Battleships Calling

Say it · Call it · Sink it!



Teacher Guide

Live online play on Zoom · offline games · printable paper boards for every word pack

Richard Sim ©

Welcome aboard!

Battleships Calling is a classic sea battle game with an English twist. Every square on the board is a sentence: the row and the column join together. To fire, a student **says the sentence out loud**, for example “She likes + pizza” → “She likes pizza.” Captain Otto the Otter is your guide.

Live online play includes a 1-year license for the teacher (students join free). Offline modes work forever.

Three ways to play

- **Play Online** – the teacher and the student each use their own phone, tablet or computer. Great for Zoom, Google Meet or any video call, and for two devices in the same classroom.
- **Play vs Captain Otto** – one player against the computer (Easy or Normal). Captain Otto reads his own sentences aloud, so it is good listening practice too. Works offline.
- **Pass & Play** – two players share one device. A cover screen hides the boards between turns. Works offline.

How to start

1. Unzip the folder and double-click **index.html**. It opens in Chrome, Edge, Safari or Firefox. Nothing to install.
2. Choose a way to play, a word pack and a board size: **8 × 8** with 5 ships, or **6 × 6** with 3 ships for younger kids.
3. Hide your ships: drag them onto the sea, or press 🎲 **Random**. Tap a ship (or press ↻ **Rotate**) to turn it.
4. Take turns. Tap a square on the other player's sea, **say the sentence**, then press 🔥 **Fire!** Press 🔊 to hear the sentence first. With **Record to fire** on, players record their voice before they can fire (see below).

Your fleet


Flagship (4)


Cruiser (3)


Submarine (3)


Destroyer (2)


Tugboat (2)

6 × 6 board: Cruiser (3), Submarine (2), Tugboat (2).

The rules

- **Hit!** – the square is part of a ship. **Miss!** – just water. One shot per turn, then the other player goes.
- When every square of a ship is hit, the ship **sinks** and both players see it.
- Sink the whole fleet to win. Press **Rematch** to play again.

Playing live on Zoom

1. **Teacher:** open the game, press **Play Online → Create a game**. The first time, type your teacher license code (it starts with **BSC-**).
2. Choose the word pack, the board and your options, then press **Create room**. You get a 4-letter **room code**, for example **KTRW**.
3. Say or type the code in the Zoom chat. If the game is on a website, you can also press 📋 **Copy link** and send the link.
4. **Student:** opens the game on their own device, presses **Play Online → Join a game**, types the code and their name. Students never need a license code.
5. Both players hide their ships and press ⚓ **Ready!** The battle starts by itself. The student goes first in the first game.
6. On your turn you see the sentence card with 🔊. When the other player fires, your screen shows the sentence they said and **Hit!** or **Miss!**

"Teacher checks" mode. Turn this on when you create the game. When the student fires, the shot waits. You hear the sentence on Zoom (or play their recording), then tap ✓ **Yes – fire!**, ↺ **Try again** or ⏭ **Pass turn**. "Try again" counts as one missed try (see **No speaking, no shot**). "Pass turn" ends the turn with no shot.

Watch mode for the class. Open the game in a second browser tab, press **Play Online → Watch a game** and type the same code. It shows both seas with every hit and miss, but never the hidden ships. Share this tab on Zoom so the whole class can follow, or show it on the classroom screen.

Room codes

- Codes have 4 letters and never use letters that are easy to mix up (no O, I, L, S, Z, B, U or Q).
- If a page is refreshed or the internet drops, the game reconnects by itself. Players can also press **Rejoin game** on the home screen.
- If a player opens the game in another tab or browser, the new screen takes over.
- A room closes after 2 hours with no moves. Just create a new one.
- If a third person joins with the code, they watch instead of playing.

Change the game without a new code

Before the battle starts, the teacher can press ⚙ **Change word pack or board**. After a game, press ⚙ **Change word pack** on the winner screen. Both players stay in the same room.

Kid-friendly by design

There is no chat. Players only see names, sentences, hits and misses. The hidden ships stay on the game server, so nobody can peek at the other player's fleet.

🎙️ Record to fire

Turn on **Record to fire** to make sure every shot is spoken. It works in all three ways to play. When you set up the game, choose:

- **Record to fire:** Off, **Everyone**, or (online) **Students only** – then the teacher does not record. In Play vs Captain Otto it is just you; in Pass & Play both players record.
- **Speaking timer:** 10, 20 or 30 seconds for each try, or Off.
- **No microphone?** Allow typing the sentence instead (it must match the sentence card).

How a player fires

1. Tap a square. The sentence card appears.
2. Press the big red 🎤 button and say the sentence. The bar shows how loud it is. Recording stops when you tap again, or after 6 seconds.
3. Press ▶ **Play back** to listen, or ↻ **Re-record**. 🔥 **Fire!** works only after a recording of about 1 second or more with real sound – silence does not count.

No speaking, no shot

A **missed try** is when the timer runs out, or the recording is silent or too short. The three dots on the card show the tries left.

- **1st missed try:** Try again! (yellow). The timer starts again.
- **2nd missed try:** Final warning! (orange). The timer starts again.
- **3rd missed try:** No speaking, no shot! Turn passes to … (red). The other player's turn starts.
- ⏭️ **Pass** gives the turn away at once. Both players see every warning live.
- If the timer runs out after a good recording, the shot fires by itself.

Live games and Zoom

- The recording goes to the other player's screen, which shows the sentence with a ▶ play button. With **Teacher checks** on, the teacher listens first, then taps **Yes – fire!**, **Try again** or **Pass turn**.
- **Privacy:** recordings are sent once, straight to the other player in the game. The game server passes them on and does not save them. Recordings are kept only on the players' devices until they leave the game. Watchers in Watch mode never get them.
- At the end of a game, press 🎧 **Recordings** on the winner screen to listen to them again.

Microphone help

- The first time, the browser asks to use the microphone – choose **Allow**.
- Blocked by mistake? Tap the 🔒 or 🎤 icon next to the web address, allow the microphone, then press **Try the mic again**.
- Browsers only allow the microphone on secure pages. Opened as a file (index.html), Chrome and Edge usually allow it; some other browsers block it. The game tells you if this happens. If you have the online (https://) version of the game, use that.

- No working microphone: if the teacher allowed typing, the player types the sentence instead. If not, the game explains how to turn the mic on, and the player passes the turn.
- On most computers Zoom and the game can use the microphone at the same time. On some phones and tablets only one app can use it – if the game says the mic is busy, mute Zoom for a moment or use a second device.

Your teacher license

Live online play includes a 1-year license for the teacher (students join free). Offline modes work forever.

- Your license code comes from the seller after you buy (for example in an Etsy message or your Shopify order).
- The code starts working the first time you create a room. From then on it works for **365 days**. The app shows **“License active until …”**.
- You can use the same code on up to **3 of your own devices** (for example your laptop, tablet and phone). The app remembers the code on each device.
- When the year ends, the app shows a friendly message with a link to get a new license. **Play vs Captain Otto** and **Pass & Play** keep working forever.
- New device or a problem with your code? Contact the seller on Etsy or Shopify.

The word packs

Pack	Level	Grammar	Sample sentences
Food & Likes	A1	like / likes / don't like	"I like pizza." "Do you like carrots?"
Animals & Can	A1	can / can't	"Birds can run." "Can frogs swim?"
Clothes	A1	I'm wearing… / Do you have…?	"I'm wearing a dress." "Is she wearing sneakers?"
Weather	A1–A2	It's sunny in…	"It's sunny in Tokyo." "It's cold in Sydney."
Daily Routines	A1–A2	Present simple	"I go to school every day." "Do you watch TV every day?"
Right Now!	A2	Present continuous	"I'm eating lunch." "Are you dancing?"
Hobbies	A2	love / enjoy / hate + -ing	"I love drawing." "Do you like playing video games?"
Jobs	A2	He's a… / I want to be a…	"I'm a chef." "Is he a farmer?"
Yesterday	A2	Past simple	"Yesterday I ate pizza." "Did you see a lion yesterday?"
Around Town	A2–B1	Places + prepositions	"The café is next to the park." "Where is the zoo?"
Question Time	B1	Questions: can, ever, how often…	"Can you swim in the ocean?" "Are you good at climbing a mountain?"
Classic A–H	All	Letters + numbers: "C5"	"C1" "E7"
Letters & Numbers	A1	Tricky letters + teen / -ty numbers	"E thirteen (13)" "A sixteen (16)"
My Words	Any	Your own lists	Type 8 row starters and 8 column words (6 each for a 6 × 6 board).

Make your own pack (My Words)

Choose ✏️ **My Words** and type one item per line. Type **_** where the column word goes, for example Do you like _? Without **_**, the column word goes at the end: I have + a red pen → "I have a red pen." Your lists are saved on your device.

Teaching tips

- Before the game, read the row and column words together. Ask students to make two or three sentences.

- Columns show the base word (play soccer). In the grammar packs the student changes it: Yesterday I + play soccer → “Yesterday I **played** soccer.” The sentence card shows the correct answer.
- For questions, the other player can answer: “Do you like carrots?” – “Yes, I do!” before saying Hit or Miss.
- Use the 6 × 6 board for short lessons or young learners. A game takes about 10 minutes.
- Letters & Numbers practices tricky letters (G/J, E/I, A/R, Y/H) and numbers like 13/30, 14/40.

Paper version

The next pages have a printable board for every pack. Each player needs one page. Draw your ships on **My ships** (do not show anyone!). Mark your shots on **My shots**: × for a hit, ● for a miss. Say the sentence to call a square. Answer “Hit!”, “Miss!” or “You sank my …!”

Food & Likes

A1

Say it: I like + pizza → "I like pizza."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	apples	bananas	pizza	rice	carrots	ice cream	eggs	cookies
I like ...								
I don't like ...								
She likes ...								
He doesn't like ...								
We love ...								
They like ...								
Do you like ...?								
Does he like ...?								

My shots

	apples	bananas	pizza	rice	carrots	ice cream	eggs	cookies
I like ...								
I don't like ...								
She likes ...								
He doesn't like ...								
We love ...								
They like ...								
Do you like ...?								
Does he like ...?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Animals & Can

A1

Say it: frogs + can jump → "Frogs can jump."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	dogs	cats	birds	fish	frogs	monkeys	ducks	horses
... can run								
... can swim								
... can fly								
... can jump								
... can climb trees								
... can't fly								
Can ... swim?								
Can ... fly?								

My shots

	dogs	cats	birds	fish	frogs	monkeys	ducks	horses
... can run								
... can swim								
... can fly								
... can jump								
... can climb trees								
... can't fly								
Can ... swim?								
Can ... fly?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Clothes

A1

Say it: I'm wearing + a hat → "I'm wearing a hat."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	hat	T-shirt	dress	jeans	sneakers	jacket	socks	scarf
I'm wearing ...								
She's wearing ...								
He isn't wearing ...								
I want ...								
I need ...								
They're wearing ...								
Is she wearing ...?								
Do you have ...?								

My shots

	hat	T-shirt	dress	jeans	sneakers	jacket	socks	scarf
I'm wearing ...								
She's wearing ...								
He isn't wearing ...								
I want ...								
I need ...								
They're wearing ...								
Is she wearing ...?								
Do you have ...?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Weather

A1–A2

Say it: It's snowy + in Tokyo → "It's snowy in Tokyo."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	Bangkok	London	Tokyo	New York	Sydney	Paris	beach	mountains
It's sunny ...								
It's rainy ...								
It's snowy ...								
It's windy ...								
It's cloudy ...								
It's hot ...								
It's cold ...								
Is it raining ...?								

My shots

	Bangkok	London	Tokyo	New York	Sydney	Paris	beach	mountains
It's sunny ...								
It's rainy ...								
It's snowy ...								
It's windy ...								
It's cloudy ...								
It's hot ...								
It's cold ...								
Is it raining ...?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Daily Routines

A1–A2

Say it: She … every day + watch TV → "She watches TV every day."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	get up early	eat breakfast	go to school	do homework	watch TV	play soccer	take a shower	go to bed
I … every day								
She … every day								
He … on Saturdays								
We … in the morning								
They don't …								
My dad … at 7:00								
Do you … every day?								
Does she … on Sundays?								

My shots

	get up early	eat breakfast	go to school	do homework	watch TV	play soccer	take a shower	go to bed
I … every day								
She … every day								
He … on Saturdays								
We … in the morning								
They don't …								
My dad … at 7:00								
Do you … every day?								
Does she … on Sundays?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Right Now!

A2

Say it: She's ... + dance → "She's dancing."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	swim	read a book	eat lunch	play soccer	dance	sleep	cook dinner	run
I'm ...								
She's ...								
He's ... now								
We're ...								
They aren't ...								
My cat is ...								
Are you ...?								
Is he ... right now?								

My shots

	swim	read a book	eat lunch	play soccer	dance	sleep	cook dinner	run
I'm ...								
She's ...								
He's ... now								
We're ...								
They aren't ...								
My cat is ...								
Are you ...?								
Is he ... right now?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Hobbies

A2

Say it: I love ... + sing → "I love singing."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	dance	sing	draw	swim	play video games	ride a bike	read comics	bake cookies
I love ...								
I don't like ...								
She enjoys ...								
He hates ...								
We're good at ...								
My brother likes ...								
Do you like ...?								
Does she enjoy ...?								

My shots

	dance	sing	draw	swim	play video games	ride a bike	read comics	bake cookies
I love ...								
I don't like ...								
She enjoys ...								
He hates ...								
We're good at ...								
My brother likes ...								
Do you like ...?								
Does she enjoy ...?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Jobs

A2

Say it: I want to be + pilot → "I want to be a pilot."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	doctor	teacher	chef	pilot	farmer	police officer	firefighter	dentist
I'm ...								
She's ...								
He isn't ...								
My mom is ...								
I want to be ...								
My dad was ...								
Is he ...?								
Are you ...?								

My shots

	doctor	teacher	chef	pilot	farmer	police officer	firefighter	dentist
I'm ...								
She's ...								
He isn't ...								
My mom is ...								
I want to be ...								
My dad was ...								
Is he ...?								
Are you ...?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Yesterday

A2

Say it: Yesterday I ... + see a lion → "Yesterday I saw a lion."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	play soccer	go to the beach	eat pizza	watch a movie	see a lion	visit Grandma	make a cake	ride a bike
Yesterday I ...								
Last week she ...								
We ... on Sunday								
He didn't ...								
They ... last weekend								
My friend ... yesterday								
Did you ... yesterday?								
Did she ... last week?								

My shots

	play soccer	go to the beach	eat pizza	watch a movie	see a lion	visit Grandma	make a cake	ride a bike
Yesterday I ...								
Last week she ...								
We ... on Sunday								
He didn't ...								
They ... last weekend								
My friend ... yesterday								
Did you ... yesterday?								
Did she ... last week?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Around Town

A2–B1

Say it: The café is next to + the bank → "The café is next to the bank."

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	bank	school	park	hospital	zoo	library	post office	supermarket
The café is next to ...								
The bus stop is in front of ...								
The movie theater is behind ...								
The toy store is near ...								
The bakery is across from ...								
The museum is far from ...								
Where is ...?								
Is the hotel near ...?								

My shots

	bank	school	park	hospital	zoo	library	post office	supermarket
The café is next to ...								
The bus stop is in front of ...								
The movie theater is behind ...								
The toy store is near ...								
The bakery is across from ...								
The museum is far from ...								
Where is ...?								
Is the hotel near ...?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Question Time

B1

Say it: Have you ever … + eat sushi → "Have you ever eaten sushi?"

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	ride a horse	eat sushi	swim in the ocean	play the guitar	climb a mountain	cook dinner	speak Thai	visit Japan
Can you …?								
Do you like to …?								
Have you ever …?								
Would you like to …?								
When did you last …?								
How often do you …?								
Are you good at …?								
Who … in your family?								

My shots

	ride a horse	eat sushi	swim in the ocean	play the guitar	climb a mountain	cook dinner	speak Thai	visit Japan
Can you …?								
Do you like to …?								
Have you ever …?								
Would you like to …?								
When did you last …?								
How often do you …?								
Are you good at …?								
Who … in your family?								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Classic A–H

All

Say it: C + 5 → "C5"

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								

My shots

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Letters & Numbers

A1

Say it: G + 15 → "G fifteen"

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

	G	J	E	I	A	R	Y	H
13								
30								
14								
40								
15								
50								
16								
60								

My shots

	G	J	E	I	A	R	Y	H
13								
30								
14								
40								
15								
50								
16								
60								

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

My Words (blank)

Custom

Write your own row starters and column words, then play.

Name: _____ Date: _____

My ships

My shots

Ships: ☐ Flagship (4) ☐ Cruiser (3) ☐ Submarine (3) ☐ Destroyer (2) ☐ Tugboat (2)

Great sailing, crew!



Every sentence you say is a shot. Keep talking, keep sailing!

Live online play includes a 1-year license for the teacher (students join free). Offline modes work forever.

Richard Sim ©