



# Knowledge Bowl Strategy Tips

1. If two teams beat you in and the question isn't finished, wait. If they both get it wrong, the question will be read in its entirety for you.
2. Don't waste time playing the blaming game ("Who buzzed in? It wasn't me. Was it you? Don't do that! Yadda, yadda, yadda.") Use your 15 seconds to put your heads together and come up with something. Often you will come up with a pretty good answer.
3. Focus on key words. Are they looking for a person, place or thing? Something else? Hang on the words looking for the key clue or clues and then buzz in.
4. When your team(s) gets better and faster, they will buzz in before the question is done. That's good. Might not happen right away, but over time it will.
5. For some math problems it is better to be last. They take some time and calculation. Others are relatively simple and can be done with little or no calculation and one can buzz in quickly. Try to recognize the difference.
6. Sometimes readers/judges have a "tell". They hesitate before saying "no". Or say "no" slowly. That probably means the answer another team gave is close but not quite right. Use that to your advantage.
7. Use your 15 seconds. Even if you think you have the right answer. Mull it over. Ask, "could it be anything else?" If not, then go with your first instinct/guess. But sometimes you realize they were asking for something different. (*City* as opposed to *State* for instance)
8. Shotgun rule: if you buzz in early, your team(s) might want to consider shotgunning, giving one extra piece of information that is relevant *and* accurate. For example, you buzz in early and are not sure if they want the author or book title, so you say, "Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck". That is legal. (See Team Member Rule #12, Coach Handbook )
9. Stick to last names unless there is more than one. Obviously for President Bush you need to be more specific. (specify 41 vs 43 or HW vs W) or for Teddy Roosevelt vs FDR. But it is safer to say last names, especially if you are shaky on the first name. You don't want to get Earhart wrong because you called her Emma Earhart instead of Amelia Earhart.