How good is your vocabulary and spelling? Test yourself with this challenge.

“VALENTINE”

Make as many words as possible using only the letters in the word Valentine. Each letter (except E and N, which appear twice) can be used only once in each word. Check your watch and give yourself 5 minutes.

Valentine Be Mine!
Times up! – How did you do?

Give yourself one point for each word and an extra point for each word 5 letters or longer. If you are not sure about spellings check that too!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Score Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-12 points</td>
<td>TRY HARDER</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 – 20 points</td>
<td>WELL DONE</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 20</td>
<td>YOU’RE A WALKING DICTIONARY!</td>
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If you are unhappy with your score and know you can do better give yourself another 5 minutes and try again.

For a list of 50 possible answers, scroll down.

If you made some words that we didn't think of – send us an email and let us know!
More Vocabulary Work

Look at the words in the box above and choose 7 you don’t know. Look them up in your dictionary and decide if they would be useful words for you to learn. Write the useful ones in a sentence and try to use them the next time you speak English. Seven words a day is about the maximum you can learn and expect to remember – if you use them!!

Before you read think about these questions.

1. Do people in your country celebrate St Valentine’s Day?

2. If yes, who usually celebrates it and how?

3. What do you know about the reasons Valentine’s Day is celebrated?
The history of Valentine's Day -- and its saint -- is a mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance.

So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with romance? One legend says that Valentine was a priest in the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than men with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his potential soldiers. Valentine defied Claudius and continued to marry young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius executed him.

According to another legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him. Before his death, he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' just as we still do today.

Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is unknown, the stories certainly show his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Some people believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to remember the anniversary of Valentine's death -- which probably occurred around 270 A.D.

The Pope declared February 14th St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February should be a day for romance.

The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415. The greeting is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers to exchange handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced valentines in America.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Approximately 85 percent of all Valentines are purchased by women.
Questions – Decide if these sentences are TRUE or FALSE

1. We know a lot about St Valentine.
2. A good army was important to Emperor Claudius II.
3. Valentine was killed because he married young couples.
4. Legend tells us that St Valentine sent the first Valentine’s card.
5. People think of St. Valentine as a romantic hero.
6. Valentine was best known in Italy and Germany
7. Valentine died more than 1700 years ago.
8. Valentine is a popular saint.
9. Americans were the first people to send store bought valentines.
10. Men send 15% of Valentine’s cards.

Scroll down for the answers
We hope you enjoyed the lesson and that you have a very romantic Valentine’s Day!!