



Top 13 Vocabulary Apps

A child's vocabulary can be expanded through repeated exposure to new words and by thinking about word meanings. We've found several apps that engage young children in crossword and Scrabble type games. Other apps focus on specific word meaning skills by highlighting word opposites, synonyms, and homophones. Many of the games can be played together or side-by-side. Have fun and encourage new words!

Montessori Crosswords	\$2.99	<i>Montessori Crosswords</i> helps kids develop literacy skills by dragging and dropping letters into a crossword grid to form words that correspond to the given pictures. Young children can drag letters around in the moveable alphabet and practice linking phonetic sounds to letters, while older kids can expand their vocabularies in the higher of three difficulty levels. Crossword levels include simple words with 1 sound, words with consonant blend, and words of any complexity. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Spelling Bee	\$0.99	<i>Spelling Bee</i> teaches and tests kids on spelling and vocabulary word skills. After studying a wordlist, children are presented with a definition and an audio prompt of the word. Quiz options include the ability to choose the length (5, 10, or 20 words), level of difficulty (beginner, easy, medium, hard), and whether the quiz should be timed. <i>(Compatible with Android devices)</i>
Bookworm	\$2.99	<i>Bookworm</i> is a spelling and vocabulary building word search game. Children link letters left, right, up, and down to build words to feed "Lex" the bookworm. The longer the word the higher the score. The game can be played with or without time limits. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
The Opposites	\$2.99	<i>The Opposites</i> app helps children learn vocabulary and the corresponding antonyms by challenging them to match up pairs of opposing words in increasingly difficult levels. The game also helps children understand the importance of word context, and is an opportunity for them to think about how the words they use oppose other words. The Opposites consists of ten different levels, each stage with a corresponding level of vocabulary. The app also offers a dictionary option that provides definitions and antonyms in a kid-friendly format. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Opposite Ocean	Free	In <i>Opposite Ocean</i> , Luna and Leo must master the magic of words by correctly identify the antonym that is the opposite of the given keyword. Children earn pearls when they drag the correct bubble word to the enchanted clam. Developed in association with the Virginia Department of Education. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Chicktionary	Free	<i>Chicktionary</i> is a chicken themed spelling and vocabulary-building word game. Children create as many words as possible out of seven letters. Completed words can be tapped to view their definition. There are multiple levels and children can choose a timed or untimed mode. *Note: This is a noisy app – incorrect words receive scolding squawks. <i>(Compatible with iPad)</i>

Wurdle	\$1.99	<i>Wurdle</i> is a crossword style game that helps build reading and spelling skills. The object is to find and trace as many words as possible before the time runs out. The default letter grid size of 4x4 works well for beginners but those wanting a challenge can play on larger boards – up to 8x8. There is also the option of playing a timed or untimed game. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Word sort	\$1.99	<i>Word Sort</i> is a practical way to practice parts of speech. Children sort words and phrases by parts of speech before time runs out. The information screen for each part of speech describes each in an informative way. There are three levels to Word Sort, each with a different number of words and phrases to sort at a time. The three difficulty levels allow play by both kids and adults. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Same Meaning Magic	Free	In <i>Same Meaning Magic</i> students help Luna and Leo, young magicians at magic school, toss word stones into the wishing well to earn gold coins and jewels by choosing the best synonym. Developed in association with the Virginia Department of Education. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Same Sound Spellbound	Free	<i>Same Sound Spellbound</i> is an adventure designed to help the player understand homophones. Luna and Leo, young magicians at Magic School, must use their spell book to bring animal statues to life. In the game, students must correctly identify the homophone which best completes the puzzle sentence, in a given time. If the word is correct, the animal statue comes to life. If it's incorrect, the statue crumbles. Developed in association with the Virginia Department of Education. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Word SLapPs	\$4.99	<i>Word SlapPs</i> is a fully customizable vocabulary app. Use your own pictures, voice. <i>(Compatible with iPad)</i>
MadLibs	Free	The <i>MadLibs</i> app is just how you remember, but with interactive fill-in the blank type-pad and hints help to educate and entertain. Users can also share their silly stories with friends and family via email. <i>(Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad)</i>
Preposition Builder	\$9.99	<i>PrepositionBuilder</i> helps students learn the correct use of prepositions and learn how prepositions can change the meaning of a sentence. During play, the student is presented an image and must drag a preposition to complete a sentence about the image. If the student chooses the wrong answer, the image and sentence change to show the student the proper use of the preposition they chose and how it changes the image. Once a student completes a level they unlock a short animation that is part of a larger story. They must complete all the levels to see the entire story. <i>(Compatible with iPad)</i>