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THE MOST USEFUL WORDS (2-6 LETTERS)

If you look at games played by Scrabble players in clubs and tournaments, it will not take you long to see that the same words come up over and over again. The 2-letter and many of the 3-letter words are especially regular sights where Scrabble is being played to a good standard. This chapter will help you to understand the reason for this, which is emphatically not that good Scrabble players play one or two letters at a time and only make small words.

2-LETTER WORDS

2-letter words help you fit in a longer word – perhaps a 7-letter word – by giving you a peg to hang it on. For instance, imagine your opponent has just played the first move of the game, like so:

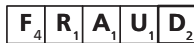


Fig. 5

Your rack is **AGILLOR**. You manage to spot **GORILLA**, an achievement almost as useful on the Scrabble board as it would be in the jungle. But where are you going to play it? You can use six letters from your rack and either the **R** or **A** of **FRAUD**, but if we can play all seven we get a bonus of fifty points.

SCRABBLE PUZZLES

PUZZLE 7

Your rack is **EIMRSTU**.

(1) Find the 7-letter word on your rack. This should not be too difficult: look for a word meaning 'staler, less fresh'.

(2) A little trickier: find three places to play the word, using all seven of your tiles, on the board on the next page. You will need to know your 2-letter words, but the other words used are all quite common.

SCRABBLE PUZZLES

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O		
1	Orange			Grey				Orange				Grey				Orange	1
2		Orange				Grey				Grey					Orange		2
3			Orange				Grey		Grey					Orange			3
4	Grey			Orange				U ₁	N ₁	K ₅	I ₁	S ₁	S ₁	E ₁	D ₂		4
5					Orange		C ₃			I ₁	Orange						5
6		Grey				Grey	U ₁			D ₂					Grey		6
7			Grey				R ₁		Grey	D ₂				L ₁			7
8	Orange			S ₁	A ₁	B ₃	L ₁	E ₁		E ₁	X ₈	T ₁	O ₁	R ₁	T ₁		8
9			Grey			R ₁	A ₁	I ₁	N ₁	E ₁	D ₂			C ₃			9
10		Grey				Grey	E ₁			Grey				A ₁	Grey		10
11					Orange	O ₁	R ₁				A ₁	B ₃	L ₁	E ₁			11
12	Grey			Orange		F ₄		Grey				Orange				Grey	12
13			Orange			F ₄	R ₁	O ₁	N ₁	T ₁				Orange			13
14		Orange				Grey				Grey					Orange		14
15	Orange			Grey				Orange				Grey				Orange	15
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O		

Puzzle 7