Hangman Rescue

Guess the word · Save Poppy! · Ages 3–7



Teacher Guide – setup, Zoom lessons, licensing and all 361 words. Live online play includes a 1-year license for the teacher (students join free). Offline modes work forever.

Welcome to Hangman Rescue!

Hangman Rescue is a kind, child-friendly version of the classic word guessing game. There is no hanging figure. Instead, **Poppy the Panda** is floating away on a bunch of balloons. Every wrong letter pops a balloon. Find the word to bring Poppy safely home. If every balloon pops, Poppy lands in the pond with a big splash – she's fine, and the class tries the next word.



It works on a computer, tablet or phone, in the classroom or live over Zoom, Google Meet and other video calls. Children practice spelling, letter names, vocabulary and – if you turn it on – speaking.

Live online play includes a 1-year license for the teacher (students join free). Offline modes work forever.

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Learning goals

- For children ages 3–7 (preschool, kindergarten and early grades): letter names, first spelling and everyday words.
- Vocabulary in 15 topics, with a picture, a hint sentence and spoken audio for every word.
- Listening (hear the hint, hear the word), and speaking (say a word with the letter, say the whole word).
- Turn-taking, team work and kind competition.

Quick start

1. Unzip the download. Open the folder and double-click **index.html**. It opens in Chrome, Edge, Safari or Firefox. Nothing to install.
2. On a tablet or phone you can also open the web link from the shop.
3. Choose one of the three ways to play.

🐼 Play Solo

One player guesses the words. Turn on **Ziggy the computer** (Easy or Normal) to take turns against him. Works offline.

👫 Team Game

2, 3 or 4 teams take turns on one screen – a classroom board, or your shared screen on Zoom. Works offline.

🌐 Play Online

You create a room. Students join on their own devices with a 4-letter room code. Teams take turns and everyone sees the same board live.

The play screen

- **Left:** Poppy and her balloons. The balloon counter shows how many are left.
- **Right:** the blanks for the secret word, the clue (picture + hint, with 🔊 to hear the hint), wrong letters, and the A–Z keyboard. A computer keyboard works too.
- 💡 **Guess the word** – type the whole word. A wrong guess pops a balloon. 🔎 **Clue** shows the picture and hint at once. ⏭️ **Pass** gives the turn away.
- **Teacher buttons:** 🙈 Reveal, ⏩ Skip word, ⏭️ Next team, 🏁 End game.

Home screen buttons

✏️ **My Words** your own lists · ❓ **How to play** · 🖨️ **Printables** this guide and the word lists · 🔊 **Sound** all on → no voice → off · ⛶ **Full screen**

How to play

1. Look at the blanks. Each blank is one letter of the secret word. Spaces and hyphens are shown already (for example ice cream, tuk-tuk).
2. Choose a letter. If it is in the word, it appears in every place. If not – **pop!** – one balloon goes, and Poppy floats a little lower.
3. Keep going until the word is complete, or guess the whole word.
4. Word found: Poppy floats gently down beside her house. 🎉
5. All balloons popped: **Splash!** Poppy lands in the pond. She smiles, the word is shown and read aloud, and you go on to the next word.

Points (Team games, Ziggy and Online)

What happened	Points
A letter that is in the word	1 for each time it appears (e.g. “e” in sneeze… = 3)
Finishing the word (last letter or the whole-word guess)	+3 bonus (a whole-word guess also scores the hidden letters)
Saying the whole word at the end (speaking on)	+2
Wrong letter or wrong word	0 – and a balloon pops

Turns move to the next team after every guess, right or wrong, so every team plays the same number of turns. Each new word starts with the next team.

Solo: no turns. You earn up to ⭐⭐⭐ for each word: 3 stars with two-thirds of the balloons left, 2 stars with one-third, 1 star if Poppy is saved with fewer.

Options

Option	Choices	Tips
Words	15 categories, All Categories (a mix), or one of your My Words lists	Pick the topic you are teaching this week.
Level	Easy (3–4 letters) · Medium (5–6 letters) · Hard (7+ letters) · All	If a category has only a few words at one level, the closest words from the next level are added (at least 6 words).
Balloons	10 · 8 · 6	10 for ages 3–5. 8 or 6 makes it more exciting for confident 6–7-year-olds.
Clues	Picture + hint · Hint first (picture after 2 pops) · No clues (hint after 3 pops, picture after 4)	"Picture + hint" is best for new vocabulary. 🔎 Clue shows everything at once.
Words in a game	5 · 10 · 15 · 20 · All	5 words is about 5–10 minutes.
Speaking	Off · Say a word with the letter · Say the word at the end · Both	See page 6.
Turn timer	Off · 10 s · 20 s · 30 s	When the time runs out, it counts as a missed try.
Teams	Team Game: 2–4 with your own names. Online: 1 (whole class) to 4.	Online with 1 team, students take turns as one big class team.
Ziggy the computer	Off · Easy · Normal (Solo only)	Ziggy never peeks: he only guesses from the letters he can see.

Hearing the words

Every word and hint in the 15 categories has spoken audio (clear American English). Press 🔊 next to the hint, and 🔊 Hear the word at the end of each word. When a letter is chosen, its name is spoken ("bee", "zee"). My Words lists use the voice built into your device.

Speaking and the 3-try rule

Speaking turns a spelling game into a speaking game. Turn it on in Options.

Say a word with the letter

Before a letter counts, the player says a word that starts with it: "**B** – banana!". Then the teacher (or the other team) taps ✓ **Good!**.

Say the word at the end

The team that finishes the word says the whole word out loud for **+2 points**. Great for pronunciation.

No speaking, no guess

Try	What happens
1st missed try (teacher taps ↻ Try again, or the timer runs out)	Try again! – the same player tries again.
2nd missed try	Final warning!
3rd missed try	No speaking, no guess! – the letter does not count and the turn passes to the next team.
⏭ Pass	The turn passes at once (no letter).

At the end of a word, three missed tries means no +2 bonus (the word still counts).

Teacher tips

- Accept any real word – or just the letter sound – from ages 3–5; ask 6–7-year-olds for a word from today's topic ("B – a food word!").
- Hard letters (Q, X, Z): accept a word that has the letter ("box"), or tap ✓ Good! anyway.
- Online, students speak on the Zoom / Meet call. Nothing is recorded – you just listen and tap.
- Turn on the timer only after the class knows the game. 20 seconds is a good start.

Solo, Ziggy and Team games

🐼 Solo



- Great for homework, early finishers and one-to-one lessons.
- The child collects stars. The end screen shows how many times Poppy was saved.
- With speaking on, the child (or a parent) taps ✓ Good! after saying the word.

🦉 Ziggy the computer

- Turn him on in Options: **Easy** (he often guesses common letters) or **Normal** (he thinks about words that fit the blanks, and may guess the whole word).
- You and Ziggy take turns, with scores. Ziggy says the word at the end by himself.

👫 Team Game (one screen)

- Choose 2, 3 or 4 teams and type team names (Tigers, Lions…). The colored score at the top shows whose turn it is.
- Show the game on the classroom board or TV. Teams send one student at a time to tap a letter, or call out letters while you tap.
- Use ⏭️ **Next team** if a team is not ready, and ⏩ **Skip word** for a word that is too hard.
- You can also share this screen on Zoom and tap letters for the students – no license is needed for that.

Big class idea: split the class into 4 teams, 10 balloons, Picture + hint, Speaking “Both”. Every correct letter needs a word, and the team that finishes says the word together.

Playing on Zoom – step by step

Before the lesson (teacher)

1. Open Hangman Rescue → 🌐 **Play Online** → **Create a room**.
2. The first time, type your **teacher license code** (HRC-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX) and press Create. The app remembers it on this device.
3. Choose the words, level and options, then press **Create the room**. You get a 4-letter room code, for example **KTVR**.

Students join (free)

1. Each student opens Hangman Rescue on their own phone, tablet or computer (the web link from the shop, or their own copy).
2. **Play Online** → **Join a room** → type the room code and their name → **Join**.
3. Tip: paste the web link with **?join=KTVR** on the end into the Zoom chat – the code is filled in for them.
4. They appear in your lobby, shared between the teams. Students can tap **Join this team**; you can move them with ⇄ or remove them with ✕.

Start

1. Press **Start the game ▶**. Every screen shows the same board.
2. The student whose turn it is sees ⭐ **Your turn!**. Only that student's keyboard works. The others watch, and help their team on the call.
3. Turns go Red Team → Blue Team → … and each team's students take turns in order.

What to share on Zoom: your own teacher screen is safe to share – the secret word stays hidden until you press 👁. Or open **Big screen** in a second browser tab (Play Online → Big screen, type the code) and share that tab: it shows the board without any buttons.

Zoom – during the game

Button (teacher)	What it does
👁️ Show the word	Shows you the secret word. Press again to hide it before sharing your screen.
✓ Good! · ↻ Try again · ⏭️ Pass	Appear when a student must speak. You hear them on the call and tap.
Letters / 💡 Guess the word	You can always tap for the team whose turn it is – useful if a student's internet drops.
🔎 Clue	Shows the picture and the hint to everyone.
🙈 Reveal · ⏩ Skip word	Show the answer, or move on to a new word without points.
⏭️ Next team	Pass the turn to the next team.
👥 Players	Move students between teams, give a student the turn (⭐ Their turn), or remove a student.
Next word ▶ · 🏁 End game	After each word. At the end: ↻ Play again or ✏️ New words (back to the lobby with the same students).

Good to know

- If a student refreshes or loses the internet, the game reconnects by itself. On the home screen there is also a **Rejoin** button.
- If a student is offline on their turn, the turn goes to the next student in the team. If nobody in a team is online, you can tap for them.
- Up to 30 students in a room. Rooms close by themselves after 2 hours with no moves.
- The game has no chat and collects no personal data. Students only type a first name or a nickname.
- Sound: each device plays its own sounds. If you share your screen with computer audio on, students may hear sounds twice – turn off 🔊 on one side.

Your teacher license

Live online play includes a 1-year license for the teacher (students join free). Offline modes work forever.

- Your code looks like **HRC-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX**. It comes with your order (by message or email from the shop).
- The 365 days start the first time you use the code – not the day you buy it.
- Use it on up to **3 of your own devices** (for example your laptop, tablet and phone).
- Only the teacher who creates a room needs a code. Students joining a room never need one.
- Solo and Team games never need a code and never stop working.
- After you type the code once, the app shows **"License active until ..."** on that device.

Messages you might see

Message	What to do
That license code was not found	Check the letters. The code has no letter O or number 0.
This license ended on ...	Get a new 1-year license from the shop (link in the message).
Already used on 3 devices	Message the seller – they can reset your devices.
Too many tries	Wait 10 minutes and try again.
Could not reach the game server	Check the internet connection, then try again.

Please keep your code private: it is for one teacher.

My Words – make your own lists

1. On the home screen, press ✏️ **My Words** (or **Type your own words** when you choose the words).
2. Type a list name, for example Unit 4 – Food.
3. Type one word per line. Add a hint after **=** if you like.
4. Press 💾 **Save list**, then ▶ **Play this list**.

```
kitten = A baby cat.
puppy = A baby dog.
ice cream = A cold sweet food.
Poppy = A panda with balloons.
sun
```

- Letters A–Z, spaces, hyphens (-) and apostrophes (') only. 2 to 24 letters per word, up to 100 words, up to 30 lists.
- Capital letters are kept, so names work (Poppy, Monday). Guessing is not case-sensitive.
- Lines that can't be used are listed in red, so you can fix them. Repeated words are saved once.
- Lists are saved in this browser on this device. They work in Solo, Team and Online games – online, the words go to your room, so students don't need the list.
- My Words have no picture. The hint is shown and read aloud by your device's voice.

List ideas

- This week's spelling words · words from a story you are reading · students' names · days and months · numbers (one, two …) · science or social studies words · holiday words.

Classroom ideas

- **Warm-up (5 minutes):** one word from last lesson's topic, whole class, Picture + hint.
- **Letter hunt:** with “Say a word with the letter” on, the word must come from today's topic.
- **Spell it back:** after each word, the team spells it aloud letter by letter.
- **Make a sentence:** for a bonus, the team makes a sentence with the word (“I like grapes.”). Give an extra point on the board.
- **Draw it:** when Poppy is saved, everyone draws the word and holds it up to the camera.
- **Paper version:** print a game sheet from the Word Lists PDF. One student chooses a word, the partner guesses and colors a popped balloon for each wrong letter.
- **Exit ticket:** students write three words from today's game and draw one.
- **Homework:** students play Solo with the same category and report their stars.

Making it fair and fun

- Mix strong and new learners in every team. Turns go round each team in order, so everyone plays.
- Praise good speaking more than fast guessing.
- Keep the splash funny, never sad – Poppy is always OK!

Questions and answers

Does it need the internet? Only Play Online. Solo and Team games work from the unzipped folder with no internet.

Which browsers? Chrome, Edge, Safari and Firefox on Windows, Mac, Chromebook, iPhone, iPad and Android.

There is no sound. Check the 🔊 Sound button on the home screen and your device volume. On iPhone, turn off silent mode.

The pictures look different on another device. The pictures are the emoji of each device, so Windows, Apple and Android draw them in their own style.

My Words disappeared. Lists are saved in one browser on one device. Clearing the browser's data removes them. Keep a copy of your list in a document.

A student sees "Wait for your turn". Only the student whose turn it is can tap letters. Use 👥 Players → ⭐ Their turn to give someone the turn.

Can students see the answer? No. The word stays on the game server and on your screen only (hidden until 👁️).

Is it OK for 3- and 4-year-olds? Yes – choose Easy, 10 balloons and Picture + hint, and turn the timer off. The child points to a letter and you (or a parent) tap it. Hard words and the timer are for confident 6–7-year-olds.

How many students? Up to 30 in one online room, plus big screens.

Is anything recorded? No. Speaking is heard on your call; the teacher taps ✓ Good!.

All 361 words

Each word has a picture, a hint and spoken audio in the app. The hints are in the printable Word Lists.
Easy 3–4 letters · Medium 5–6 letters · Hard 7+ letters.

Animals (26)

cat	E
dog	E
cow	E
pig	E
hen	E
fox	E
bear	E
frog	E
duck	E
lion	E
horse	M
sheep	M
tiger	M
zebra	M
snake	M
monkey	M
rabbit	M
turtle	M
elephant	H
giraffe	H
penguin	H
dolphin	H
kangaroo	H
octopus	H
chicken	H
butterfly	H

Food (26)

cake	E
egg	E
rice	E
milk	E
pie	E
corn	E
soup	E
pear	E
apple	M
bread	M
pizza	M
cheese	M
banana	M
cookie	M
grapes	M
lemon	M
carrot	M
sandwich	H
popcorn	H
pancake	H
noodles	H
broccoli	H
hamburger	H
pineapple	H
strawberry	H
watermelon	H

Colors (20)

red	E
blue	E
pink	E
gray	E
gold	E
paint	M
green	M
black	M
white	M
brown	M
orange	M
purple	M
yellow	M
silver	M
rainbow	H
crayons	H
paintbrush	H
markers	H
painting	H
balloons	H

School (24)

pen	E
book	E
bus	E
map	E
desk	E
glue	E
math	E
bell	E
pencil	M
ruler	M
eraser	M
crayon	M
paper	M
chair	M
clock	M
music	M
teacher	H
lunchbox	H
backpack	H
scissors	H
notebook	H
computer	H
whiteboard	H
classroom	H

Family (20)

mom	E
dad	E
baby	E
aunt	E
son	E
pet	E
sister	M
uncle	M
mother	M
father	M
cousin	M
family	M
brother	H
grandma	H
grandpa	H
daughter	H
children	H
hug	E
parents	H
birthday	H

My Body (23)

arm	E
leg	E
eye	E
ear	E

👂		
👃	nose	E
✋	hand	E
🦶	foot	E
💇	hair	E
🦶	toes	E
👄	mouth	M
🦷	teeth	M
🙂	head	E
👍	thumb	M
👅	tongue	M
❤️	heart	M
☝️	finger	M
🦵	knee	E
🤷	shoulder	H
🤨	eyebrow	H
😋	tummy	M
💪	elbow	M
👣	footprint	H
😊	cheeks	M

👕 Clothes (23)

👒	hat	E
🧢	cap	E
🧥	coat	E
👔	tie	E
👞	shoe	E
🥾	boot	E
👕	shirt	M
👗	dress	M
🧦	socks	M
👖	pants	M
👖	jeans	M
🧣	scarf	M
🧤	gloves	M
🩳	shorts	M
🧥	jacket	M
😴	pajamas	H
👟	sneakers	H
👡	sandals	H
🩱	swimsuit	H
☔	raincoat	H
🕶️	sunglasses	H
🧤	mittens	H
🧶	sweater	H

🌦️ Weather (24)

☀️	sun	E
🌧️	rain	E
❄️	snow	E
🌬️	wind	E
🥵	hot	E
🥶	cold	E
🧊	ice	E
💧	wet	E
😎	sunny	M
☔	rainy	M
☁️	cloud	M
🪁	windy	M
⛈️	storm	M
🌨️	snowy	M
⛅	cloudy	M
🌤️	warm	E
🌈	rainbow	H
🌩️	thunder	H
❄️	snowflake	H
⚡	lightning	H
☔	umbrella	H
☃️	snowman	H
🌦️	weather	H
🌞	sunshine	H

👷 Jobs (23)

👨‍🍳	cook	E
👩‍🍳	chef	E
🐕	vet	E
👑	king	E
👸	queen	M
👩‍✈️	pilot	M
👩‍⚕️	nurse	M
👨‍⚕️	doctor	M
👩‍🌾	farmer	M
👩‍🎤	singer	M
💃	dancer	M
👩‍🎨	artist	M
🧁	baker	M
🍽️	waiter	M
👩‍🏫	teacher	H
🦷	dentist	H
👩‍🚒	firefighter	H
👮	police officer	H
🦒	zookeeper	H
👩‍🔬	scientist	H
👩‍🚀	astronaut	H
👷	builder	H
📬	mail carrier	H

⚽ Sports (26)

⛳	golf	E
⛷️	ski	E
🪁	kite	E
⚽	ball	E
🏏	bat	E
🥅	net	E
🥅	goal	E
🏁	race	E
⚽	soccer	M
🎾	tennis	M
🏒	hockey	M
🥋	karate	M
🧘	yoga	E
🏆	cup	E
⛸️	skate	M
🏅	medal	M
⚾	baseball	H
🏈	football	H
🏊	swimming	H
🏃	running	H
🚴	cycling	H
🏐	volleyball	H
🏀	basketball	H
🏸	badminton	H
🎳	bowling	H
🏄	surfing	H

🚗 Transportation (25)

🚗	car	E
🚌	bus	E
🚐	van	E
🚕	taxi	E
🚢	ship	E
⛵	boat	E
✈️	jet	E
🚲	bike	E
🛷	sled	E
🚆	train	M
🚚	truck	M
✈️	plane	M
🚀	rocket	M
🚇	subway	M
🚓	police car	H
🛶	canoe	M
🚲	bicycle	H
✈️	airplane	H
🛴	scooter	H
🚜	tractor	H
⛵	sailboat	H
🚑	ambulance	H
🏍️	motorcycle	H
🚁	helicopter	H

fire truck	H

My Home (24)

bed	E
sofa	E
door	E
lamp	E
bath	E
sink	E
fork	E
key	E
chair	M
toilet	M
shower	M
garden	M
spoon	M
pillow	M
plate	M
basket	M
kitchen	H
bedroom	H
bathroom	H
blanket	H
doorbell	H
bookcase	H
fridge	M
toothbrush	H

Places in Town (26)

park	E
zoo	E
pet shop	H
shop	E
pool	E
cafe	E
farm	E
road	E
school	M
store	M
hotel	M
beach	M
bakery	M
market	M
castle	M
house	M
hospital	H
library	H
restaurant	H
post office	H
airport	H
playground	H
stadium	H
supermarket	H
movie theater	H
bus stop	H

Action Words (26)

run	E
jump	E
eat	E
swim	E
sing	E
read	E
fly	E
walk	E
draw	E
sit	E
dance	M
sleep	M
climb	M
write	M
drink	M
smile	M
laugh	M
listen	M
cook	E
clap	E
play	E
wave	E
kick	E
throw	M
stretch	H
exercise	H

Describing Words (25)

big	E
sad	E
fast	E
slow	E
tall	E
soft	E
new	E
old	E
happy	M
small	M
angry	M
funny	M
sleepy	M
hungry	M
clean	M
quiet	M
strong	M
excited	H
thirsty	H
dirty	M
pretty	M
yummy	M
friendly	H
little	M
sticky	M



Poppy Rescuer

This certificate is awarded to

_____

for saving Poppy the Panda by guessing _____ words!

Category: _____ Date: _____

Teacher: _____

