

# COUNTDOWN

## How Countdown works

### Overview

Countdown is 45 minutes long and two players try to win points by making words out of jumbled letters. Viewers also have a go at this, and the fun comes from trying to beat the players!

### General idea

In the programme, players try to make the longest word from a random sequence of 10 letters. They have to do this against the clock. In between the letters rounds there are three math's rounds, which add variety. Finally, there is a conundrum, which ensures that there is always a winner. This presents the contestants with a scrambled nine letter word. They have 30 seconds to unscramble it and the first person to do so is the winner.

### Format

#### Letters Rounds

The presenter pulls out the letters, vowels or consonants chosen by the contestants. Then the timer is set and both players use these to make the longest word they can. The experts then say which words they have made and the chairman awards points.

#### Math's Rounds

These operate in a similar manner to the Letters Rounds. The players choose six numbers. They may add, subtract, multiply and divide to try to make exactly the given total in 30 seconds. Finally, they are given points according to how close they get to the exact number.

#### Experts

These provide another person for the audience to compete against. People at home feel very good if they sometimes do better than experts!

### Summary

Countdown is a very successful programme, which has run unchanged for many years. People have stayed loyal and the programme certainly has a winning formula!