Wheel of Fortune: Featuring Vanna White FAQ/Walkthrough

by Sabemos

Updated to v1.00 on Jul 23, 2009

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Genre : Trivia / Game Show

Developer : GameTek
Publisher : GameTek

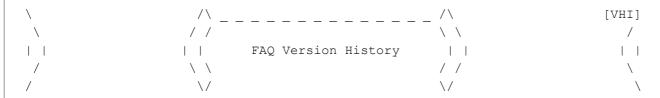
System : Nintendo Entertainment System

Official Title : Wheel of Fortune: Featuring Vanna White

Release Date : January 1992

ESRB Rating : N/A

Wheel of Fortune has scene dozens of releases for the various consoles over the years, starting with its first release for the Nintendo Entertainment System. This release for the Nintendo Entertainment System featured Vanna White actually doing her job on screen, flipping over the letters -- but otherwise the game remains the same. The graphics are altered and certain features, like controlling the strength put into spinning the wheel, have been taken out.



Version 1.0.0 : This guide now exists. It didn't used to. All great guides

: start this way.

: File Size: 33KB, 32137 characters, 3759 words, 11 pages

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1 1	1 1	Game Summary	1 1	1 1
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You're a contestant on the wildly popular TV game show, Wheel of Fortune! Your goal is to spin the wheel, guess the letters that appear in the puzzle, and solve it before your competitors do.

Every time you correctly solve a puzzle, you'll keep the money you won in that round. If you aren't the one to solve the puzzle, you don't keep the money. After four rounds, the player with the most money wins the game! But watch out for the Bankrupt and Lose a Turn spaces -- they can thwart your plans in a heartbeat.

The winner gets to move on and play in the bonus round. In this round, you'll be given a short puzzle with some pre-revealed letters. Select three more consonants and a vowel, then solve the puzzle to win great virtual prizes!

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1 1		Game Controls		1 1
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/	\/		\/	\

Up Arrow: Move active B: Backspace when selected letter up (name input screen). [^]

solving puzzle.

[A]

[B] A: Select letter, select option or spin the wheel.

Left Arrow: Right Arrow: Scroll through [<] [>] Scroll through letters or letters or options [V] options.

[SELECT]

[START]

Down Arrow: Move active selected letter down Start the final (name input screen). round; hurry past

opening screens.

Select: No real usage.

[WLK] | |-----| | | |----| | Walkthrough \/| $| \setminus |$ [GTS] / | | Getting Started \ \ / / \/

After loading the game, you'll be greeted with several obnoxiously long title screens. Eventually, you'll be asked how many players you'll be playing with: one, two or three. Three human players can play with a single controller -- you just have to pass the controller around to whoever's turn it is. Choose as many players as you want.

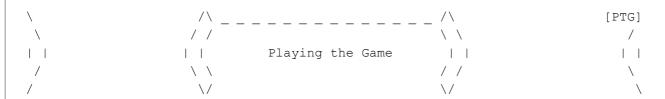
You'll then be asked if you want to play against the computer. If you choose yes, non-human spots will be filled with a computer player -- one player games will play against two computers, while two player games will play with one.

Third, you'll be asked your difficulty level. There are three to choose from: Easy, Medium and Hard. The difficulty level affects several aspects of the game. In all games, it impacts the types of puzzles you're given -- higher difficulty levels get longer puzzles. Secondly, if you're playing with a computer player, the difficulty level has a strong impact on how good the computer player is. A difficulty level of Easy will have computers that don't always pick the best letters and have a hard time solving the puzzle. Hard players will always pick the best letter and will often solve the puzzle before you can figure out what it is.

After selecting the difficulty level, you'll enter the player names one by one. Use the up, down, left and right arrows to select the letters and press A to enter them, then press Start.

After entering all the names, you'll be given the chance to choose 'avatars' for your characters. There are three male and three female avatars -- a blonde, brunette and black-haired one for each gender. The avatar you choose is completely irrelevant. If you have computer players, their avatars will be randomly generated.

After this is complete, the game will start!



Wheel of Fortune is a relatively simple game. Starting with the player on the left, players take turns. On a player's turn, they have three options:

- Spin the Wheel: you give the wheel of spin and come up with a dollar value. Then, you pick a consonant -- if there are any of that letter on the board, you get money equal to the number of times the letter appears times the dollar value you spun.

When you choose to spin, you must press A again to actually spin the wheel. Don't be like me and sit staring at the screen for five minutes wondering what the heck is going on. When you spin, you'll see the wheel values scroll by and eventually land on a value. If it's a monetary value, you get to choose a letter. If it's bankrupt or lose a turn, you lose your turn and all your money from this round if it's a bankrupt space.

If you're selecting a letter, simply use the left and right arrow buttons to choose the letter you want. The game will automatically skip over letters that have already been chosen and vowels. Pick your letter, and if it appears you'll get money and get to go again. If it doesn't appear, the next player gets a turn.

- Buy a Vowel: For \$250, you can 'buy' one of the five vowels. Buying it will unveil all the places on the board that the vowel appears, but will only cost you \$250 total no matter how many appearances there are. Even if a vowel you choose does not appear, you'll be charged \$250.

After choosing to buy a vowel, you'll be given the letters that haven't been selected yet. Use the left and right arrow buttons to scroll through and select which one you want to choose. The game will automatically skip over consonants and vowels that have already been chosen.

- Solve the Puzzle: If you think you know the answer, you can solve the puzzle.

When solving the puzzle, you'll be given a listing of the letters. Use the left and right arrow buttons to choose your letters. You must enter them in the order the blanks appear -- for example, if the answer was Sparrow and the board currently showed __arro_, you'd enter s, p, w. When you're done, press Start to enter your solution. If you're correct, you'll win the round and keep your money. If you're wrong, the next player gets a turn.

If on a player's turn they successfully unveil any letters on the board — either by spinning and choosing a consonant that appears, or by buying a vowel that appears — that player gets to take another turn. However, if the player chooses a letter that does not appear on the board, or if they spin and land on Bankrupt or Lose a Turn, then the next player to a turn. Play continues in this circular pattern until someone solves the puzzle.

When a player solves the puzzle, that player gets to keep the money they earned in the round. The other players do not keep their money. A new puzzle then starts, and the game proceeds again as normal. After four puzzles, the game ends, and the player with the most money wins. Whoever wins the game will get

to play in the bonus round. For information on that, check out the Bonus Round section.

For each puzzle, you'll be given the option before the round begins to reject the puzzle by pressing Select. This is essentially meant to allow you to reject a puzzle you've seen before.

Judging from these rules, the objective of the game becomes clear: solve the puzzle as fast as possible. For tips on how to do this, check out the Strategy Guide section.

Spinning the wheel is completely random, even though it appears like there's a predictability to it. Interestingly, the wheel does not proceed in the same order every game -- certain patterns are common, but it's as if the Bankrupt, Lose a Turn and Free Spin spaces are substituted over other dollar spaces, making it difficult to actually tell the order of the spaces on the wheel. Not that it matters since the space you spin is always randomly determined anyway.

It's useful, though, to see what spaces are available so you can know whether to go ahead and choose a letter you're confident about or to wait.

The available monetary spaces are:

\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400
\$450	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$750	\$800
\$900	\$1000	\$1500	\$3500	\$5000	

There are also three non-monetary spaces on the wheel:

- Bankrupt: if you land on bankrupt, you'll lose all the money you've gained this round and you'll lose your turn to the next person. You'll keep the money you gained in previous rounds, however.
- Lose a Turn: you won't lose your money, but you'll lose your turn to the next player.
- Free Spin: if you land on this you'll receive a free spin token. This token will give you the option of keeping your turn next time you would otherwise lose it (after a Lose a Turn or guessing a letter that isn't in the puzzle, for example).

Early in most puzzles, you won't have much of an idea what the solution is, so it will be difficult to make educated guesses about what letters should appear. The most effective thing to do when you're early in a puzzle without much of an inkling as to what letters will be used is to favor the most commonly-used letters in the English language.

The frequency of use of the letters of the English language, according to

material licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License and using material from the Wikipedia article "Letter Frequency":

/ow	els	:	Cons	sona	ants:
1.	E:	12.7%	1.	T:	9.1%
2.	A:	8.2%	2.	N:	6.7%
3.	0:	7.5%	3.	S:	6.3%
4.	I:	7.0%	4.	Н:	6.1%
5:	U:	2.8%	5.	R:	6.0%
			6.	D:	4.2%
			7.	L:	4.0%
			8.	C:	2.8%
			9.	M:	2.4%
			10.	W:	2.4%
			11:	F:	2.2%
			12:	G:	2.0%
			13:	Y:	2.0%
			14.	P:	1.9%
			15.	В:	1.5%
			16.	V:	1.0%
			17:	K:	0.8%
			18.	J:	0.2%
			19.	Х:	0.2%
			20.	Q:	0.1%
			21.	Z:	0.1%

It's a common misconception that the letters given to you in the final round -R, S, T, L, N, E -- are the most common letters. While R, S, T and N are four of the five most common consonants, both H and D are more commonly-used than L.

Once a puzzle has gotten started, however, you might notice that you're interested in more than just the most frequent letters. You might find you need the first letter of a word, and while E is the most common letter, it's nowhere near the most common first letter.

If you find yourself looking for the letter at the beginning or the end of a word, try these lists:

Most Common First Letters:	Most Common Last Letters:
1. T: 16.0%	1. E: 19.2%
2. A: 15.5%	2. S: 14.4%
3. I: 8.2%	3. D: 9.2%
4. S: 7.8%	4. T: 8.6%
5. O: 7.1%	5. N: 7.9%
6. C: 6.0%	6. Y: 7.3%
7. M: 4.2%	7. R: 6.9%
8. F: 4.1%	8. O: 4.7%
9. P: 4.0%	9. L: 4.6%
10. W: 3.8%	10. F: 4.1%

As you can see, if you're looking for a first letter, there's a really strong chance that it's T. Take these statistics with a grain of salt, though -- the analysis that led to these numbers took into consideration word frequency, so the frequency of words like 'the', 'to', 'this' and 'that' is surely partially responsible for T's high count -- and those are words you won't be seeing as much in the game. Still, these listings represent a good starting point.

Whoever wins the game will get to play in the bonus round. In the bonus round, you'll be asked to choose one letter: W, H, E, E, L. Based on the letter you choose, you'll be playing for a different fabulous prize. You won't know what prize you're playing for until after you win or lose, though.

Afterwards, you'll be given the final puzzle. Typically these are shorter puzzles. The letters R, S, T, L, N and E will already be revealed for you. You will then choose three more consonants and a vowel. Judging from the above letter frequencies, the best option if you have no idea is to choose C, D, H and A. If you think you have an inkling, though, go with your gut.

After choosing your letters, they will be unveiled. You will then have one minute to input your answer. If you want to start over (inputting, not the time), press B. Otherwise, input letters the way you always do when solving a puzzle.

If you successfully input the correct answer before time is out, you win! Otherwise, you don't. Not that it matters, the game is over either way.

While nothing can replace simple vocabulary and pop culture knowledge (come on, who is Ingmar Bergman?), there are several strategies you can employ to maximize your chance to win.

- Don't automatically choose the letter you're most certain about. If you're certain there are three H's in the puzzle and you just spun a \$150, don't choose H wait and choose H when a higher dollar value comes up.
- If you know one word of the puzzle but are unsure of the others, guess the letter that you know is there. What you might find is that the letter you knew was in one place is also in another. For example, if you see a board with the category 'Thing' and the board shows: _r__ Tr_ut, you can safely guess that the blank in the second word is an 'O' for 'trout'. Guessing O, you also find that there are two O's in the first word, and you were never at risk to guess a letter that wasn't there.
- By that same token, focus on guessing the letters to shorter words first. Three and four letter words will nearly always be prepositions or articles -- look at the placement of these words in the puzzle and use that to make an educated guess as to what the likely word is. A three-letter word at the start of a puzzle will nearly always be 'the', for example, while 'with' is the most common in-phrase four-letter word.
- The first letters of words are typically consonants, while the second letter is nearly always either a vowel or the letter 'H'. Over half of all words end with the letters E, S, T, D or N.
- Watch for vowels. If you have some money and not every word on the board has a vowel, go ahead and buy a vowel. You'll get extra information about the puzzle without risking a Lose a Turn or Bankrupt, and the risk of the

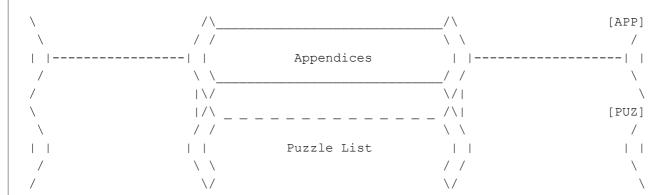
vowel not being presence is usually pretty low in longer puzzles.

- Break the puzzle up in your head. If you're looking at a five- or six-word puzzle, you'll get overwhelmed trying to solve the entire thing all at once. Focus on smaller individual words -- in guessing letters for smaller words, you'll likely uncover enough to give the larger parts a shot later on.
- Remember, on a given turn you're not trying to win the round -- you're just trying to stay alive for another turn. Choose the most likely letter to be on the board, even if you don't think it'll really help you figure the puzzle out.
- Toward that end, focus on letter pairs and trios. For example, if you see that the second letter of a word is 'N', you know that the first letter is almost surely either a vowel or S.
- Pay attention to parts of speech. You might not know a word, but you know that if it ends in 'ing' that it's likely a verb -- this information will give you a standpoint to approach the other words from.
- If you know the puzzle, choose wisely as to whether to go ahead and solve it or not. There's no reason to solve if you have very little money -- go ahead and spin a few times to try to get more to keep. But if you've got a lot of money, it's unwise to risk a Bankrupt or Lose a Turn just to get a little bit more.

By that same token, also pay attention to the other players. If you only have \$150 and know the puzzle, you'd think it'd be wise to spin some more -- but if the person after you has \$5000, you'll want to go ahead and solve to avoid them solving the puzzle if you spin a Bankrupt or Lose a Turn.

- In the bonus round, if you have a really good idea of what the answer might be before ever guessing your own letters, don't guess the letters for what you think the answer is. If you guess only letters that you already think are there and you're wrong, you're doubly out of luck -- if you don't guess the letters you think are there and you end up being wrong about what you thought the answer was, you at least have a shot at having some other letters filled in.

For example, here's something that happened to be while playing. The final clue I had was $N_t_r = 1$. To me, the answer to this was pretty obvious -- "Nature Walk". But, instead of guessing w, k and a, I guessed f, m and i. The result? The letters illuminated became $N_t_r = Film$. Had I gone with the obvious answers, I would not have solved the final question.



Below is a list of all the puzzles I personally have encountered in the game,

sorted by category. If you've seen puzzles that I haven't listed here, contact me with the contact information listed at the bottom of this guide and let me know -- you'll be credited, of course.

Things:

Brook Trout
Church Pulpit
Cufflinks
Nature Film
Scorpion
Wooden Dowel

People:

Adolescents
Chemical Engineer
Ferguson Jenkins
Gregg Allman Band
Ingmar Bergman
Jim Nabors
John Quincy Adams
Social Outcast
Susan St James

Places:

Chicago Illinois Suez Canal

Phrases:

A Sneak Attack

Titles:

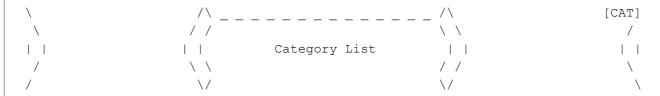
A Thousand Clowns
Captain from Castille
The Cincinnati Kid
The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Before & After:

Amos and Andy Griffith Ground Chuck Barris

Fictional Character:

Pollyanna



Below is a list of all the categories I have encountered in the game. If you've seen categories that I haven't listed here, contact me with the contact information listed at the bottom of this guide and let me know -- you'll be credited, of course.

- Things: in modern Wheel of Fortune, 'Things' has been used to identify way too many puzzles; however, in Wheel of Fortune featuring Vanna White, this category almost always refers to an actual tangible object.

- People: this category will typically deal with categories of people or types of professions -- for example, 'adolescents' or 'chemical engineer' -- but will also occasionally be proper names, like John Quincy Adams. A lot of the puzzles in this category are people that you likely will not have heard of.
- Before & After: Before & Afters are interesting puzzles. These puzzles are typically three words long -- the first two words form a cohesive phrase, while the second and third words also form a different cohesive phrase. For example, one possible Before & After puzzle would be 'Lava Lamp Shade' -- 'Lava Lamp' is a cohesive phrase, while 'Lamp Shade' is also a cohesive phrase.
- Places: while these can sometimes be common places, typically puzzles in this category will be real one-of-a-kind landmarks or major cities and areas.
- Titles: the Titles category typically refers to actual titles of books, movies and plays. They aren't always commonly recognizable titles, so you might have to just guess until you've uncovered almost all the letters for this category.
- Phrase: Phrases are nothing more than things that don't fit in any of the above categories. They aren't traditional phrases like "Early to Bed Early to Rise" -- they're just expressions, terms or anything that does not fit with one of the above groups.
- Fictional Character: just what the category name suggests, these are names of fictional characters. This category is pretty rare, and typically the puzzles in this category are based in literature.

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FAQed. I'm not looking to shoot the breeze.