

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW TO PLAY

1. At the bottom left of the game board are 8 tiles: 7 orange and 1 purple. These letter tiles are used to form Mandarin Chinese words in pinyin, without tone marks, on the playing board. Six of these tiles have letters on them with an exponent number indicating the point value of the letter. One of the orange tiles is blank. This blank is a wild card tile which may be used for any letter of the alphabet, but it has no points. It may be used only once during a given play, but it is renewed for the next play. The purple tile is a “spacer” tile or a “joining” tile. It allows you to connect to any existing word on the game board to extend the direction of play. It also may be used only once during a given play and is also renewed for the next play.

2. Play begins by placing a pinyin word on the board. The first play must include the star in the center of the board. Play may occur only in a vertical or horizontal direction either up or down and left or right, but all words are read from top down and from left to right. The more points played per word the higher the score.

3. If you cannot come up with an appropriate pinyin word from the letters in your hand, you can use the **WORD FINDER** to discover new words. The **WORD FINDER** will analyze the letters in your hand and form all the pinyin words possible from these letters. If only a few short words or no words appear, it means that only a few short words (or no words) can be formed from your letters. One way to make more word choices from your tiles is by typing a letter of the alphabet into the **Add Board Tiles** box at the top of the **WORD FINDER** board. The resulting word choice may be played on the board by inserting the wild card tile using the appropriate letter. Usually, there are more consonants and fewer vowels in your hand, so an appropriate choice would be to insert, sequentially, each of the vowels of the alphabet (a,e,i,o,u), testing each insertion to see what words will form. Of course, inserting consonants may also yield an appropriate word. You may also consult the **DICTIONARY** to find and learn new words. The **DICTIONARY** is accessed via the button at top right of the screen.

You may also exchange any or all of your letters by clicking the **SWAP** button. If, for whatever reason, you choose to skip your turn, click the **PASS** button. You may also **RESIGN** from the game.

4. You may increase your score by placing letters on spaces that will triple (**TL**) or double (**DL**) the letter score. Also, positioning the word on a triple word (**TW**) or double word (**DW**) space improves the score even more by giving you three times or two times the total of points of all letters in your word.

Once you have positioned your word on the board, you must click on the **PLAY** button to enter your word. If you click **YES** at this point, a selection screen pops up on the left of the screen.

5. Next, you will be tested on whether you know the Chinese character(s) and meaning(s) of the pinyin word you have played. **The selection screen** displays the selected word in **pinyin** across the top of the screen. Underneath the pinyin word are six boxed Chinese characters that

share the same pinyin spelling but may have different tones. The box in the upper left corner is framed in green. This is the character for which you must now give its English definition.

However, if you wish, you may select any of the other five characters to define. To do this, simply touch the character chosen and the green frame will jump to that character. This then becomes the character to define. Do **not** click on **YES** until you are certain of the character and its English definition because once you click the **YES**, you have thirty seconds to pick the correct definition. A correct answer gives you 5 or 10 bonus points (see ***Scoring**); but, you will lose 2 points for an incorrect answer. Before clicking the **YES** button, find the English definition of the framed character by using the **DICTIONARY**.

6. **DICTIONARY**. To use the dictionary, first scrutinize the green-framed Chinese character and memorize its appearance (or copy it down on a worksheet). Then, type in the pinyin word you wish to define in the blank space at the top of the **DICTIONARY** screen. Hit the return key to display all the Chinese characters and English definitions of that pinyin word (which may vary from 1 to over 50 characters per pinyin word). Make sure you matched up the pinyin word to the corresponding character displayed on the selection screen and memorized the English definition (or wrote it down on your worksheet). Now you are ready to exit the **DICTIONARY** screen and click **YES** on the selection screen.

The **DICTIONARY** is also valuable to check whether the pinyin combinations you form actually exist as Chinese words. There are many Chinese meanings for some common pinyin words, especially as tone marks aren't used in play.

7. Clicking **YES** displays the English definition answer to the Chinese character framed in green on the previous selection screen. Note the 30-second time-clock running at the bottom of this selection screen. Immediately select the correct answer by touching the screen on the appropriate definition. The definition will temporarily light up green if you touched the correct definition. If you have made a play which formed two or more pinyin words, the next word will immediately display on the selection screen. Repeat the process with the next word. You will be rewarded for knowing the Chinese character and definition of your word with extra points. See 'Scoring' below.

8. **Score Card**. Each player's total **score** is shown under their name. The total number of letters remaining in the game is displayed in white numbers. Under the History tab is a listing of each word played with its score in **orange numbers**. Note that this score card also serves as a repository for all the pinyin words, characters, and definitions played during this game. Review the list regularly to learn any words which are new to you. Touch the **green arrow** to hear the pronunciation in Mandarin of the word.

9. **SHOW字**

Touching the button, **SHOW字**, at the top right of the board will display the Chinese characters, **in purple**, of all the pinyin words played during the game.

10. FINISHING THE GAME. Normally, the game is finished when all tiles are played or when no further words can be played on the board. The player with the most points wins. However, players may decide to set different ending criteria to their game by setting a time limit for playing or by setting a specified number of plays. In any case, it is up to the players to agree on such choices.

