

## Tic Tac Phrase

**Number of players:** two

**Materials required:** 5x5 play grid, three sets of word cards (thirty words total, ten of each colour card)

Tic Tac Phrase is actually a simple game to play that challenges players to build a phrase (as opposed to a straight line) made up of at least two of the three coloured word tiles in the game. A phrase can be anything (and doesn't necessarily have to be a complete sentence) that makes sense when placed across, down or diagonally from one another.

The 5x5 play surface of the game allows players to attempt to build a variety of phrases with the words that he/she selects. Players can use words placed on the grid by themselves or by their opponents: however, the phrase must consist of at least **two** of the three coloured word tiles in order to win a round.

### To play:

Shuffle the thirty word cards and place them all face down between the two players. The youngest player can begin the game. Each player selects one word at a time, from any colour word tile they choose, and places it on the game board. Once a word is placed, it cannot be changed or moved. Players continue to take turns and lay one word at a time until a phrase is discovered and read aloud by the player.

Phrases can be built anywhere on the grid, in any straight line: diagonal, across, or down (including backwards). Remember, however, that a winning phrase must have at least two word tile colours in it (of any colour combination).

Play can either stop once a phrase is called out (clear the board and begin again), or, play can continue with the aim of seeing who can build the most phrases (using words over again) as the board fills. If players intend to fill the board, it is likely wise to record the phrases called out per player on paper, so that a final tally doesn't get confused or forgotten.

The words below are a mix of action words (verbs), hinge words (such as coordinating conjunctions or articles) and objects/things (nouns). By developing

a list of each, players can build a variety of phrases, some incorporating all three lists, or some incorporating just two word lists.

Group One Words	Group Two Words	Group Three Words
go	the	cat
on	it	dog
jump	an	cup
run	a	book
to	and	hat
up	or	pen
down	of	shoe
stop	for	tree
hop	is	car
out	with	boy

*The idea for Tic Tac Phrase came from a Tic Tac Toe word game featured in **365 Reading Activities**, by Suzanne Barchers, Marilee Robin Burton and Beth Alley Wise. (Lincolnwood, IL: Pub. Int'l, 1998).*