There are many games you can play with words. Here are some you can play with your friends. Before you begin, it's a good idea to have a dictionary ready in order to settle any disputes!

**Words Out of Words**

This is a word game in which the players have to see how many new words they can make out of the letters of a word which is three or four syllables long. The players take it in turns to choose a word e.g. elimination, participate. The aim is to see who can make the most words from the letters of the chosen word within a time limit e.g. five minutes. A variation of this game is to see who can make the longest word from the letters of the chosen word.

**Taboo**

This is a game for two or more players. One of the players chooses a letter and acts as questioner. In turn the questioner asks each of the other players a different question. The question can be about anything at all. In their answer they have to avoid using the chosen letter. The answers have to make sense and must be given immediately. At the start each player has a set number of points e.g. 12. Every time a player makes a mistake, they lose a point. The winner is the person who has the most points left at the end of the game.

**The Alphabet Holiday Game**

Any number of people can play. The aim is to answer questions using words that begin with a certain letter of the alphabet. The first player chooses a letter, for example S. The other players begin by asking 'Where are you going on holiday to?' The first player has to name a country beginning with S e.g. Spain. Another player then asks: 'What are you going to do there?' The first player has to answer using three words beginning with the letter S. For example, 'I'm going to sing some songs' or 'I'm going to sell souvenir shorts'. If the other players can think of another follow-up question, they ask it e.g. 'Who are you going to sell them to?' Again, the first person has to answer with three words beginning with S e.g. 'I'm going to sell them to several successful sheiks'. The questions continue until no one can think of anything further to ask. Then it is someone else's turn.
Think of a Rhyme

This is a word game for any number of players. You start by choosing a word from this list of words: bear, cake, cat, chin, clap, crack, day, deer, goat, hill, light, nose, rain, roar, snail, snow, spy, sweet, test, tree, wheel.

The first player says the chosen word e.g. goat. The other players have to take it in turns to think of a word that rhymes with goat. When a person is stuck they say ‘pass’ and the round continues until no one can think of any more words that rhyme with goat.

You can make the game more fun by trying to build up a silly sentence, as new rhyming words are thought of. For example, here’s the silly sentence that a group who chose goat developed:

Goat – coat > a goat in a coat
throat > a goat in a coat with a sore throat
boat > a goat in a coat with a sore throat in a boat
float > afloat > a goat with a sore throat in a coat afloat in a boat
wrote > a goat with a sore throat wrote on his coat, while afloat in a boat
note > a goat with a sore throat in a coat wrote a note, while afloat on a boat
stoat > a goat in a coat with a sore throat wrote a note to a stoat afloat in a boat.

Continue until no one can think of anything further to add. Then it is someone else’s turn.
Find the Cat

This is a word-finding game for two or more players. You will need pencils and paper and a dictionary (to be used only at the end of the game). To play the game you are given one word and you have to list all the words you can think of which include the letters of the word.

For example, if you are given the word cat, it can be used to build up words such as catastrophe, category, catapult, cattle, catamaran, and catch. The letters c a t are also found in words such as cater and cathedral and inside words such as scatter, educate, and indicator.

Either choose a word yourselves or pick one from the list (below). Set a time limit and then compare your lists. The person with the most words is the winner. Use the dictionary to check whether any disputed words exist and also to find other words which you could have put in your lists.

Apart from cat, other words you could use are: air, ear, for, head, man, tin, water.

Rhyme-Me-Riddle-Me

This is a word game for any number of pairs. First, you have to prepare for your turn by each pair choosing a word. Let’s say a pair chooses the word river. They then have to think of a word that rhymes with river e.g. quiver or shiver. Next they have to think of one or two statements that describe the river, but suggest it is something else e.g. Sometimes I race through fields, sometimes I dawdle.

You then take it in turns to read out your riddles for the other players to guess e.g.

I am a word that rhymes with shiver.

Sometimes I race through fields, sometimes I dawdle.

The further I go, the wider I become.

I am fed from the sky and I feed the sea.

What am I?