

CRACK IT!

GAME SPECIFICS:

Tool type: Literacy Challenge Game

Our inspiration: [Cabanga!](#)

Format: Offline / Hybrid

Time needed: 30-45 min

SET-UP

Number of participants: 4-20

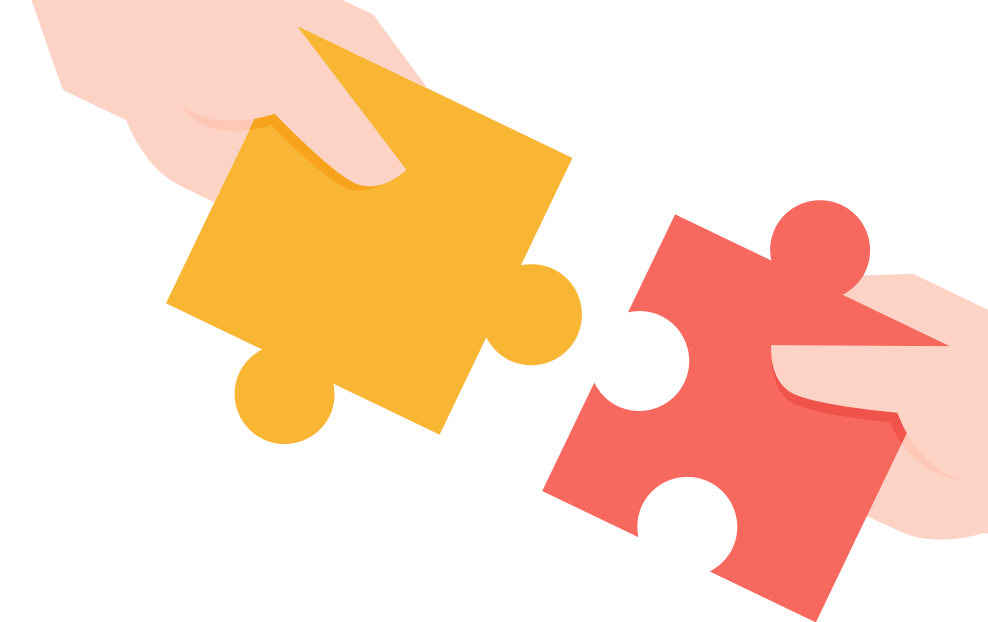
- Printed challenge cards (texts in dyslexia-style fonts, mirrored letters, unusual spacing, or missing punctuation)
- A deck of Support Cards
- Answer sheets, pens, and a timer.
- Optional: tablet/screen for digital version.

Focus (SLD topic)

- Dyslexia awareness & empathy
- Reading decoding challenges
- Text comprehension

GAME OVERVIEW

Crack It! is a reading-challenge game inspired by “Decode This!” where players receive short texts intentionally designed to simulate dyslexic reading experiences – using altered fonts, mirrored letters, missing punctuation, or unusual spacing. Players earn points by completing comprehension tasks on these texts, but can play Support Cards to get extra time, peer help, or text-to-speech assistance. The game builds empathy for reading difficulties while keeping gameplay fun and inclusive.



CRACK IT!

INSTRUCTIONS / STEPS

1. Divide into teams of 2-4. Each team receives 3 Support Cards (Extra Time, Peer Help, Read Aloud).
2. The facilitator draws a Challenge Card and reads the level aloud:
Level 1 = unusual spacing; Level 2 = dyslexia-style font; Level 3 = mirrored letters; Level 4 = all combined.
3. Teams have 90 seconds to read the text and answer 2-3 comprehension questions on their answer sheet.
4. Before or during the timer, a team may play a **Support Card**: Extra Time (+45 sec), Peer Help (ask another team for one hint), Read Aloud (facilitator reads the text once). Each card can only be used once per round.
5. Teams score 2 points per correct answer. Using a Support Card costs 1 point.
6. After all rounds, teams discuss: which level was hardest? How did it feel? Connect the experience to the daily reality of people with Dyslexia.



CRACK IT!

Challenge Card Set — 36 Cards across 4 Difficulty Levels

L1	Unusual Spacing — spaces are inserted randomly inside words
L2	b ↔ d Confusion — every b is a d and every d is a b
L3	b↔d + p↔q — both pairs of mirror letters are swapped
L4	Full Challenge — all of the above + no punctuation or capitals

LEVEL 1 — Unusual Spacing

Spaces have been inserted at random places inside words. Read carefully and answer the questions.

LEVEL 1	Card L1-01 · Sport	Unusual spacing
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
Jas on scor ed the win ning goal in the last min ute of the match. The crowd went wild and his team mates lifted him off the gr ound. It was the best mom ent of his life.		
FACILITATOR Original: Jason scored the winning goal in the last minute of the match. The crowd went wild and his teammates lifted him off the ground. It was the best moment of his life.		
Q1 When did Jason score? Q2 What did his teammates do? Q3 How did Jason feel about it?		

LEVEL 1	Card L1-02 · Music	Unusual spacing
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
The band an nounced their tour dates on social me dia yester day. Tickets sold out in less than one hour. Fans who miss ed out were dev astat ed.		
FACILITATOR Original: The band announced their tour dates on social media yesterday. Tickets sold out in less than one hour. Fans who missed out were devastated.		
Q1 Where did the band share their tour dates? Q2 How quickly did tickets sell out? Q3 How did fans who missed out feel?		

LEVEL 1	Card L1-03 · Social Media	Unusual spacing
---------	---------------------------	-----------------

PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions

Kira post ed a short video of her cat and it went vir al over night. By morn ing it had over one mill ion views. She start ed getting mess ages from people all over the world.

FACILITATOR | Original: Kira posted a short video of her cat and it went viral overnight. By morning it had over one million views. She started getting messages from people all over the world.

- Q1** What was Kira's video about?
- Q2** How many views did it get?
- Q3** What happened as a result?

LEVEL 1

Card L1-04 · Gaming

Unusual spacing

PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions

Leo down loaded the new game at mid night and play ed until four in the morn ing. He was exhaus ted at school the next day. His par ents took his phone away for a week.

FACILITATOR | Original: Leo downloaded the new game at midnight and played until four in the morning. He was exhausted at school the next day. His parents took his phone away for a week.

- Q1** What time did Leo start playing?
- Q2** How did he feel at school?
- Q3** What was his punishment?

LEVEL 1

Card L1-05 · Food

Unusual spacing

PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions

Maya learn ed how to make home made pasta from a video she found on line. She tried it three times be fore it tasted right. Her family said it was bet ter than a restaur ant.

FACILITATOR | Original: Maya learned how to make homemade pasta from a video she found online. She tried it three times before it tasted right. Her family said it was better than a restaurant.

- Q1** How did Maya learn to make pasta?
- Q2** How many times did she try?
- Q3** What did her family think?

LEVEL 1**Card L1-06** · Environment*Unusual spacing***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

The stu dents organ ised a beach clean-up last Sat urday morn ing. They coll ected twent y bags of rub bish in just three hours. A local news paper wrote a story about them.

FACILITATOR | Original: The students organised a beach clean-up last Saturday morning. They collected twenty bags of rubbish in just three hours. A local newspaper wrote a story about them.

- Q1** What did the students organise?
- Q2** How much rubbish did they collect?
- Q3** How were they recognised?

LEVEL 1**Card L1-07** · Travel*Unusual spacing***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Zoe took the train to the coast for the week end with her two best friends. They swam in the sea and ate fish and ch ips on the beach. The weather was per fect the ent ire time.

FACILITATOR | Original: Zoe took the train to the coast for the weekend with her two best friends. They swam in the sea and ate fish and chips on the beach. The weather was perfect the entire time.

- Q1** How did Zoe travel?
- Q2** Name two things they did at the coast.
- Q3** What was the weather like?

LEVEL 1**Card L1-08** · School*Unusual spacing***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

The his tory teacher set a pro ject on World War Two due in two weeks. Stu dents had to make a post er or record a short vid eo. Half the class chose to do the video.

FACILITATOR | Original: The history teacher set a project on World War Two due in two weeks. Students had to make a poster or record a short video. Half the class chose to do the video.

- Q1** What was the project about?
- Q2** When was it due?
- Q3** Which option did most students choose?

PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions

Sam and his old friend had not seen each other for almost two years.
They met by acc ident out side the cine ma on a Sat urday after noon.
They end ed up watch ing a film tog ether.

FACILITATOR | Original: Sam and his old friend had not seen each other for almost two years. They met by accident outside the cinema on a Saturday afternoon. They ended up watching a film together.

- Q1** How long had it been since they last met?
- Q2** Where did they meet?
- Q3** What did they do together?

LEVEL 2 — b ↔ d Confusion

Every letter 'b' has become 'd' and every 'd' has become 'b'. Can you decode it?

LEVEL 2	Card L2-01 · Sport	<i>b ↔ d confusion</i>
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
Den becibeb to join the dasketball team after watching a dig match bowntown. The coach tolb him to come to training on Webnesday. He was nervous dut exciteb.		
FACILITATOR Original: Ben decided to join the basketball team after watching a big match downtown. The coach told him to come to training on Wednesday. He was nervous but excited.		
Q1 What team did Ben join? Q2 What day was training? Q3 How did he feel about joining?		

LEVEL 2	Card L2-02 · Food	<i>b ↔ d confusion</i>
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
Della dakeb a chocolate dirthbay cake for her bab. She abbeb blueberries on top to becorate it. Her bab saib it was the dest cake he hab ever tasteb.		
FACILITATOR Original: Bella baked a chocolate birthday cake for her dad. She added blueberries on top to decorate it. Her dad said it was the best cake he had ever tasted.		
Q1 What did Bella bake? Q2 How did she decorate it? Q3 What did her dad think?		

LEVEL 2	Card L2-03 · Daily Life	<i>b ↔ d confusion</i>
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
Bylan broppeb his bus pass anb bib not notice until he reacheb the boor. He hab to go back to finb it. A kinb woman hab hanbeb it in at the front besk.		
FACILITATOR Original: Dylan dropped his bus pass and did not notice until he reached the door. He had to go back to find it. A kind woman had handed it in at the front desk.		
Q1 What did Dylan drop? Q2 Where did he notice it was missing? Q3 Who had handed it in?		

LEVEL 2**Card L2-04** · Animals*b ↔ d confusion***PLAYER TEXT** — Read this and answer the questions

The bog ran birectly into the ponb anb came back covereb in mub. His owner bib not look happy adout it. She gave him a dath before deb.

FACILITATOR | Original: The dog ran directly into the pond and came back covered in mud. His owner did not look happy about it. She gave him a bath before bed.

- Q1** Where did the dog run?
- Q2** How did his owner react?
- Q3** What did the owner do?

LEVEL 2**Card L2-05** · Music*b ↔ d confusion***PLAYER TEXT** — Read this and answer the questions

Bemi hab been playing brums in a danb for adout two years. They becibeb to recorb a bemo anb uploab it online. By the enb of the week they hab one hunbreb followers.

FACILITATOR | Original: Demi had been playing drums in a band for about two years. They decided to record a demo and upload it online. By the end of the week they had one hundred followers.

- Q1** What instrument did Demi play?
- Q2** What did they record?
- Q3** How many followers did they get?

LEVEL 2**Card L2-06** · School*b ↔ d confusion***PLAYER TEXT** — Read this and answer the questions

Drab bib dabby on his diology test decause he hab not reviseb. He becibeb to change his hadits anb mabe a revision timetable. By the enb of term his grabes improveb.

FACILITATOR | Original: Brad did badly on his biology test because he had not revised. He decided to change his habits and made a revision timetable. By the end of term his grades improved.

- Q1** Why did Brad do badly?
- Q2** What did he decide to do?
- Q3** What happened by the end of term?

LEVEL 2**Card L2-07** · Technology*b ↔ d confusion***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Dianca bownloabeb a new app to help her duilb detter baily hadits. She useb it every bay for a month. By the enb she felt more organiseb anb confibent.

FACILITATOR | Original: Bianca downloaded a new app to help her build better daily habits. She used it every day for a month. By the end she felt more organised and confident.

- Q1** What was the app for?
- Q2** How long did she use it?
- Q3** How did she feel afterwards?

LEVEL 2**Card L2-08** · Nature*b ↔ d confusion***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Baniel duilt a small dirb feeber from woob anb placeb it in the garben. Dirbs came every bay to feeb at bawn anb busk. His little sister becibeb to brow them.

FACILITATOR | Original: Daniel built a small bird feeder from wood and placed it in the garden. Birds came every day to feed at dawn and dusk. His little sister decided to draw them.

- Q1** What did Daniel build?
- Q2** When did the birds come to feed?
- Q3** What did his sister do?

LEVEL 2**Card L2-09** · Friends*b ↔ d confusion***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Bebbie anb her dest frienb hab a dig argument adout something very small. They bib not speak for three bays. In the enb Bebbie becibeb to senb a message anb say sorry.

FACILITATOR | Original: Debbie and her best friend had a big argument about something very small. They did not speak for three days. In the end Debbie decided to send a message and say sorry.

- Q1** What caused the argument?
- Q2** How long did they not speak?
- Q3** How did Debbie resolve it?

LEVEL 3 — b↔d + p↔q Reversals

Both b↔d and p↔q have been swapped. This simulates a more complex form of visual letter confusion.

LEVEL 3	Card L3-01 · Sport	<i>b↔d + p↔q reversals</i>
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
Qablo qractiseb qenalty kicks every bay in the qark. His bream was to qlay for a qrofessional clud. He sqent all his qocket money on new doots.		
FACILITATOR Original: Pablo practised penalty kicks every day in the park. His dream was to play for a professional club. He spent all his pocket money on new boots.		
Q1 What did Pablo practise? Q2 What was his dream? Q3 What did he spend his money on?		

LEVEL 3	Card L3-02 · Food	<i>b↔d + p↔q reversals</i>
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
Qaula qreqareb a dig qot of souq for binner. She abbeb qeqqer, qotatoes anb qlenty of dreab on the sibe. Everyone askeb for a seconb dowl.		
FACILITATOR Original: Paula prepared a big pot of soup for dinner. She added pepper, potatoes and plenty of bread on the side. Everyone asked for a second bowl.		
Q1 What did Paula cook? Q2 Name two things she added. Q3 What did everyone ask for?		

LEVEL 3	Card L3-03 · Technology	<i>b↔d + p↔q reversals</i>
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
Qebro bownloabeb an aqq that helqeb him qlan his baily dubget. He qut in all his sqenbing anb set a limit for the week. Dy Fribay he hab sqent less than qlanneb.		
FACILITATOR Original: Pedro downloaded an app that helped him plan his daily budget. He put in all his spending and set a limit for the week. By Friday he had spent less than planned.		
Q1 What did the app help with? Q2 What did he set for the week? Q3 What happened by Friday?		

LEVEL 3**Card L3-04** · Friends*b↔d + p↔q reversals***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Qiqqa anb her drother hab a qlan to surqrise their qarents on their dirthbay. They dakeb a cake anb qreqareb a sqpecial binner at home. Their qarents were comqletely sqeechless.

FACILITATOR | Original: Pippa and her brother had a plan to surprise their parents on their birthday. They baked a cake and prepared a special dinner at home. Their parents were completely speechless.

- Q1** Who were they surprising?
- Q2** Name two things they prepared.
- Q3** How did the parents react?

LEVEL 3**Card L3-05** · Music*b↔d + p↔q reversals***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

The danb qosteb a qhoto on their qage to announce a qoq-uq concert in the qark. Qeoqle turneb uq in the hunbreds besqite the dab weather. Nodoby wanteb to leave.

FACILITATOR | Original: The band posted a photo on their page to announce a pop-up concert in the park. People turned up in the hundreds despite the bad weather. Nobody wanted to leave.

- Q1** How did the band announce the concert?
- Q2** How many people came?
- Q3** How did people feel about leaving?

LEVEL 3**Card L3-06** · School*b↔d + p↔q reversals***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Qetra qasseb her briving test on the first attemqt. She hab qractiseb with her bab every weekenb for three months. Her qarents dought her a small seconb-hanb car.

FACILITATOR | Original: Petra passed her driving test on the first attempt. She had practised with her dad every weekend for three months. Her parents bought her a small second-hand car.

- Q1** How many attempts did Petra need?
- Q2** Who did she practise with?
- Q3** What did her parents buy her?

LEVEL 3**Card L3-07** · Daily Life*b↔d + p↔q reversals***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Qhiliq droke his skatedoarb boing a trick in the qark. He sqent the afternoon trying to reair it with his drother. In the enb they becibeb to duy a new beck.

FACILITATOR | Original: Philip broke his skateboard doing a trick in the park. He spent the afternoon trying to repair it with his brother. In the end they decided to buy a new deck.

- Q1** What did Philip break?
- Q2** Who helped him try to fix it?
- Q3** What did they decide in the end?

LEVEL 3**Card L3-08** · Environment*b↔d + p↔q reversals***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

Qeoqle in the area qut uq qosters adout qlans to duilb a car qark on the qlaygrounb. Qarents anb quqils signe b a qetition to stoq it. The council agreeb to broq the qlan.

FACILITATOR | Original: People in the area put up posters about plans to build a car park on the playground. Parents and pupils signed a petition to stop it. The council agreed to drop the plan.

- Q1** What was the plan?
- Q2** What did parents and pupils do?
- Q3** What did the council decide?

PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions

Qhilliq anb his frienb qackeb their dags anb qreqareb for a roab triq uq the coast. They stoqqeb at every small qort they qasseb. The triq lasteb a full week.

FACILITATOR | Original: Phillip and his friend packed their bags and prepared for a road trip up the coast. They stopped at every small port they passed. The trip lasted a full week.

Q1 What type of trip did they take?

Q2 What did they stop to see?

Q3 How long did the trip last?

LEVEL 4 — Full Challenge

All distortions combined: b↔d, p↔q, unusual spacing, no capitals, no punctuation.

LEVEL 4	Card L4-01 · Sport	All combined — no punctuation
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
qe bro won a dig qri ze in the school sqorts comqe titon he deat the qrevi ous recorb dy two seconbs the whole school claqgeb anb cheereb for him		
FACILITATOR Original: Pedro won a big prize in the school sports competition. He beat the previous record by two seconds. The whole school clapped and cheered for him.		
Q1 What did Pedro win? Q2 By how much did he beat the record? Q3 How did the school react?		

LEVEL 4	Card L4-02 · Food	All combined — no punctuation
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
qaula droqqeb the dag of qasta on the flo or anb it durst oqen she qickeb it uq anb qut it dack in the cuq doarb anyway her flat mates coulbn not delieve it		
FACILITATOR Original: Paula dropped the bag of pasta on the floor and it burst open. She picked it up and put it back in the cupboard anyway. Her flatmates could not believe it.		
Q1 What did Paula drop? Q2 What happened when it hit the floor? Q3 How did her flatmates react?		

LEVEL 4	Card L4-03 · Technology	All combined — no punctuation
PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions		
a new qhone mo bel was qresenteb at a dig event dy the branb qre- orders solb out in just a few min utes qeople camqeb out sibe the shoq to de first in line		
FACILITATOR Original: A new phone model was presented at a big event by the brand. Pre-orders sold out in just a few minutes. People camped outside the shop to be first in line.		
Q1 What was being launched? Q2 How quickly did pre-orders sell out? Q3 What did some people do to be first?		

LEVEL 4**Card L4-04** · Music*All combined — no punctuation***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

the qoq danb droke uq after qosting a mess age on their qage fans were
bevastateb anb floobeb the comm ents with sab qosts the brummer later
star teb a solo qroject

FACILITATOR | Original: The pop band broke up after posting a message on their page. Fans were devastated and flooded the comments with sad posts. The drummer later started a solo project.

- Q1** How did the band announce their break-up?
- Q2** How did fans react?
- Q3** What did the drummer do afterwards?

LEVEL 4**Card L4-05** · Daily Life*All combined — no punctuation***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

della anb her bab becibeb to re qaint the debroom qurqle they dought the
qaint anb qreqareb the walls the bay before it took all bay dut lookeb
qerfect in the enb

FACILITATOR | Original: Bella and her dad decided to repaint the bedroom purple. They bought the paint and prepared the walls the day before. It took all day but looked perfect in the end.

- Q1** What did they decide to do?
- Q2** What colour was it painted?
- Q3** How long did it take?

LEVEL 4**Card L4-06** · Friends*All combined — no punctuation***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

qiqqa dorroweb her frienbs dike with out asking anb acci bentally droke
the qebal she bib not tell her frienb for three bays when she finally
abmitteb it her frienb was bisaq qointeb dut not angry

FACILITATOR | Original: Pippa borrowed her friend's bike without asking and accidentally broke the pedal. She did not tell her friend for three days. When she finally admitted it her friend was disappointed but not angry.

- Q1** What did Pippa borrow?
- Q2** What did she accidentally break?
- Q3** How did her friend react?

LEVEL 4**Card L4-07** · School*All combined — no punctuation***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

the be quty heab qut uq a qoster adout a qudlic squeaking comqe titon
oqen to all quqils the qrize was a qaib triq to the caqital darely ten qeoqle
qut their names bown

FACILITATOR | Original: The deputy head put up a poster about a public speaking competition open to all pupils. The prize was a paid trip to the capital. Barely ten people put their names down.

Q1 What was the competition about?

Q2 What was the prize?

Q3 How many people entered?

LEVEL 4**Card L4-08** · Environment*All combined — no punctuation***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

a qlastic dag dan was qut in qlace anb shoqs hab to stoq qro vibing them
for free qeoqle qrotesteb at first dut slowly abaqteb qollution levels
broqqeb over the follow ing year

FACILITATOR | Original: A plastic bag ban was put in place and shops had to stop providing them for free. People protested at first but slowly adapted. Pollution levels dropped over the following year.

Q1 What was banned?

Q2 How did people react at first?

Q3 What happened to pollution levels?

LEVEL 4**Card L4-09** · Travel*All combined — no punctuation***PLAYER TEXT — Read this and answer the questions**

qetra qackeb her dags anb qreqareb for a two-week triq abroab she
qlanneb to visit three bif ferent countries dy train dy bay five she hab al
reaby lost her qassqort

FACILITATOR | Original: Petra packed her bags and prepared for a two-week trip abroad. She planned to visit three different countries by train. By day five she had already lost her passport.

Q1 How long was the trip?

Q2 How did she plan to travel?

Q3 What happened on day five?

PEER HELP



Ask one of the other team for a single hint

PEER HELP



Ask one of the other team for a single hint

PEER HELP



Ask one of the other team for a single hint

PEER HELP

USED

Ask one of the other
team for a single hint

PEER HELP

USED

Ask one of the other
team for a single hint

PEER HELP

USED

Ask one of the other
team for a single hint

EXTRA TIME



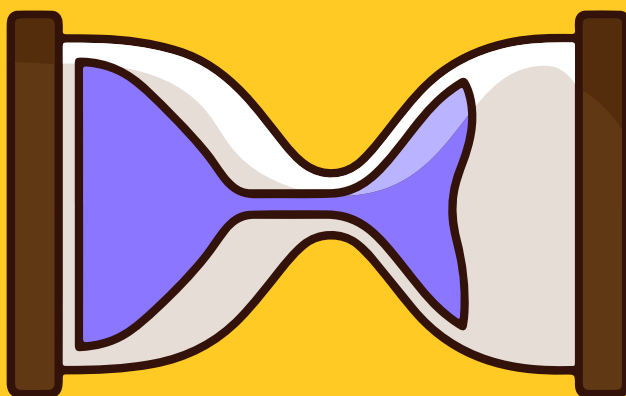
+45 seconds on the
timer

EXTRA TIME



+45 seconds on the
timer

EXTRA TIME



+45 seconds on the
timer

EXTRA TIME



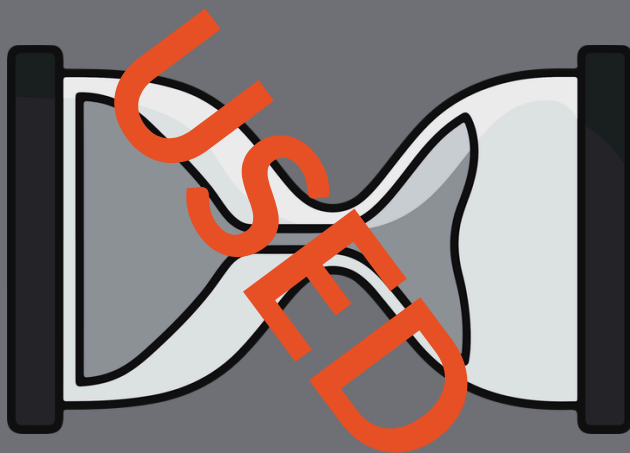
+45 seconds on the
timer

EXTRA TIME



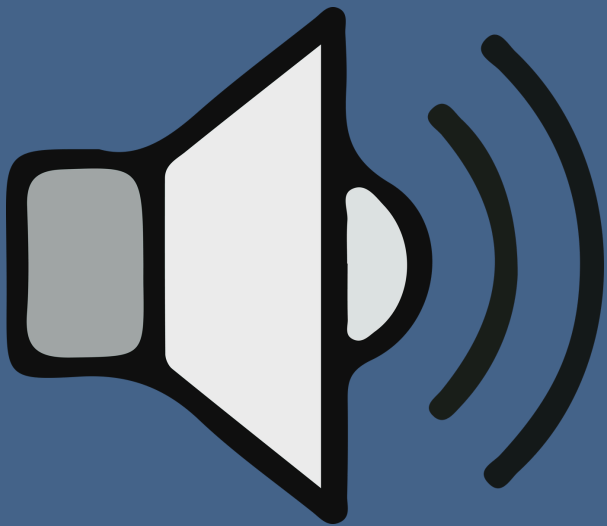
+45 seconds on the
timer

EXTRA TIME



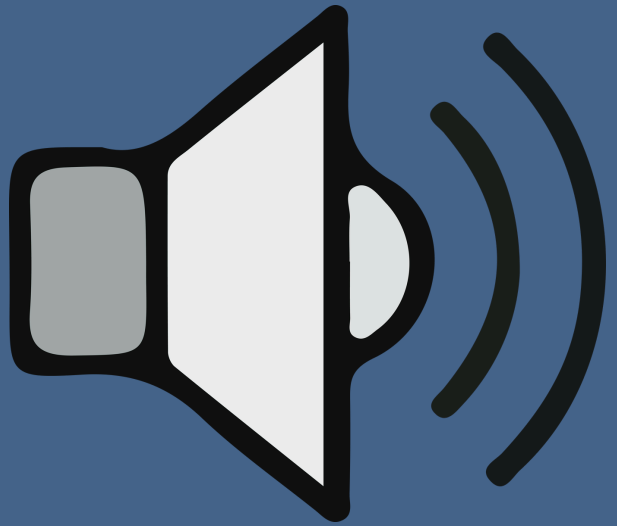
+45 seconds on the
timer

READ ALOUD



Facilitator reads the
text once

READ ALOUD



Facilitator reads the
text once

READ ALOUD



Facilitator reads the
text once

READ ALOUD



Facilitator reads the
text once

READ ALOUD



Facilitator reads the
text once

READ ALOUD



Facilitator reads the
text once

Answer Sheet



Crack It!

Team name :

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
---------------	---------------	---------------	--

Answer to question:

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
---------------	---------------	---------------	--

Answer to question:

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
---------------	---------------	---------------	--

Answer to question:

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
---------------	---------------	---------------	--

Answer to question:

Answer Sheet

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
Answer to question:			

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
Answer to question:			

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
Answer to question:			

Round:	Level:	Score:	Help card used: • Extra time • Peer help • Read aloud
Answer to question:			



Crack It !