

## Bracket Battle Game

**Students use vocabulary creatively to win this Bracket Battle Game! Here are instructions on how to play:**

- 1 Use the attached Bracket Template (page 4) to provide students three blank bracket sheets. They will use one for nouns, one for verbs, and one for adjectives. Have them fill in the far left eight spaces with vocabulary words that are that specific part of speech.

**Note:** The words they fill in can be on the current vocabulary list or a mix of old and new words—whatever words you want them to review. Please remind them that each bracket can only have words that are THAT specific part of speech, and, if they are working with one specific vocabulary unit, they may need to use some older words so that they are able to complete their charts.

- 2 In the first column, have students write one sentence using both of the words in each initial faceoff.

**For example:** If the first bracket has “admonish” against “commandeer,” students should write a sentence using both words, which somehow highlights why one of the words is “greater” than the other.

Although **admonished**, he **commandeered** the lead anyway and sailed on to victory! (since the use of **commandeered** is “greater,” it wins the first round).

**Note:** Why one word defeats another is arbitrary and up to the students; as long as students are using the vocabulary words correctly in sentences, they can determine the winner for any reason. The subjects of the sentences can be anything. Students can even write about basketball teams if that makes the vocabulary bracket more engaging to complete. The goal is to help students with their vocabulary building skills. The ways by which each student contrasts the words should not matter, as long as their context is correct!

- 3 Once students have written sentences for the initial duels, they should then write sentences using the winners of each bracket. Again, for each pairing, each sentence should use both words and highlight one word dominating the other.
- 4 When students complete their brackets and have a final “vocabulary winner” in the noun, verb, and adjective categories, have them turn in their sheets. Once you have collected all students’ brackets, determine which word in each part of speech was found to be the “winner” most frequently, and give all students who picked that word a prize, or put their names on a big basketball in recognition, etc.

**Note:** You decide how to reward students! We recommend hanging all the brackets up for students to compare and perhaps even have multiple winners in categories such as: most creative use of words, best illustrated bracket, best use of short sentences, best use of puns in sentences, etc.

See attached examples for a [Grade Level 2 \(Purple Level\)](#) and a [Grade Level 9 \(Level D\)](#) set of vocabulary words taken from Sadlier’s *Vocabulary Workshop* Grades 1–12+ program. Learn more about *Vocabulary Workshop* at <http://www.Sadlier.com/previewVWEE>.



# Bracket Battle



## Vocab Style

Teacher/Student Example: Noun bracket for *Vocabulary Workshop*, Purple Level, Unit 1

Pick the word in the \_\_\_\_\_ (noun/verb/adjective) competition



Branch  
word 1

The **branch** of the tree was much bigger than the *dash* of water that Lily put it in.

Branch

word winner 1

Dash  
word 2

sentence battle

Evening  
word 1

The **pass** allowed Kendra to stay at the amusement park all day and *evening*.

Pass

word winner 2

Pass  
word 2

sentence battle

The **pass** through the nature center allowed the team to see many trees and their numerous *branches*.

sentence battle

Pass  
word winner 1

Present  
word 1

A **stream** is a *present* that Mother Nature gives to all the woods' creatures.

Stream

word winner 1

Stream  
word 2

sentence battle

**Streams** do not need *passes* in order to exist—they just begin and end as they see fit.

sentence battle

Streams  
WORD WINNER

Bench  
word 1

The **bridge** across the river had three *benches* on it for people to stop and rest on their journeys.

Bridge

word winner 2

Bridge  
word 2

sentence battle

While the *bridge* crossed the stream at one point, the **stream** flowed on and on for miles.

sentence battle

Streams  
word winner 2



# Bracket Battle



## Vocab Style

Teacher/Student Example: Noun bracket for *Vocabulary Workshop*, Purple Level, Unit 1

Pick the word in the \_\_\_\_\_ (noun/verb/adjective) competition



Admonish  
word 1

Although *admonished*, he **commandeered** the lead anyway and sailed on to victory.

commandeered  
word winner 1

Commandeer  
word 2

sentence battle



Diffuse  
word 1

The players were *diffused* by Rodrick's moves, but completely **effaced** by Sam's triple jump shots.

While he tried to *commandeer* the entire game, he was completely **effaced** by the entire team.

sentence battle

effaced  
word winner 1

Efface  
word 2

sentence battle

effaced  
word winner 2

Muddle  
word 1

He was *predisposed* to losing, but **muddled** through and his team won the game.

Even *muddling* through their problems couldn't give Team Lexicon the win; they were completely **effaced** by Team Verbose's moves.

sentence battle

effaced  
WORD WINNER

Predispose  
word 2

sentence battle

muddled  
word winner 1



Relinquish  
word 1

While Duke was winning at first, they *relinquished* their **advantage** to the Tarheels who managed to salvage their pride and win the game.

By *muddling* through their errors, they were able to **salvage** the game.

sentence battle

muddling  
word winner 2

Salvage  
word 2

sentence battle

salvage  
word winner 2



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# Bracket Battle



## Vocab Style

Pick the word in the \_\_\_\_\_ (noun/verb/adjective) competition



word 1

\_\_\_\_\_

sentence battle

word winner 1

word 2



word 1

\_\_\_\_\_

sentence battle

word winner 2

word 2

\_\_\_\_\_

sentence battle

word winner 1



word 1

\_\_\_\_\_

sentence battle

word winner 1

word 2

\_\_\_\_\_

sentence battle

WORD WINNER

word 1

\_\_\_\_\_

sentence battle

word winner 2

word 2

