

**A JOURNEY IN THE WORLD
OF THE LATVIAN LANGUAGE:
A LANGUAGE
LEARNING
HANDBOOK FOR
PARENTS WITH
THEIR CHILDREN**



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A JOURNEY IN THE WORLD OF THE LATVIAN LANGUAGE: A LANGUAGE LEARNING HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS WITH THEIR CHILDREN

Dear parents, you will start a journey in the world of the Latvian language together with your child. Imagine that every word is a small event that enriches your everyday life with new impressions. It is a journey without tickets or backpacks. The price of the trip is only your time, excitement, and learning with your child. Good luck!

LET'S LEARN
LETTERS!

Game “FIND THE LETTERS!”

The game features a grid of letters. In it, the player has to find a specific letter. Each letter is repeated three times. The letter appears on the screen and can be heard as an audio recording.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR THIS GAME:

- Play the game “Find the letter!” with two players! One player looks for the specific letter in the game, and the other player writes the letter on a page (the smaller the letter, the faster the task can be completed, so the page should be larger, for example, an A4 sheet folded into four parts). In this game, the speed is determined by the player playing the game online. Agree on how many letters of the alphabet you will search for. As a reminder, each letter is repeated three times during the game. How many letters can the other player write by hand during this time? The player who finds or writes the most letters in the given time wins.
- Play the game “Find the letters!” with two players! One looks for the specific letter in the game; the other looks for and circles the same letter (3 times) in an advertising brochure, newspaper, or magazine. The winner is the player who finds more letters in the game or printed material at the given time.
- To encourage hearing the sound in a word, every time the child finds a letter in the game, they must also name a word that starts with that letter.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS TO TEACH AND PRACTICE THE ALPHABET IN EVERYDAY SITUATIONS:

- Go to the store on a letter hunt and search the shelves for products that start with specific letters!
- On objects at home, stick the first letter of the name of the object (use sticky notes)! Mix up some initial letters on purpose! The child’s task is to find the mistake. Praise or reward the child for each mistake found.

- Choose one letter of the alphabet, and on this day, cook dishes or use products that start only with this letter! For example, “P” day: pancakes (*pankūkas*), pasta (*pasta*), peppers (*pipari*), plum pudding (*plūmjū pudiņš*), etc.

Interactive alphabet “LEARN BY YOURSELF!”

In the interactive alphabet, three different tasks have been developed for each letter of the Latvian alphabet.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR THIS GAME:

- Start practicing the interactive alphabet with the letters in your child’s name! You can also start with the first letter of each family member’s name.
- Choose letters at random! You silently count the alphabet to yourself, and the child says, “Stop.” Then complete the tasks offered for the letter chosen by the child. Counting the alphabet can be replaced by naming a number, choosing from 1 to 33. The chosen number corresponds to a specific letter of the Latvian alphabet.
- In a lottery draw, which of the three tasks will be done by the child and which by you!
- Each task of the game is dedicated to a child, a fairy-tale character, or a living creature whose name begins with a certain letter. After completing all three tasks, play the Ship loading game! Players take turns saying words that start with the given letter. Say the words you learned in the interactive alphabet and complement them with other words. The player who can name more names wins.

Game “FIND THE WORDS!”

In the game, you have to find the indicated words within the letter grid. The game includes 30 themes, with the option to choose the level (easy or difficult). In the easiest level, the word is spoken and written; in the hardest level, the word is spoken and only the first letter of the word is visible on the screen.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR THIS GAME:

- Write the words your child finds, but change the letters or add extra letters! Children have to find and correct mistakes. Praise or reward the child for each mistake found.
- Write the words found by the child and play the game Charades! You show the word with your movements, and the child tries to remember the word and name it. Themes that include item names or animals are more suitable for the game, such as furniture (*mēbeles*), insects (*kukaiņi*), animals (*dzīvnieki*), etc. Switch roles!

- Work on one game theme each night. Then read to your child or listen to a story about the topic. A wide archive of fairy tales is available on these websites:
 "Pasakas" (<https://asakas.net/pasakas/>),
 "Pasakas" (<https://www.pasakas.org/>)
 and „LSM bērntaba" (<https://berntaba.lsm.lv/klausies>).



MORE IDEAS TO PRACTICE VOCABULARY IN EVERYDAY SITUATIONS:

- Place letter cards (sticky notes) at home! Then name a word, and the child uses the letters at home to form that word.
- Organize a competition; ask your child to name as many things as possible in one minute! You can have the competition on the street, in a store, in the forest, in a room, in a car, etc.
- Use the rolling dice! Determine the topic for the said words! The child rolls the die, and the number rolled determines the number of words that have to be named in relation to the given topic.
- Use a ball of yarn or thread! Ask your child to tear off a piece of yarn without telling them what to do with it. Identify the topic for which you want to strengthen the child's vocabulary. The child spins the yarn on their finger, calling out a word related to the topic you have chosen with each movement. The words must be called until the torn piece of yarn ends. Switch roles!

Picture dictionary

The dictionary contains a wide range of vocabulary, supplemented with tasks appropriate to the topic.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR WORK WITH THE PICTURE DICTIONARY:

- Choose a word from the picture dictionary and ask your child to draw it! Ask the child to tell you about what they drew! Switch roles!
- Play the game using the printable version of the picture dictionary (https://maciunmacies.valoda.lv/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/LVA_bilzuvardnica.pdf)! Cover the words in the dictionary and ask the child to name what is shown in the picture!
- One of the tasks with the picture dictionary is to insert the missing letter in a word. Play the game! Come up with a word related to a topic; name the topic! Draw one line for each letter of the word. The child names the letter that he thinks is in the word. If the letter is in the name, it is written in the appropriate place. If there is no letter in the name, the child gets a minus. It is even more fun to play this game with 2 players. Then the players take turns saying the letters, and the player who says the whole word first wins.

Game “LANGUAGE”

The game includes 10 language adventures. Each adventure has interesting tasks that enrich the vocabulary and improve listening, writing, and reading skills. Use the previously mentioned ideas to strengthen your child’s vocabulary!



Game “WHERE ARE WE?” IN LATVIA!”

The game includes various tasks: searching for letters, recognizing pictures, connecting syllables, and creating words and sentences. In this game, the child gets to know the symbols of Latvia and receives a friendship bracelet.



MORE IDEAS TO EXPLORE LATVIAN SYMBOLS, HOLIDAYS, FAIRY TALES:

- Watch the presentation and take the test about Latvia’s symbols (<https://digiklase.lv/materiali/59>)
- Watch the video “Tuta and the National Symbols of Latvia” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uGfWgxx8gg>)
- Complete the tasks found at “LSM bērnostaba” in the “Latvia” section (<https://bernostaba.lsm.lv/izzini/latvija>)

LET'S FORM SENTENCES!

Game "WORD, WORD, SENTENCE"



ADDITIONAL IDEAS FOR THIS GAME:

- First, look at the given picture and predict what sentence you will have to make! Whoever has the most accurate prediction gets a point.
- Challenge each other by creating longer sentences (maximum difficulty in the game is 5 words) for each picture! Whoever manages to make the longest sentence gets a point.
- Create similar situations (for example, sit down and read a book) to those shown in the game pictures, or use your personal photos! Roll the dice! The number thrown determines the number of words that should be in a sentence about the situation.



MORE IDEAS FOR LEARNING TO FORM SENTENCES:

- Write several words on a piece of paper and put them in a hat or bowl! The child must draw a word and use it to start a sentence. Switch roles!
- When going to the store, practice using verbs like:

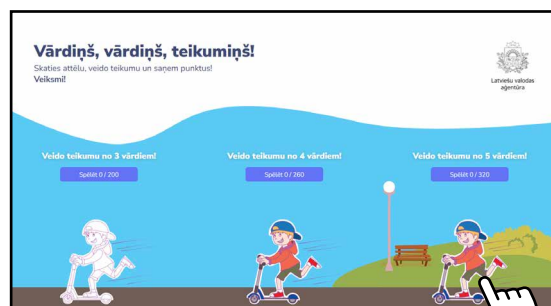
Es pārku šokolādi.

Es pārku maizi.

Es pārku, pārku, pārku.

Es pārku, pārku to.

And so the child learns to form sentences and use verbs correctly.



Game "BE CAREFUL!"

The player is given 5 sentences on each screen. The player's task is to choose the sentences without mistakes in them. 15 sentences are given for each topic. The more accurately the task is performed, the higher the score for each topic the player receives. The game has 27 themes.



Dear parents! Your journey into the world of the Latvian language can also begin with one click:
<https://maciunmacies.valoda.lv/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/A-limenis.pdf>