

The online word game, Wordle, has become a popular daily exercise among our little circle of friends and relatives. Although some people view this game as a competition, that is not the case in our group. Each of us is happy to see that someone else has solved the puzzle in record tries. In fact, one of our group has actually chosen the correct word twice.

Almost everyone surely knows what Wordle involves. It is very simple: one chooses a five letter word. If there are letters in that word that also appear in the designated word of the day, those letters are shown in green if in the correct space or in yellow if they are in the word but not in the right spot. A player has six tries to find the correct word. What could be easier than that?

Well, it involves a lot of thoughts, some trial and error, and some missteps. Total failure, I think, is most often caused by running out of chances before running out of possibilities. For example, “stone, drone, phone, prone, crone, clone, alone,” and probably other words end in the same three letters.

Some people start with the same word, or, perhaps, choose between a couple of words, every day. That theory, perhaps upheld by statistics, is based on finding as many letters as possible in the beginning, and that leads to using a starting word that has the most used letters in English. Words like slate, stein, etc. are often chosen.

That is not our method. We play for fun, and the uncertainty and pure luck is part of the “draw” of the game. So, the word we use—Runo and I do the game at breakfast together—comes “out of the blue,” whatever we happen to think of in the moment. It is, after all, a game.

I must admit, though, that Wordle is not the end of wordle-like activity for the day. Still at breakfast, we also do a Swedish wordle game called ordlig. It works the same way as the original English game. Then, in the evening, we do a second Swedish version called ordel. And, after that, a Norwegian wordle. All in all, we seldom spend more than half an hour on all of these games combined. And, we suspect that this activity is good for our “brain health,” if not always for our egos.