SOLO CHALLENGE STRATEGIES FOR USING TILE BOOSTS, SNOWFLAKES AND THE FIRST (FREE) SERIES TO WIN THE HARDEST SOLO CHALLENGE SERIES

By Fangdango

Some players may not know the enormous advantages they can gain in Solo Challenge by using Tile Boosts, snowflakes and replay of the first (free, easiest) series in Solo Challenge. I have explained this to some in private chat, and I decided I would put it on our website. Then everyone can review it, and I can save myself a lot of time.

WHERE TO FIND AND WHEN TO USE TILE BOOSTS AND SNOWFLAKES

With a Solo Challenge game open, look at the top band. There are two tabs on the right: There is a red circle with two white chevrons, called a Tile Boost, and a blue circle with a white snowflake.

You could probably afford to use snowflakes on other games than just the hardest ones. They accumulate when you watch your personal videos.

But hoard those Tile Boosts to use in the hardest games! They're slow to accumulate and expensive to purchase in the club store. So my recommendation is to use Tile Boosts only in the last (hardest) set of Solo Challenge. I try to use only one Tile Boost per game; or better yet, use none if you can reach your 200 score without it – then you will have them for when you really need them.

OBTAINING AND USING TILE BOOSTS

Tech Support claims that Tile Boosts add 3 points to 3 of your tiles; however, it is my experience that Tile Boosts add 2 points to 5 of my tiles. Adding 2 points to the value of 5 of the tiles on your rack, plus the extra one point per tile that you receive for 4 consecutive game wins, can sometimes nearly double the value of your move.

The Tile Boosts cost 30 coins if you buy them directly, but you do receive some for free at various times as you play Solo Challenge. You can also exchange club tokens for Tile Boosts in the Club Store.

You receive one Tile Boost at various points of your five game sets in Solo Challenge. It has been my experience that I receive 5 total Tile Boosts during the entire series of Solo Challenge.

Also, you get one Tile Boost when you finish the Flash Solo Challenge. and another Tile Boost if you get all 15 stars in Flash Solo Challenge.

I don't use Tile Boosts in Flash Solo Challenge, because idea there is to earn them rather than to use them.

I only use the Tile Boosts in the last set of Solo Challenge (that hardest set). The extra one point in effect (from winning 4 games in a row), plus 2 points added by a Tile Boost to 5 tiles, will add 17 extra points to your tiles when you first begin each of the 5 hardest games.

I think it is most advantageous to use a Tile Boost on your first move in each game of the hardest series in Solo Challenge, when you have the highest possible values on your tiles.

But I use a Tile Boost on my first move in a Solo Challenge game only if I have a high value move (like if I can reach a Triple Word in that move). If I have bad letters or an unfortunate board, I won't waste a Tile Boost. I'll just lose that game, or fail to get the required score for completion of it, and try again later.

I have often had the experience that my board was initially poor; I didn't use a Tile Boost; but later in the game I have an opportunity for a Triple Word. When that happens, I calculate how many points I need to just win, and also how many I need to get the 200 to close that game.

In those cases, I will only use the Tile Boost if I can close that game. I won't waste a Tile Boost just to win the game without closing it. That's because I will have to replay that game anyway, and I may need the Tile Boost for then.

I only use a Tile Boost if it will make a major difference. I don't waste them on minor scores. In my opinion, it's better to take the loss of a game than to waste a valuable Tile Boost on a lost cause.

OBTAINING AND USING SNOWFLAKES

We receive several snowflakes every day when we watch our personal videos. I haven't seen any way to actually purchase them. But they replenish well, so there is no need to purchase them.

The snowflake will protect your chosen place from being used by the bot. So you can set yourself up for a Triple Word, for example, and use it in your next move if all goes well.

The snowflake is a bit tricky to use, and confusing at first.

After placing your tiles in a word but **BEFORE** you hit "Play," you can activate a snowflake to protect your chosen area from being used by the bot.

1. Put your letters in the place you're going to play them.
2. Tap the Snowflake tab. **DON'T HIT "PLAY"!**
3. Your word will disappear from the board after you tap the snowflake tab. Don't panic! Read on. This will be discussed below.

4. Select the Triple Word or other place that you want to protect. You can change the placement of the field by tapping on the board where you want the field to be. You can change the orientation of the protected field by tapping the outline of the field. **Make sure that none of your tiles fall into the protected area**. If it does, you will have used that protection already, and it will expire, your protection will be gone, you cannot back out of that move, your TW will become available to the bot, and you will not be able to use another snowflake until your next move.
5. Once you have the protected field arranged the way you want, tap "Confirm" at the bottom of the screen.
6. When you first arrange your tiles into a word and then tap the snowflake tab, your tiles will disappear from your selected spot, and you will have to put them back after you hit "Confirm." And it doesn't work if you try to activate a snowflake before you have put your word on the board. Yes, this is illogical and

annoying. But you will just have to place your word on the board twice.

7. With your word returned to the board, and you've previously tapped "Confirm," **THEN** hit "Play" to complete your move.

The bot can still find ways to mess up your plans for the TW that you protected, but most times it will play somewhere else. But even if it messes up your TW, at least you kept it from getting the TW in that move.

STRATEGIES FOR USING TILE BOOSTS, SNOWFLAKES AND THE FIRST (FREE) SERIES IN SOLO CHALLENGE

I use the Tile Boosts and snowflakes for the hardest games in Solo Challenge. I just use patience for the other SC games!

When I'm playing the first (easiest, free) series in Solo Challenge, I deliberately leave 1-2 of them short of the 200-point score (maybe it's 201 now) that would close them and prevent replaying them.

Then when I get to the 5th (hardest) series, if I haven't had four wins in a row (which would give me the extra

point per tile), I go back to the easiest ones and replay them 1- 4 times in order to regain that extra point per tile.

The Solo Challenge games in the first/easiest series are free, so you can play them repeatedly to regain that extra one-point advantage. So I make sure to not maximize the score on those free games until the hardest series is finished. That way I can go back and replay those free ones as often as I need to, in order to get that extra point per letter established again.

That way, I will have the advantage of the extra point on each tile in my rack when I play the hardest series.

Those free games are usually the last ones that I finish after I've completed all the other sets. That way, I can go back and replay them 1-4 times repeatedly as needed if I want those extra points on each letter for a harder game.

It may not sound like much -- the one extra point on all 7 tiles in your rack -- but if you use a Tile Boost, it will be **THREE** extra points per tile for 5 tiles, and if you get

a Triple Letter and Triple Word simultaneously with that play it could be over 100 points!

When I use a Tile Boost, I make sure to apply a snowflake if it's possible (that is, my letters won't land on it in that move and cancel the protection). That way, I may have another Triple Word opportunity waiting for me in my next move.

I hope this helps, and reduces your difficulties with Solo Challenge!

May your letters land kindly, and your vowels be plentiful!