

Bananagrams Rules

nanagrams.io

The official rules on one page. No board, no turns, no scoring. First valid grid with an empty hand wins.

Play Bananagrams free online

Setup

- Turn all **144 tiles** face down in the middle. That pile is the **bunch**.
- Each player draws their starting tiles (table →) and keeps them face down.
- Someone calls **"Split!"** Everyone flips at once and starts building. No turns from here on.

Starting tiles

PLAYERS	EACH
1 (solo)	21
2 to 4	21
5 to 6	15
7 to 8	11

Building your grid

- Spell words left to right or top to bottom, crossword style.
- **Every word must connect** to the rest of your grid. Nothing floats.
- Your grid is yours alone. Rearrange it as often as you like, no penalty.

S P L I T

Split

The start call. Everyone flips their tiles face up together.

P E E L

Peel

Used every tile? Call it, and **every player** draws one more from the bunch.

D U M P

Dump

Return one tile face down, draw **three**. Any time, no limit.

B A N A N A S

Bananas!

When the bunch has **fewer tiles than players**, the first empty-handed valid grid wins. Others check it: a bad word makes you a **rotten banana** (you're out, your tiles return to the bunch).

Allowed

- ✓ Any word in a standard English dictionary, including plurals and verb forms (RAN, RUNS, RUNNING)
- ✓ Two-letter words (QI, ZA, XU, AT, IT)
- ✓ Using the same word twice
- ✓ Slang and adopted foreign words, if your dictionary lists them
- ✓ Rearranging your whole grid mid-game

Not allowed

- ✗ Proper nouns: people, places, brands, days, months (unless the word also has a lowercase meaning: MARCH, BILL, CHINA)
- ✗ Abbreviations and acronyms (TV, USA, ASAP). RADAR and LASER are fine: they are dictionary words now
- ✗ Words that read diagonally or backwards
- ✗ Disconnected words floating off your grid
- ✗ Peeking at or counting the face-down bunch

Glossary

Bunch	The face-down pile of tiles everyone draws from.
Split	Start call: flip your tiles and begin.
Peel	Your hand is empty; everyone draws one tile.
Dump	Trade one tile for three.
Bananas	Win call, once the bunch is too low to peel.
Rotten banana	A failed Bananas call. That player is out.

Quick tips

- Peel the second your hand clears. Sitting on an empty hand only helps everyone else.
- Keep the grid loose: short words are easy to break apart when a new tile arrives.
- Learn the two-letter words. QI, ZA, XU and AA place awkward letters fast.
- Read your whole grid once before you shout Bananas. One typo hands the game away.