of 2-9 letters;
- in tournament play Collins Scrabble Word List of 276,000 words is used;
- there are three versions on the market all with the same cover,
  - a) the 4<sup>th</sup> edition'
  - b) the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition,
  - c) the family friendly version – swear words edited;
  - d) new edition out in May 2019.

### **How has a Scrabble Dictionary occurred?**

Back in the early 70's the North American Scrabble Players Association realised there was a need to have a specific Scrabble Dictionary, suited to the game. This is due to the fact, of the existing on offer – no two dictionaries were identical with all the same words. They decided to approach Meriam-Webster publishing for a combined dictionary of the 5 collegiate dictionaries in 1976. It wasn't until 1978 (some suggest publication date in 1976?) that a specific Scrabble Dictionary was published.

Initially, the Meriam-Webster did contain the offensive & swear words but due to one irate lady who objected and created a groundswell of discontent and signatures, the publishers finally relented and deleted them. It seems in America, words are more important than the lives of children being slaughtered in schools?

For your average everyday dictionary it takes about 5 years for a word to be included in it by lexicographers. The criteria are that the word has to be in common use and not a transient word or

fad word that disappears overnight and should be in common use for a period of time, say, at least 5 years.

However, the Scrabble Dictionary is regularly updated sometimes every 3 years, and the new inclusions are decided by an International Scrabble Committee. The new words are decided on a number of factors, such as on a need basis to enhance the game and also in consideration of the different countries/languages involved and the formation of new words that have come into existence/use since the last update. This maybe different to your average dictionary.

The lexicographers of the average dictionary drop words it deems out-of-date and adds new updated words with each new edition, in other words it needs to be relevant for the times. If this wasn't the case, the everyday dictionary would be enormous with words dating back before Shakespeare's time. In Shakespeare's time only about 50-60,000 words were in use/existence, no wonder he/his cohorts decided to invent new words.

The Scrabble Dictionary is different, in that it endeavours to keep old words and add new words. The reason, well, if you learn a list of words and someone decides to drop some of them, wouldn't you be slightly disgruntled. Remember this is how champions succeed by learning lists. I'll give you a case in point. In North America they decided to drop '**da**' from the Meriam-Webster, John Chew an official of the North American Scrabble Association received death threats & obscene emails for ten years before they relented & re-instated '**da**' to the dictionary. That's how serious some players take their Scrabble. By the way, there's some debate in Scrabble circles about changing the value of the letter 'Q' because we now have 'Q' words without the 'u'. I'd like to see how that goes down.



## 7. ***Why are there weird words in the Scrabble Dictionary?***

The English language has what is called the ‘openness of vocabulary’. That is, it borrows from over 350 languages. These ‘calque’ or ‘loanwords’ litter our language, I still don’t see why they are called ‘loanwords’ we won’t be giving them back anytime soon, I’m sure.

Some may seem strange words to present day society but take the two letter word ‘**ut**’ for example. If you remember the movie ‘The Sound of Music’ where Julie Andrews sings “Doe a female deer etc.” is called the sol-fah scale (proper name is ‘solfege’ valid scrabble word) although previously written as:-

**ut re mi fa sol la si**

was written over a thousand years ago by medieval monks teaching students to sing the hymns and psalms, the first syllable of each line of the latin words of the ‘Hymn to St. John the Baptist’.

However, ‘ut’ was changed in the 1600s in Italy to the open syllable ‘do’, after the first syllable of the surname of Giovanni Doni.

Then in the nineteenth century Sarah Glover changed the ‘si’ to ‘ti’, so that every syllable might begin with a different letter, this scale is called tonic sol-fah scale. Miss Glover’s idea was to make music learning accessible for all not just the wealthy. All these words and their variant spellings are valid Scrabble words.

	ree	mee					
	reh	meh	faa				
	<b>do</b>	<b>re</b>	<b>mi</b>	<b>fa</b>	<b>sol</b>	<b>la</b>	<b>ti</b>
	doh	ray	me	fah	soh	lah	te
	ut				so		si

I should mention some loanwords were imported ‘en masse’ such as music words are Italian & Ballet words are French.

Let’s take another example the words ‘**def**’ and ‘**ghi**’, you use these in your day-to-day life. ‘def’ means -very good’ & ‘ghi’ is the Indian butter, ghee. However, that is not how you would recognise them. Just like how Scrabble champions & people from other languages might recognise them as a group of letters that may mean something. If you look on the keypad of your phone you will see them as groups of three letters against the dialling numbers. Not so strange after all?

I’ll do another example:- **Octopi**.

**Octopi** origin is from the mistaken assumption that the -us ending in the word **octopus** (plural **octopuses**), is from Latin origin and not Greek origin. The story goes that years ago a journalist wrote an article thinking that it was a Latin derivative.

Since then it has fallen into common usage and thus absorbed into the language and into several dictionaries including our own Scrabble Dictionary..

I do know that sometimes there are mistakes added (typos, or usually wrong extensions.. eg CAZH is a word. but you apparently cannot be more so, even though the US crowd assumed you could, for a while, but are now removing it.

Other reasons for removing might be copyright - eg TEFLON has been in and out of various dictionaries.

pH was removed a few years back - even though it has a small letter to begin with, it was seen as being in the same category as EMF, which was also removed, ie an unacceptable abbreviation. These are always tricky, like OK, which is coming in ..

no-one I know says "oc", but apparently, somewhere in the world, they do so, whereas ee-em-ef, was the only way that EMF was ever pronounced

It will certainly be interesting to see what Collins has removed, as they usually don't remove any - I suspect it is mostly longer words that they feel have been "made-up".

PERCOLIN.

Years ago (about 20?), a dictionary manufacturer added the made-up word PERCOLIN to its dictionary (I believe it was Chambers) - the purpose was to be able to check if anyone had abused their copyright, by importing their entire dictionary, including PERCOLIN (a non-word). They defined it as a cross between a quail and a partridge. Now, I don't know much about genetics, but the practical issue of a tiny bird breeding with a much larger bird, is hard to imagine!

I believe Collins have taken up that, but there is now a drug of that name. Check out Zyzyva - still a phantom bird!

Take the words 'uncle' & 'aunt', there was a period in English where the preposition 'an' had a chequered history, the 'n' part sorted of difted backwards and forwards onto words. You'll still find the remnants of that in the dictionary in the form of 'nuncle' & 'aunt' which you'll find in Shakespeare's King Lear.

Some words entered the dictionary via other means. Take for example the UN Phonetic Alphabet. This is the lingo you would have heard in Vietnam war movies. It is also being used today by businesses to clarify the spelling of words over the phone. You should also use it, as it will help cement the words into your brain for Scrabble use.

Character	Telephony	Letter Spelling	Plural
A	<i>alpha or alfa</i>	<b>a</b> - n/a	<i>aes</i>
B	<i>bravo</i>	<b>bee</b>	<i>bees</i>
C	<b>charlie</b>	<b>cee</b>	<i>cees</i>
D	<i>delta</i>	<b>dee</b>	<i>dees</i>
E	<i>echo</i>	<b>ee</b>	<i>ees</i>
F	<i>foxtrot</i>	<b>ef or eff</b>	<i>Efs or effs</i>
G	<i>golf</i>	<b>gee</b>	<i>gees</i>
H	<i>hotel</i>	<b>aitch</b>	<i>aitches</i>
I	<b>india</b>	<b>I or ay</b>	<i>ies or ayes</i>
J	<b>juliet</b>	<b>jay</b>	<i>jays</i>
K	<i>kilo</i>	<b>kay</b>	<i>kays</i>
L	<b>lima</b>	<b>el or ell</b>	<i>els or ells</i>
M	<i>mike</i>	<b>em</b>	<i>ems</i>
N	<b>november</b>	<b>en</b>	<i>ens</i>
O	<b>oscar</b>	<b>o-</b> n/a	<i>oes</i>
P	<i>papa</i>	<b>pee</b>	<i>pees</i>
Q	<b>quebec</b>	<b>kue</b> or cue	<i>kues or cues</i>
R	<b>romeo</b>	<b>ar</b>	<i>ars</i>
S	<b>sierra</b>	<b>ess or es</b>	<i>esses</i>
T	<i>tango</i>	<b>tee</b>	<i>tees</i>
U	<i>uniform</i>	<b>u-</b> n/a	<i>ues</i>
V	<i>victor</i>	<b>vee</b>	<i>vees</i>
W	<i>whiskey</i>	Not applicable	<i>to Scrabble</i>
X	<b>xray</b>	<b>ex</b>	<i>exes</i>
Y	<i>yankee</i>	<b>wye</b>	<i>wyes</i>
Z	<b>zulu</b>	<b>zee</b> or <b>zed</b> (izzard)	<i>zees or ze</i>

## 8. *What should I know?*

Two unwritten laws of Scrabble are; a) learn the two letter words ;&  
b) don't waste your 'S's & Blanks.

The player who goes first has a 54% chance of winning. So each player should draw one tile each from the bag to see who goes first. The closest to 'A' goes first but if a blank is drawn it precedes the 'A'. If players draw the same letter, they draw again.

Try not to place vowel letters next to triple or double letter squares. This is very important if you are the one who has just won the first move play.

You can change letters at any time, as long as there are at least seven tiles left in the bag. This is in lieu of playing a word. You may exchange any number you wish. This is particularly important if you have poor tiles on your rack. Place the discarded tiles on the table face down & draw your fresh tiles then place the discarded tiles into the bag.

You can pass at any time without drawing tiles. This point has not been clarified properly in the past.

Maximise the use of the triple & double letter squares. They provide the best scoring opportunities when used horizontally & vertically in the same move.

You'll need to know the Scrabble terminology as well:-

- rack leave – that is, the tiles left on your rack after you put your tiles on the board;
- rack balance – that is, trying to keep an equal number of vowels & consonants on your rack, this gives you a better chance of forming words. The most used letters in English are A,E, O, & L. However, with Scrabble because of Bingo formation & tile distribution the best tiles to keep are ADEILNRST;
- Bingo - is a seven letter word where you gain 50 extra points. It is a word the North Americans use, generally the rest of the world uses the word Bonus score. But we prefer Bingo, as opposed to a bonus score on the board squares, compared to forming a word on your rack. Besides that considering the hard work that goes into forming seven letter words, Bingo sounds more dynamic; With the Collins Dictionary the Bingo with the most chance of occurring on your rack is 'otarine' anagram'notaire';
- In addition, the four 'S's and two blanks are your most powerful tools, do not be frivolous with them. You should be only using them in situations for a Bingo or getting 25 or more points, some say 30 points. Of course, if you end up with 3 or 4 of them on your rack that's a different matter. They are considered the power tiles along with the 'J,X,Q & Z'. A word of warning with the J,X,Q & Z, DON'T hang onto them too long as they tend to clog up your rack use them ASAP.
- The terminology list is extensive, but others you need to know, which I won't go into, are anagrams, alphagrams & stems. These are techniques for forming Bingos but for the novice the simplest way of forming Bingos is to see if you have a prefix (un, re, de, be, out & over) or a suffix ( ing, ier, ed, ous, iest, ate, ful, & ion) on your rack that will form a word.

**To 'Learn' or to 'Memorise Dilemma:**

A decision often faced by new participants into the game of Scrabble is whether to 'learn' or 'memorise'. To 'learn' means to think of the word in relation to its meaning- nothing wrong with that. If you go down the path to 'learn' words. For the average citizen, it will take a very, very long time for your brain to absorb the information. It's akin to overloading and confusing the brain at the same time.

Whereas to 'memorise' is to recognise a group of letters as a valid word. To 'memorise' is a more natural way to learn. If you look at how a child first learns the language, he/she learns to say and identify a word before actually knowing what it means. At 8 months babies can recognise groups of sounds and can distinguish word boundaries. Although they recognise these sound groups as words they may not know what the words mean. It is not until 12 months of age can they attach meanings to the words. By this age they have a vocab of around 50 words. In other words the meaning comes later. And so it is with Scrabble, you will come to know what the words mean over time.

Top players when asked, "What's that word mean" will often reply, "I don't know I'm only a Scrabble player". Let that be your mantra.

You'll need to know the rules. The main problem being; as each new version of the game was released, the rules varied slightly in an attempt to clarify them. To explain them properly would take up too much time for this forum. However, copies are available from within the Club.

Just to get your head around the three different types of challenge rules is an exercise on its own for the novice. Just like backyard cricket you keep it simple but to play properly you need the adjudicator rule book. The rule book is there because problems have occurred in the past or certain points need clarification and to save arguments that will occur from time-to-time.

Of course in backyard cricket some players maybe intoxicated which is not allowed in competition cricket.

*Although, we are not at the stage of drug testing Scrabble players yet, especially with some of the drugs some players have to take due to medical conditions, I am not surprised.*

## **9. What is a good score in Scrabble?**

Well, there's three ways I can answer that question:-

- for the average player around 300-350 using the Collins Dictionary; good player range 400 -500 ; or
- add both players score together and if it's more than 750 you have played a competition score, although 600-700 is pretty good; or
- a better way to judge your score is to take an average of your score over the entire game, if it averages out around 30 per turn you're in the expert range.

You need to play one-on-one to get a high score. Playing four to a board gives each player less tiles to use and therefore lower scores.

And if you've really want to lift your score, you've always got the grandkids to play against.

### 10. *How can I improve my Scrabble score?*

Top of the list, you'll need to know all the **two letter words**, there's 124 of these. Some of them you already know. Then learn the three letter words.

I know there are some people at the shopping centre who have jumped straight to the four letter words but with only a couple of 'F's, 'C's & 'K's and 4x 'S's & 2x blanks they'll soon run out of letters and you'll be all over them.

Secondly, as previously stated :-

#### ***DON'T WASTE YOUR 'S's & BLANKS!***

Top players typically '**memorise**' lists of words without reference to their meaning – this is a type of short-cut learning. Eventually you will get to know the words and their meaning, you're planting a small seed that will grow. Of course, not all of us are inclined to want to memorise tedious lists of words, just do small lists then and don't clutter the brain, there are tips & tricks to help in the learning process that may be more enjoyable for you. With the three letter word list there is around 1400 words, however if you disregard the words you know it becomes more manageable. You can narrow it down to about 400 words or so, you've just decluttered the list and made it easier. In addition, there are some interesting two & three letter games on the internet, that test you and are a fun way of learning.

Learn **hook words**. That is, words that can take an extra letter. The two letter words can all take an extra letter at the front/back. You need to look at words differently. Hooking requires a subtle change in a player's thought process, in that, you must look at words on the board without becoming distracted by their pronunciation.

*Hooks are an important strategy for Bingo formation.*

**Word choices** are important. Say you had a choice of either putting down the word 'lion' or 'loin' both composed of the same letters, which would you chose? I know that the only extension for 'lion' is by adding an 's' to get 'lions' - however - I also know that with 'loin' I can add either an 'a' or an 'e' to the front and an 's' to the back, giving me not one but 5 possible variants, I also know 'loin' can take 'es' to the front. Now which would you chose?

Napoleon Bonaparte once said "*You must not fight too often with one enemy, or you will teach him all your art of war.*"

One of the problems for the beginner is, we all carry around a unique dictionary in our heads due to life experiences. If I play the same person on a regular basis, I can work-out what that dictionary contains, and counter it by studying up on the hooks for those words the opponent is inclined to use and thereby gaining some advantage. However, the disruption to this strategy comes when a person starts to deviate from their set pattern of words by studying new lists. I'm afraid we are all creatures of patterns or habits.

*Finally, you should read all the books you can about Scrabble. Just be careful of the American books, insofar as the words, as they use the Meriam-Webster Dictionary, as I've*

*previously stated and the double challenge rule which I find adds a bit of spice to the game. There are three types of challenge rules.*

### ***11. How did you get interested in Scrabble?***

I had played it on and off for years but it wasn't until my daughter started a book business that it really took-off. In the course of helping her she would discard a lot of books, which included Scrabble books. I started to read one, then another and so-on. Then one day a book came my way that completely changed the way I thought about Scrabble. I've read most of the books on Scrabble, there a few I've yet to find.

And here I am today talking about it.

Unfortunately in this day and age, you need to realise that technology has made the mind lazy, where once we would remember phones numbers etc, or pass stories on by word of mouth to each generation or do mathematics in our head, there is not the need to do so anymore. We must find new ways to exercise the mind or lose it, as they say.

If you are interested:-

*The Coffs Scrabble Club meet every Wednesday in the Vista Lounge (or the Bingo room) of CEX Coffs between 1-4pm.*

