







# HANGMAN

This used to be a staple of wet playtimes at primary schools and is sometimes called 'Gallows' or the 'Game of Hanging'. It was already known as a traditional game in Victorian times, although it was then referred to as 'Birds, Beasts and Fishes' by Alice Bertha Gomme, a folklorist who made a study of children's games at the end of the nineteenth century.

Hangman is a satisfying word game that can also be a useful tool for practising language and improving vocabulary. In recent years, concerns have been voiced about just how appropriate it is to use gallows as a symbol, especially for children. Schoolteachers often get round this by instead drawing the outline of a tree with ten apples that can then be coloured in as guesses are used up.

## RULES OF THE GAME

Hangman needs at least two players. The first player thinks of a word or phrase and draws a number of dashes to represent each letter.

The aim of the game is basically to guess the word or phrase before your man gets hanged.

Every correct letter guessed is marked in the right place on the row of dashes as many times as it appears, but if the guesser gets it wrong, a line is drawn in on the hangman's gallows. At any point, the guessing player may make a calculated suggestion for the whole word. If correct, this wins the game; if wrong, a penalty line is drawn and the noose tightens.

The executioner can choose to be kind by offering a clue at any point.

The number of incorrect guesses possible is up to individual players. In some versions of the game, the gallows are already drawn and only the hanging figure must be completed. In others, extra lines are added to the gallows and sometimes a face is included on the figure.

In all versions, the winner is the first to finish. The guesser wins if he completes the word before the diagram is complete, and the player setting the puzzle wins if he completes the hangman before his opponent works out the word. If you have more than one guesser, take turns and make sure each guesser uses their own hangman. The winner chooses the word for the next game.

The word choice can be left open but the game can be made more interesting by choosing from categories specialized enough to test in-depth knowledge of a subject. Phrases or sentences can also be chosen so that song, film or book titles and quotations can be used to challenge opponents.



#### TIP

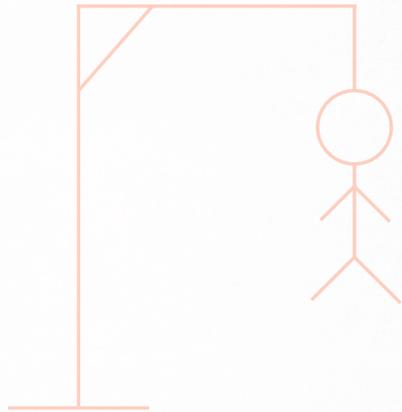
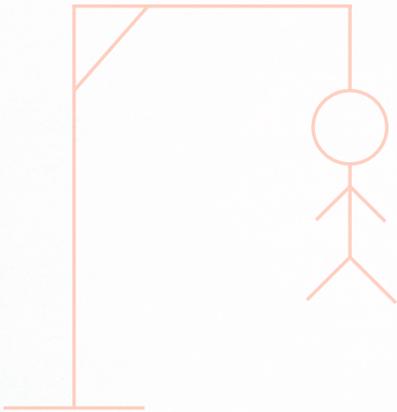
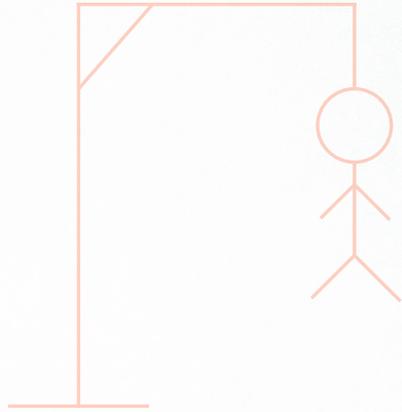
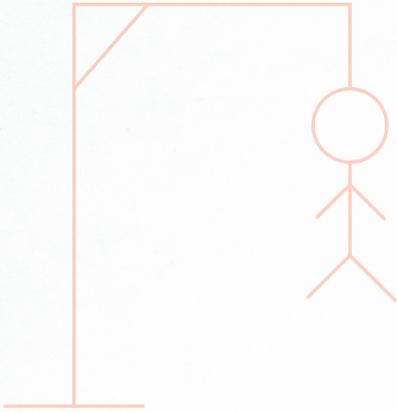
*Try to remember the acronym ETAOIN SHRDLU. True, it's almost impossible to pronounce, but it shows the order of the most frequently occurring letters in English. Finding words that include few of these twelve letters will boost your chances of winning.*

### Ideas for Hangman categories

Animals	Names – female, male or surnames	Oscar winners
Cat species		Song titles
Dog breeds		
Famous cats and dogs	Capital cities	TV series
Fish	Chemistry	
Reptiles	Countries	Book titles
Birds	Gemstones	Heroes and heroines
	Rivers	
Adjectives	US states	Sport
Nouns		Football teams
Verbs	Actors and actresses	Tennis champions
Collective nouns	Film titles	Olympic medal holders



# 6-LETTER WORD



## USED LETTERS

USED LETTERS			
PLAYER 1	PLAYER 2	PLAYER 3	PLAYER 4