

## Alphamixup

**Number of players:** two or more

**Materials required:** index cards or stiff paper, pencil, dictionary (if desired).

What is Alphamixup? It is taking a word—any word, long or short—and rewriting it in alphabetical order. So, the word “word,” for example, becomes “dowr.” The mixup is presented to another player who must then unmix it and guess what its real spelling is.

Players can share “clues” or provide descriptive hints to encourage others to figure out the word.

### To play:

Place players into teams of two or three, mixing ages so that teams are balanced.

Decide first how you will play the game. Will one person act as referee, with all players trying to guess each presented mixup? Will the group be split into teams, with a referee presenting words? Or, will each group take turns presenting words to the other group?

Shuffle the cards and deal them evenly to all groups or players. If there are extra cards, set them aside. Each group should have the same number of cards, so that the opportunity to win the game is fair.

The cards dealt to players will be their **presenter** cards: the cards they present for other players to unmix. Players can look at the clues and answers on the cards dealt to them, but should keep that side of the card away from the opposing team of players.

Present one card at a time. Allow time between reading each clue so that the other player has a chance to figure out a response. You can set a time limit (if desired) for responses, and if the other player/group cannot figure out the word in that time, the card is kept as a point card that the presenting team.

The team at the end of the round with the most cards (either by guessing the correct word or by stumping the opposing players) wins the game.

Players can also use blank index cards, their imaginations and some riddle writing to come up with their own cards in a bid to stump the opposing team!

*Alphamixup was adapted from an activity found in **365 TV-Free Activities You Can Do with Your Child**, by Steve and Ruth Bennet. (Holbrook, Mass.: Bob Adams, Inc., 1991, Activity #4).*