

Tips for making your own set of Alpha Tiles



Two ways to make your own set of Alpha Tiles using the downloadable graphics provided from the Alpha Word Game System wiki. You may do it either way or come up with your own creative way...the main thing is to have fun making the tiles and then playing the games with the tiles when you are done. Enjoy.

Using thick cardboard, foam, foam-board or some other backing:

You will need a some kind of backing to give the tiles a little thickness. The backing should also be easy to cut with a razor knife. You should be able to find something in your local craft store. Be sure that you can fit the complete Alpha Tiles graphic on what ever you choose. You will a razor knife, a straight edge (a metal ruler works) and possibly some glue.

Step 1) Print out the Alpha Tiles graphics. You can print it out on a regular piece of printer paper or a piece of thin card stock (I prefer the thin card stock). You can also use a full sheet self-adhesive label if you have one (like the Avery 8255...if you go to avery.com and type in 8255 in the product search you will see what I mean).

Step 2) Glue the printed paper to the backing of your choice. You want the glue to be evenly distributed on the back of the printed paper (I find spray can glue works really well). Let the newly glued paper sit for about 20 minutes before continuing.

Step 3) Using the razor knife and the straight edge cut along the red cut-lines to make the tiles.

Using old Scrabble® tiles:

This is my favorite way. You will need to find some old wooden Scrabble® tiles. I find the local thrift store is a great place to find a old copy of Scrabble® although it might take a few return trips to find one....it's okay if a few tiles are missing from the game you only need 74 of them.

Step 1) Print out the Alpha Tiles graphics on a full sheet self-adhesive label (like the Avery 8255...if you go to avery.com and type in 8255 in the product search you will see what I mean).

Step 2) Using a pair of scissors cut out the Alpha Tile by cutting along the red cut lines. Now here's a hint. First cut along the 4 outside red lines so all the tiles are still connected but separated from the rest of the paper. Next cut them so you have eleven strips of tiles with seven tiles in each of them. Don't cut out the individual tiles until the next step.

Step 3) Place the Scrabble® tile so that is letter side up. Peel back the sticker backing from the strip of seven tiles just enough so you can cut away one without cutting the backing, leave the backing on the remaining tiles. Place the single printed tile (that now has no backing) on the Scrabble® tile so that it is centered and covers up the old letter on the Scrabble® tile. Do this for all the tiles.

Don't toss away the rest of that old Scrabble® game...you can still use it. You now have some nice wooden tile holders and the tile bag. The left over Scrabble® tile can be used if you lose a tile. And you can always play a game of Scrabble® using Alpha Tiles in place of Scrabble® Tiles.