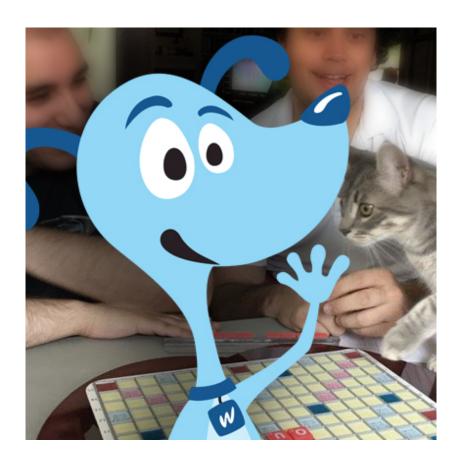
Woogles Quick-Start Guide

Updated Summer 2025



Above: Woogles waves hello

GREETINGS, NEW WOOGLER!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

This guide will give you a sense of <u>Woogles.io</u>, so you can familiarize yourself with its nuances and start playing right away!

WHAT IS WOOGLES?

Woogles is a nonprofit word literacy and gaming organization! Our flagship game OMGWords stands for "Orthogonal Morphemes Game." Another popular variant game we offer is WordSmog in which all jumbled anagrams of words are valid plays, leading to some HUGE scores! We also offer puzzles and other ways to challenge yourself.

Scroll on to read more!

WELCOME TO WOOGLES!

Best wishes from the Woogles Team,
Andy, Ben, Cesar, Chris, Conrad, Doug, Jesse, Josh, Lola (retired) & Will (retired)

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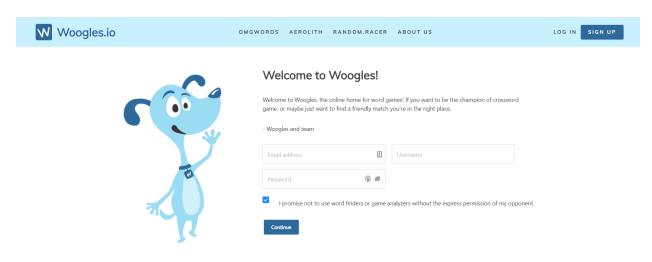
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01 / SIGNING UP

CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

Signing up is as easy as going to <u>Woogles.io</u> and clicking the large blue <u>SIGN UP</u> button at the top. You'll need: (1) email address, (2) username, and (3) password. You can only have one account. Choose a strong password and don't share it with anyone, not even your pet.



PLAYING FAIRLY

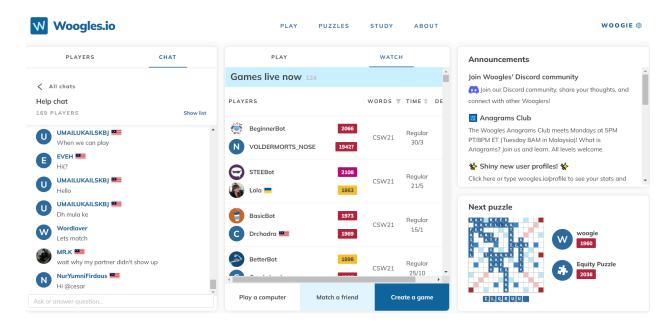
Woogles promotes playing fairly. Click the "I promise not to use word finders or game analyzers without the express permission of my opponent" box (rated only). Using external assistance to strengthen your knowledge or calculation ability to gain an unfair advantage is forbidden. We consider all of the following to be instances of cheating (not exhaustive): (a) Using a computer engine to assist your play; (b) using word lookup tools to assist your play on either desktop or smartphone platforms; (c) asking another player for help during a game; (d) using online broadcasts/commentary of your game in progress to assist your play; (e) observing your own game on Woogles.io with a second account. Woogles reserves the right to determine what we consider to be cheating. We are not required to disclose and will not disclose the precise methods our detection algorithms use.

Once you submit your information, Woogles will instantly create your account and you are logged in and ready to play. Your username will appear in place of the **LOGIN** button.

02 / SITE LAYOUT

LOBBY

The LOBBY is the main page on <u>Woogles.io</u>. Think of it as your 24-hour Woogles gaming concierge, containing three consoles (left to right): **CHAT, GAMES,** and **ANNOUNCEMENTS**.



CHAT CONSOLE

The CHAT CONSOLE contains two tabs: PLAYERS and CHAT. Here's how to use them.

The PLAYERS TAB: This helps arrange players easily. At the top, you'll see the "Search players" box, which shows alphabetized username results for some or all of three groups:

FRIENDS: Players you have added to your friends list;

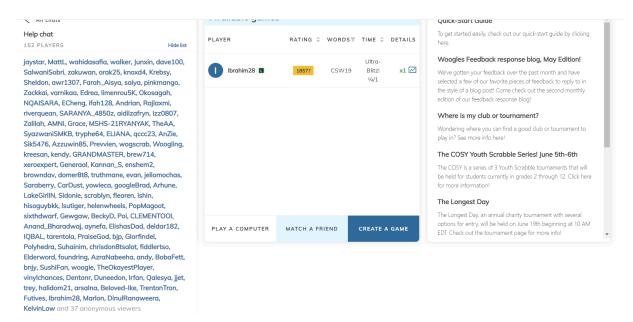
IN LOBBY: Players hanging out on Woogles - not playing, examining or watching; & **ALL PLAYERS**: Players matching your search; i.e., if you search for "bnjy," your results would show "bnjy," but also "BnjysDad," BnjysMom," and "bnjyscreepyuncle."

Once you add a player to your friends list, you can see what they are doing whenever they're online; for example, "Watching OMGWords." A green dot on someone's icon means they're hanging out in the Lobby or watching. The blue square identifier means they're playing or examining a game. Clear the "Search players" box by clicking the 'x' at the far

right, or use the backspace key. Your offline friends are italicized and grayed out. To add a friend, click their username. You can Chat, View Profile, Match user, Add friend, and Block.

The CHAT TAB lets you chat with other players. The three ways to chat on Woogles are: Help Chat, Game/Observer Chat and Personal Chat. Here is an overview.

HELP CHAT is available to all users, with the most recent message at the bottom. Type your question(s) in the box that says "chat...", hit Enter, and someone will answer you soon. Help Chat is for seeking help, not for making game requests, chatting, etc., so please be mindful of your personal conduct. Admins and moderators may moderate users as needed. Note: "Anonymous" players who are new to the site can watch, chat, and view profiles but not play games until they create an official Woogles account.



Next, GAME CHAT is at your disposal using the same click-type-Enter pattern. When you're playing a game it's called Game Chat; when observing it's called OBSERVER CHAT. Players can't see comments made in the Observer Chat, and observers can't see the Game Chat. Help Chats and Game Chats will vanish after some message threshold is passed.



Third, PERSONAL CHAT lets you talk to others privately. Personal Chat is available in the Lobby and during games. Click "+NEW CHAT," type in a username, and begin chatting!

Alternatively, in the Lobby, hover your cursor over any username and click "MESSAGE." Inactive Personal Chats will go away after a few days. You can start new chats anytime! To switch to another Personal Chat, Help Chat, or Game/Observer Chat:

- use the < BACK ARROW to view ALL CHATS
- hover over the chat you want
- click to resume

YOUR CHATS will save all of your direct chats in one convenient place! Woogles allows you to chat in multiple rooms simultaneously by opening multiple browser tabs or windows.

GAMES CONSOLE

In the GAMES CONSOLE, you can view all active game requests. Clicking any open request will accept it and start the game right away. Please note the detailed game parameters in the request to make sure they're acceptable to you. Now, go get your game face on!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONSOLE

The ANNOUNCEMENTS CONSOLE shows updates, tournament information, important links, and so on, with the most recent message at the top. Woogles' Tournament and Club calendar is linked here, as well our Discord, donation link, and Bug Reporting & Feedback Form. Additional announcements can be found on our social media pages.

PROFILE

In your profile you can see your Player Bio, <u>Settings</u>, <u>Ratings</u>, <u>Game History</u>, <u>and Stats</u>; and log out. Most customizable options can be found in Settings. Here's how to find your profile:

- In a game you're playing, click the link in the bottom right under your username; or
- In the LOBBY, hover over your username in the top right and click View Profile; or
- Go straight to any profile manually: https://woogles.io/profile/[ANYUSERNAME]

SETTINGS

Access your <u>Settings</u> by clicking your username menu or the "Edit settings" button in your profile at top right. Use the following handy ways to customize your Woogles experience. NOTE: For any changes to take effect, you must click the blue <u>SAVE</u> button at the bottom.

Personal Information

- -Profile Picture (Not required)
- -Player Bio (Markdown formatting-friendly)
- **-Date of Birth** (This will not be displayed)
- **-Email** (Required)
- -Name (Required)
- **-Country,** the flag for which will display next to your name in games (not required)
- -Account Deletion (THIS ACTION IS IRREVERSIBLE!)

Change Password

This setting requires your old password before you choose a new one. If you can't remember, you can reset it using your email address.

Preferences

- -Display: Dark Mode is a darkened color scheme; toggle to your heart's content
- -Default tile order: Alphabetical; Vowels/Consonants/Blanks first; Descending points
- -Tile style: Choose from 12 colors of tiles
- -Board style: Choose from 11 colors of boards

Block Players

Though it's unlikely you'll need to, you can block players by clicking their username, in the Lobby chat or on their profile, and then "Block this user." Woogles will then ask you to refresh your browser. Blocked players can't see when you're online and you can't see when they are online either. You can view each other's profiles and games, however.

Secret Features

Please use these toggleable experimental features at your own discretion. They may be limited in functionality or impact your Woogles experience. (<u>Click here</u> for more info.)

- -Telestrator: Draw on the board while playing useful for streamers
- -Blindfold: Enable text-to-speech keyboard commands. (Jackson beats HastyBot!)
- **-Lexicons:** Enable all lexicons (instead of just the most common ones)
- -WordSmog: A variant game type where all anagrams of words are valid
- -Show equity loss: Shows the equity loss in Analyzer (in approximate point values)
- -Enable silent site: Mutes all sounds on the Woogles site

Log Out

This button logs you out, or you can click your username in the Lobby or in your profile.

Support Woogles

Help us keep Woogles.io going!

We're an entirely volunteer-run 501(c)(3) non-profit. If you're enjoying the site, please feel free to <u>contribute</u> a few dollars to us!

Want to make an automated donation? Check out Woogles' Patreon!

Thank you all for your generous support!

RATINGS

In the Woogles rating system, you earn separate ratings for each word list and timer variant you play. At the beginning of your Woogles career, your Ratings, Game History, and Stats will be blank. Once you've played a few games, you'll see meaningful information displayed in these fields. Our rating system becomes more accurate the more you play. Ratings can be a fun way to track your progress across various parameters over time.

Ratings are based on complex algorithms and will fluctuate in your first few games before beginning to stabilize, so don't be discouraged by an initial rating that seems not to be in the range you're used to. Moreover, Woogles ratings are only an approximation of relative strength within your rating pool and can't be meaningfully compared to any other rating system. Your rating is not an absolute determinant of your playing strength. Thus, player ratings will vary over the natural course of playing many games on Woogles.

(Note: Disregard the Deviation column of the ratings module for now. For a technical explanation, stay tuned for more in-depth posts forthcoming.)

GAME HISTORY

Game History in your profile lives below Ratings and is a living record of your games. This is where you're able to view, replay, and <u>examine</u> any game you've played. Woogles records the date; opponent; result; final score; who went first; whether the game ended normally, timed out, or resulted in resignation; dictionary used; time settings; and challenge and rating rules. We're proud to say that this living archive is the first of its kind!

STATS

Under your Game History, you can see your total games played, win-loss record, avg. scores per game and turn, opponent's avg. score per game, and avg. bingos per game. Note: A "bingo" is when you use all of your tiles on the same play. A heart icon will denote your bingos in the turn-by-turn list of plays during a game.

Now that you understand the basic design of the site, let's get on to the real reason you're on Woogles in the first place: <u>PLAYING GAMES!</u>

03 / PLAYING GAMES

MATCH REQUESTS

The three ways to start playing OMGWords on Woogles are: friend vs. friend (MATCH A FRIEND), human vs. bot (PLAY A COMPUTER), and human vs. human (CREATE A GAME or click an open match). At the bottom of the Games Console, you'll see three buttons:

- PLAY A COMPUTER
- MATCH A FRIEND
- CREATE A GAME

PLAY A COMPUTER

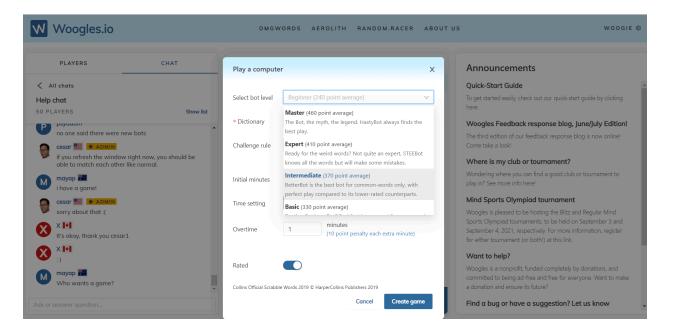
PLAY A COMPUTER lets you start a game against one of our five artificial-intelligence bots:

- HastyBot: The original (and toughest) cookie to crumble. Makes incredible word finds.
- **STEEBot:** ("**S**ixteen **T**o **E**ighteen-hundred **E**xpert") Not quite an expert, knows all the words but will make some mistakes. Still, STEEBot is a very strong player.
- **BetterBot:** The best bot for common words only, with perfect play compared to its lower-rated counterparts.
- BasicBot: Scores more than BeginnerBot, but still emphasizes common words.
- BeginnerBot: Sticks to relatively lower-scoring plays and common words.

Your match will begin once you select the match options and hit "Create game." Bots can play unlimited opponents simultaneously, and you can play them as often as you want.

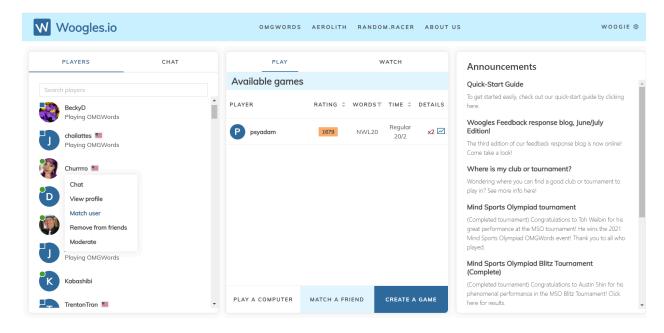
During game play, Woogles bots play instantaneously, using zero time off their clocks. Thus, it may feel like your clock is draining faster than usual, as your timer is always ticking. This may feel like a double-edged sword. If you need to adjust the timer setting, feel free to do so.

While HastyBot is quite the tough cookie to crumble, it's neither infallible nor programmed to win at any cost. (Our code is open-source to verify this!) Even HastyBot makes the occasional odd play. Sometimes, there's no substitute for old-fashioned human brain power!



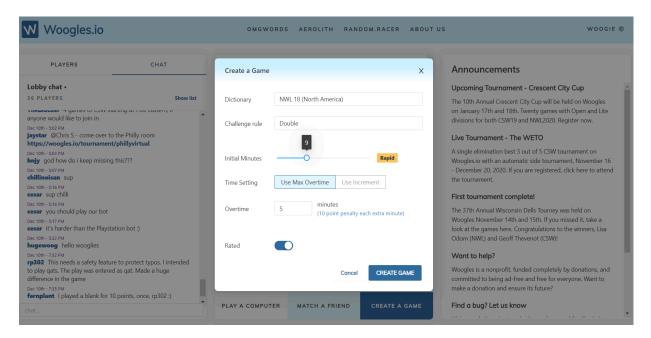
MATCH A FRIEND

MATCH A FRIEND creates a match where you type in your friend's username. Your friends online will appear; click their username, select your match options, and off you go. Match a Friend is handy when you want to play a regular partner or anyone you enjoy playing. To create a match even quicker, you can click any username and select "Match user"! This is a shortcut to the Match a Friend dialog box, where the friend's name has been prepopulated.



CREATE A GAME

CREATE A GAME lets you send out a game request to all logged-in players. This is useful if you want to play someone new, as it gives you a wide base of players to grapple with and strengthen your personal game. You might even find a favorite new opponent overseas! If you don't see any game requests or don't like the parameters of the current games sought, create your own in seconds! Click the CREATE A GAME button, select your match options, and wait for someone to take your bait! To cancel, click it and a popup will ask to confirm.



MATCH OPTIONS

Here are some pointers when choosing your MATCH OPTIONS on Woogles. Let's cover all of the Woogles MATCH OPTIONS so you can make the best choice.

For match requests that you create, you have full control of the parameters. You can customize your choices for word list, challenge rule, initial minutes, overtime, and rating.

Woogles remembers your selections from your last game, but you can change them after every game if you want variety. It can be fun trying out new ways to play, too. It's up to you!

Remember, clicking an open request means you've agreed to those match options, so please make sure they are suitable to you (this will save everyone some minor annoyance).

For the game type, "Classic" means a normal game, or you choose to play Word Smog.

- Word lists
- Challenge rules
- Initial minutes
- <u>Time setting & overtime</u>
- Incremental time
- To rate or not to rate

WORD LISTS ("DICTIONARIES")

Woogles loves hosting many lexicons. Currently available word lists on Woogles are: CSW19 (World English), NWL20 (North American English - slurs removed), NWL18 (Obsolete), NSWL20 (NASPA School Word List, CWL (Common Word List), Deutsch (German), Francais (French), and Norsk (Norwegian)! The 18/19/20 refer to the years of publication. We're excited to be working to add other popular lexicons in the future, too!

CHALLENGE RULES

In the drop-down menu, you have six challenge rule choices, ranging in severity:

- 5-POINT and 10-POINT: If you lose the challenge, your opponent gains that many points, but you do not lose your turn.
- **SINGLE CHALLENGE**: No penalty for challenging a valid play, so it's up to you to challenge every word you're even slightly unsure of.
- DOUBLE CHALLENGE: You lose your turn and take a zero for that move.
- VOID CHALLENGE: You cannot submit a play unless all the words are valid.
- TRIPLE CHALLENGE: You will lose the game if you are wrong.

When setting up your match, hover over any challenge rule for a refresher of what it means.

INITIAL MINUTES

For Initial Minutes, the game timer is a sliding scale. Just drag the ball or click the timeline to mark the time you want to use. ULTRA-BLITZ! is ¼ (yes, 15 seconds) to 2 minutes; BLITZ is 3 to 6 minutes; RAPID is 7 to 14 minutes; and REGULAR is 15 minutes and longer.

TIME SETTING & OVERTIME

The TIME SETTING and OVERTIME choices are linked. You can use the MAX OVERTIME or the INCREMENT button, but not both at once. MAX OVERTIME means that the game will end at the current score when the overtime is depleted.

You can have zero overtime by choosing 0, 1 for one minute, etc. The most overtime allowed is 10 minutes, with a 10-point penalty per whole or fractional additional minute used.

INCREMENT BUTTON

For the Increment button option, you can add anywhere from 0 to 60 seconds per turn. There are a vast number of combinations you can concoct with these choices.

For example, you could set the Initial Minutes to ¼, and a zero increment, which would give you a brutal match of 15 seconds per player for the whole game. You can play around with different options to see what works for you.

TO RATE OR NOT TO RATE?

Toggle the "Rated" button to your liking. You'll know that ratings are set **on** when this button appears **dark blue** with the white ball on the right side, and **off** when it is **grayed out**.

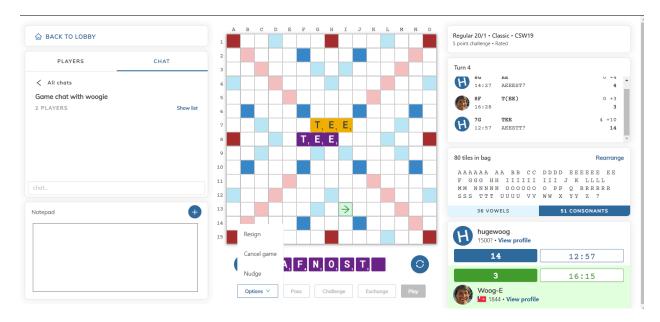
IN-GAME ATTRIBUTES

Here are the static in-game attributes on Woogles. The board is labeled **numerically on the vertical column** and **alphabetically on the horizontal row** as convenient reference points.

On the left side, you'll see the **chat box** and **notepad**. Click the "+" to make notes for your own eyes only. The trash can icon clears the Notepad. **Notepad notes do not save after the game**. On the right side, you'll see: match options at the top; a turn-by-turn breakdown of plays; all unplayed tiles sortable by alphabet, vowels, or power tiles; unplayed vowel and consonant quantities; players' usernames, ratings, game score and personal game clocks. Hint: hover your mouse on either player's game score to see the current game spread.

Under the board you'll see the hyper-linked series won-lost tally and the Reset Rack down arrow ▼ and Shuffle buttons. Reset Rack puts your tiles back in order on your rack. The Reset Rack down arrow is a keyboard shortcut. Shuffle mixes up the tiles in random order. You'll also see an "Options" drop-down menu, which consists of: Resign, Cancel Game, and Nudge. "Resign" asks "Are you sure you wish to resign? Your rating will be maximally affected," before completing the action. "Cancel Game" requests an abort with no rating

changes; your opponent can choose to approve or not, and it is only available on the first turn. "Nudge" alerts your opponent to make a play and if they don't reply after one minute, the game ends with adjudication in your favor. This can be useful if your opponent appears to have forgotten about your game. Although Abort, Nudge and Resign are available against human opponents, Resign is your only choice against the Woogles family of bots.



REMATCH

After you play a game and want to replay the same player, click Rematch at the bottom. Woogles reapplies the same match options as the last game. Your opponent has to accept the request. Rematch is handy when playing friends or new opponents you enjoy playing.

TOURNAMENTS & CLUBS

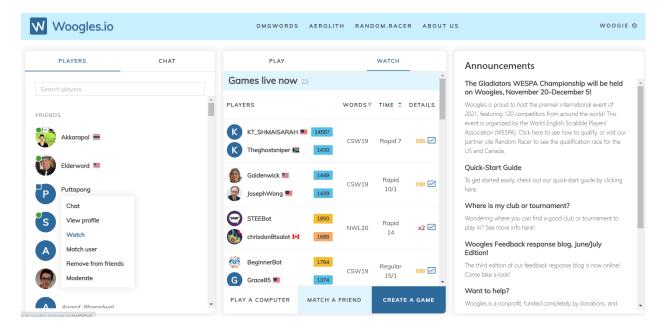
Tournaments are formal events on Woogles that require signup before the deadline, due to the planning needed to run them. Often there are entry fees and prizes, but not always.

Similarly, some games played on Woogles are club sessions, which are usually unrated and in separate clubhouse rooms. You may need permission to play, but generally can observe. Just ask the director, who will likely welcome you, especially if they need to even their field. Clubs meet regularly, usually once a week, so if you miss one week, you can attend next week, or compete in another club another night. Woogles is proud to have clubs meeting seven days a week! Contact us to add your event to our Club & Tournament Calendar!

04 / WATCHING AND EXAMINING

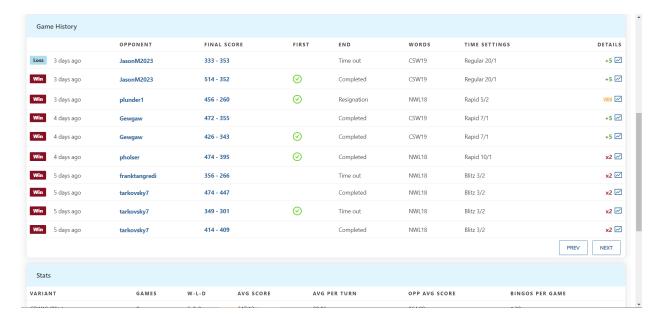
Watching

If you aren't in the mood or don't have the time to play a game, but still want to participate in the latest action on Woogles, you can watch games in progress! Toggling the AVAILABLE GAMES Tab, switch to the WATCH Tab to show how many games are live right now. You can sort the games by "words" (meaning word list) or by "time" using the toggle arrows at the top of the columns. Find the game you want and click to enter that game room! When ready, click either the BACK TO LOBBY or EXIT buttons to return to the Lobby. Alternatively, you can "Join" a friend currently observing a game by clicking their name and then "Join," or "Watch" a friend's game by clicking their name and then the "Watch" button.

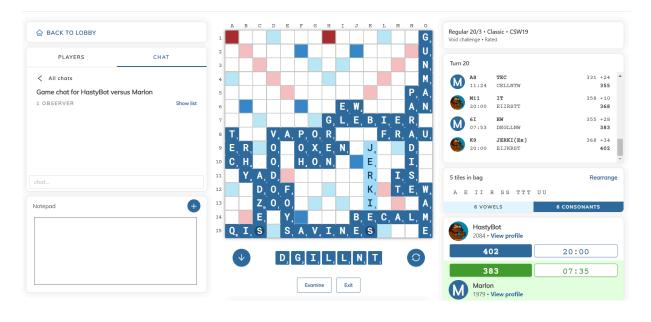


Examining

One of Woogles' top features is our Analyzer. There are two ways to examine a completed game: (1) in any game series, click the hyperlinked win or loss ("1 "or "0") under the board grid, or (2) from your profile. All games appear in chronological order in the Game History section, under Ratings. Click NEXT to scroll further back, or PREV to return to more recent games. Locate the correct game and click the FINAL SCORE column to go to the permanent URL, where you can replay the game. Under the board you'll see: (a) OPTIONS, (b) EXAMINE, (c) EXPORT GCG, (d) EXIT, (e) REMATCH and the series record. Click EXAMINE to view the replay of your game, complete with suggested plays by Macondo, Woogles' analysis engine.



Click the **lightbulb icon** on any turn that you want to view Macondo's top 15 suggested plays under the chat box. Ranked choices show board position, score, leave, and valuation. Enabling the "Auto" button shows the Analyzer's top plays instantly for the whole game. Navigate forward and backward with the < single-arrow > buttons. Jump to the start or end using the << double-arrow >> buttons. To export a Woogles game file to your device, use the EXPORT GCG button. You can even access the Macondo Analyzer while watching; click EXAMINE under the rack, then the lightbulb icon as usual to see Macondo's top choices!



05 / COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Community

The Woogles Lobby header menu shows **OMGWORDS**, **AEROLITH** and **RANDOMRACER**. Check out these sites and be sure to never unglue your eyeballs from your screen ever again! Here's what our sister sites are all about.

Aerolith

Aerolith is the premier online word study game and is extremely challenging and fun.

RandomRacer

<u>RandomRacer</u> collects and presents <u>statistics</u> and <u>comments</u> from annotated games on <u>cross-tables.com</u>, our friends Seth Lipkin's and Keith Smith's fabulous archive.

Social Media

Woogles is a social animal and we love to collaborate! We relish the opportunity to build our community with players from around the world. Here are our social media accounts:

- DISCORD: Talk shop about everything Woogles: https://discord.com/invite/5yCJjmW
- FACEBOOK: Our largest group: https://tinyurl.com/96jxpvd3
- INSTAGRAM: Here we post short updates: https://www.instagram.com/woogles.io
- TWITTER: Here we post other space-limited updates: https://twitter.com/Woogles_io
- REDDIT: We held our first "Ask Us Anything" here: https://www.reddit.com/r/Woogles

06 / HELP

Getting Help on Woogles

The Woogles team is easy to get in touch with. Probably the best general resource is our Discord app, where you'll find a content archive about a wide range of topics. Our community is active with friendly, knowledgeable players popping in frequently. This lets us engage our members without inundating the Woogles.io Lobby with messages. You can also ask questions in the Help Chat or our Facebook group, or by emailing the team.

Email Woogles

If you have any questions about Woogles, want to set up a club or tournament, or discuss something else entirely, please write to woogles@woogles.io and one of our team members will get in touch with you shortly!

Our team communicates daily, unless of course it's a holiday or we're having a fracas, royal rumble, or brouhaha. If you'd like to make a call, please hang up and dial 9-Woog-Woog.

07 / ABOUT WOOGLES

Woogles' Mission

Woogles Inc. is a nonprofit word gaming organization funded entirely by private donations. Playing on the site is completely free of charge and there are zero advertisements. Three main ideals have guided our direction in building this community. Our core values are:

(1) To create a great place to play word games online; (2) To create a tool that lets people of all skill levels from all over the world improve at our favorite (virtual) board game; (3) Build the best Al our community has ever seen.

Giving to Woogles

We're forever grateful to our <u>original 200+ Kickstarter patrons</u> who helped Woogles launch in 2020! Our goal now is to keep growing the Woogles community sustainably into the future. If you'd like to support Woogles' preeminent gaming experiences, we'd really appreciate it! You can make a tax-deductible donation through Stripe (one-time) or Patreon (recurring) at <u>woogles.io/donate</u>. Your generosity helps keep Woogles open to everyone. Kudos to you for your incredible support!

If you made it this far...(thank you!)

We want to thank all of the players around the world for "Woogling" along with us! Shoutouts to everyone who has graciously given their blood, sweat and tears toward our efforts and helped us get to this point in our journey! We are thrilled by the outpouring of love for Woogles.

Thanks for reading this Quick-Start Guide!

- The Woogles team: Ben, César, Conrad, Doug, Jesse, Josh, Lola, Will, Woogles, Macondo, HastyBot, STEEBot, BetterBot, BasicBot, BeginnerBot, and you!

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