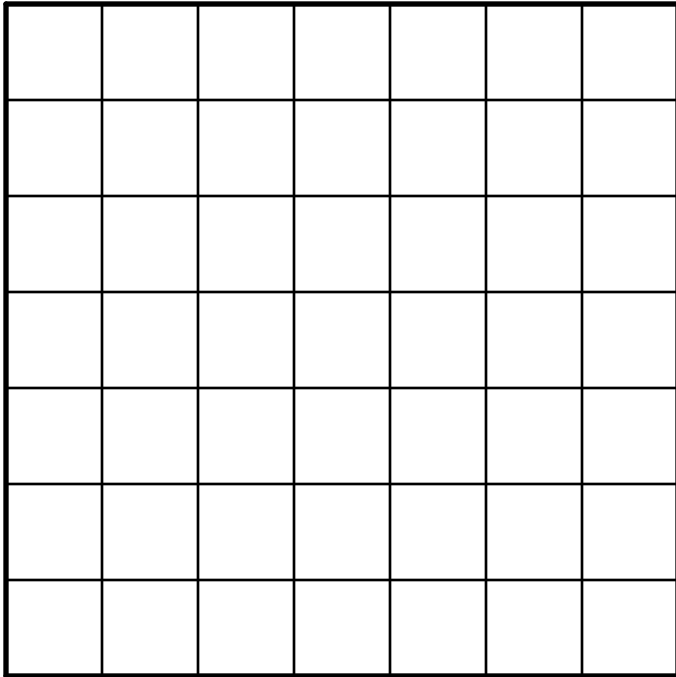


# Forty-Niner Pangramming for Gold

by NeilFred Picciotto



## Goal:

Fill the seven-by-seven grid with a crossword that, as much as possible, contains real words in each entry. You may find you need to include some non-word entries (in order to meet the below constraints) -- these are allowed, but do not score points.

## Steps:

1. Place the letter "A" anywhere in the grid.
2. From the square containing "A", move one square in any of the eight directions (including diagonals), and place the letter "B".
3. From the square containing "B", again move one square in any direction to an empty square, and place the letter "C".
4. Continue until 26 of the 49 squares contain a letter.
5. Fill each of the remaining 23 squares with any letter you choose.
6. Add black bars between squares wherever needed.

Of course you don't need to actually fill the grid in the order described above, but your final grid must be achievable by the above steps. That is, the sequence of letters from A-Z must trace out a Boggle-style path when you're done, but you're free to start from the Q and work forward and back from there, for example.

## Scoring:

Valid words must begin and end at the edge of the grid or a black bar, and must be dictionary entries. Proper nouns are allowed. Each valid word that contains  $n$  letters scores  $n - 2$  points -- thus 1- and 2-letter words score nothing, a 3-letter word scores 1 point, a 7-letter word scores 5 points, and so on.

Theoretically, you would achieve the maximal score of 70 by using no black squares and filling every row and column with a valid seven-letter word. This is almost certainly impossible.

Two grids are provided so that you can start over if you're unhappy with how things went on your first try.

