

FUN & GAMES

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Must-haves when hosting game night at home

Game night makes for a fun way to get together with friends. Competitive fire may not disappear on game night, but the atmosphere is generally more laid back. Indeed, a great game night is less about the games and more about the laughs and fun to be had.

Game night hosts can focus on fun as they prepare to welcome friends and family into their homes. The following are some must-haves for a fun and memorable game night.

Food

Game night participants are not expecting a meal. Game nights typically begin after dinnertime, so hosts need not feel responsible for preparing or catering a meal. However, snacks typically are made available during game night. Charcuterie boards, cheese, chips, pretzels, and even some healthy fare like vegetables and hummus

can be offered so no one goes hungry during game night.

Beverages

Simplicity also reigns supreme when picking which drinks to serve during game night. Formal dinner parties may call for specialty cocktails and a carefully curated wine list, but game night does not require that same level of planning. Non-alcoholic drinks like water, soda, lemonade, and iced tea should be readily available. Beer and wine can be offered to guests who want a drink, but hosts must be sure to avoid overserving guests. Hosts can request that some guests serve as designated drivers and hosts should be ready to perform that duty as well.

Games

Of course, hosts will need to pick games for the party as well. It's

best to avoid complicated games so no time is wasted explaining the rules to novices. Many adults are familiar with the rules of poker, so keep some decks of cards and chips on hand in the event guests want to play a round. Additional games that do not require too great a familiarity with the rulebook include Scrabble and Monopoly. Hosts also can consider something a little more sinister like Cards Against Humanity if the crowd is willing to play.

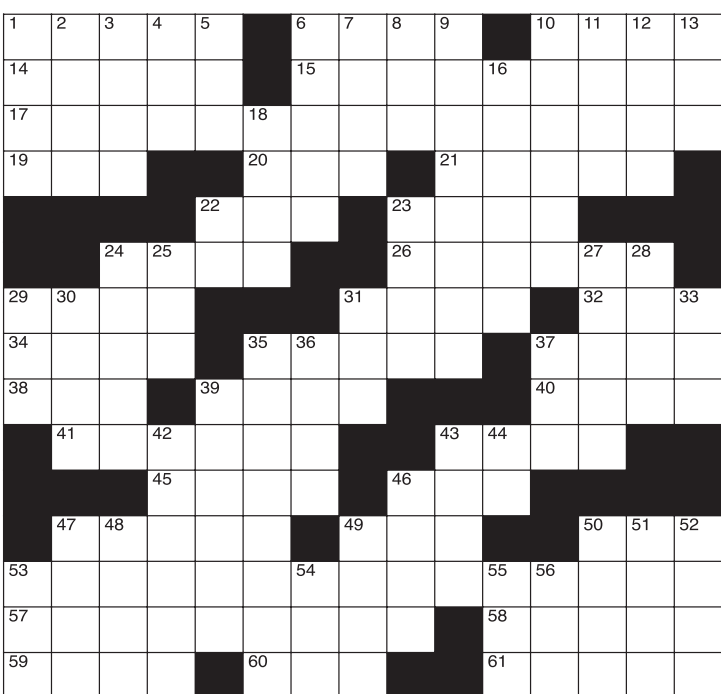
Music

Some music playing in the background can loosen things up and help to establish a relaxed atmosphere. Hosts should keep in mind that it's best to avoid turning the television on, as a game or movie playing in the background can distract guests from the games and lead to less mingling.



Atmosphere

The atmosphere should be warm and inviting so everyone feels right at home upon arriving. Make sure there's ample lighting available in the game room but don't make things too bright. Slightly dimmed lights can set a welcoming tone and create a relaxed vibe. Comfortable seating also helps to create a pleasant atmosphere that can make guests feel right at home. Some simple game night essentials can ensure hosts and guests have a fun and relaxing night with friends and family.



CLUES ACROSS

- Partner to "oohed"
- Relaxing places
- Humorous monologue
- Simple elegance
- Bearable
- Disobedience
- Express delight
- Gov't attorneys
- Wake up
- A type of band
- Remain as is
- Turf
- Battle-ax
- Volcanic crater
- The mother of Jesus
- One's life history
- "Rule, Britannia" composer
- Doubles
- Jacob __, American journalist

- House pet
- S. African river
- Broad sashes
- Establish as a foundation
- KGB double agent Aldrich __
- Part of a book
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Train group (abbr.)
- Frames per second
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal from a federation
- Guitarist sounds
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- Helps escape

CLUES DOWN

- Currency exchange charge
- River in Tuscany
- Breakfast dish
- Defunct European currency
- Upper class young woman
- Part of a purse
- Self-contained units
- Boxing's GOAT
- Legislators
- Flightless birds
- U. of Miami's mascot is one
- Floating ice
- Low, marshy land
- Seldom
- Lyric poems
- Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- Full extent of something
- __ Claus
- Naturally occurring solid material
- Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- Thirteen
- Partner to cheese
- Member of a Semitic people
- One thousandth of an inch
- Former CIA
- Most lemony
- Engage in
- Small Eurasian deer
- Provisions
- All humans have them
- Swiss river
- Storage term (abbr.)
- Famed Broadway lyricist Samr
- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Egyptian sun god
- Flute
- Flew off!
- Scottish tax
- Young women's association
- Populous Brazilian city
- Malaysian Isthmus
- Pointed end of a pen



FELINE FRIENDS WORD SEARCH

X R D S U W P L M N C H U E Y M V N N Y
E C E S A H P B S S H O V T H A I R W O P
A D X S M N C V L I E L U V X E I T V O J
H V S I E U A L B R H W I K S N X D R X
K R X D W M I I J B M T P R E E L O B T
R D T A M A R H N U D A L S N C C N A A
V D O B T Y X U K I R V N T A O S S N R
S T W B E A H W B M S R B X V O J K A O
K V O H Y B M A I X R S V N A N V O V K
S B U D H M T G E P W W Y E J G X Y A A
N R I A E O C I C A T V O B P Y E R H V
H A M M D B G A H D V L J U A C R O J B
L A I P V N V R R I N G T A I L K U W M A
O O B S C H A R T R E U X N L C U W M A
X O N A R J T N C P S D E L G N A P S T
P S P G M E R C S Y M X E B W H R S K S
V C G W H B P A T O T H U G Y D E M R I
P U E J W B A I T C O B A E G E A N H O M
E R N S Y Y I N T B A L I N E S E C W E
D L H U C X Y R O N J N P G J C M U U

WORDS

- ABYSSINIAN
- AEGEAN
- BALINESE
- BAMBINO
- BIRMAN
- BOBTAIL
- BOMBAY
- BURMESE
- CHARTREUX
- CURL
- DONSKOY
- HAVANA BROWN
- JAVANESE
- KORAT
- LONGHAIR
- MAINE COON
- MAU
- MIST
- OCICAT
- PERSIAN
- REX
- RINGTAIL
- SHORTHAIR
- SPANGLED

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



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KIDS CAN GET THEIR GAME ON

Modern children have somewhat different ideas of what constitutes entertainment, especially when compared to youngsters from a generation or two ago. While it was once commonplace for kids to be out and about with their friends riding bikes and spending time in each other's backyards — only returning home when the streetlights came on — modern youths spend lots of time at home and indoors on their devices. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, kids between the ages of eight and 18 now spend an average of 7.5 hours in front of a screen each day. That figure only accounts for recreational time, and doesn't include the hours kids spend on computers or tablets for educational purposes. In addition, social media is a large part of kids' days. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry indicates 90 percent of teens between the ages of 13 and 17 have used

social media, and 51 percent report visiting a social media site at least daily. Younger children also use social media, with a recent poll from C.S. Mott Children's Hospital saying 32 percent of parents of kids between the ages of seven and nine reported their children use social media apps. A classic children's game night might be just what the doctor ordered to draw kids away from screens and provide a healthy respite from the barrage of information coming their way through the internet. With these tips, a game night can be a successful way to help children engage socially in person.

PICK A THEME

Unite all elements of the game night by selecting a theme. For example, if you will be pulling out the classic game Operation™, pre-purchase inexpensive lab coats or doctors' scrubs for participants to wear. Serve foods shaped like various



body parts (borrow from some Halloween ideas) and invite guests with an invitation that serves as a "Prescription for Fun."

CHOOSE A GOOD TIME

Even though "game night" implies the gathering takes place in the evening, choose a time that works best for most. Perhaps meeting directly after school for snacks and play before dinner aligns better with everyone's schedule.

Parents can take turns hosting to give children something to look forward to once a week.

SHOP TOGETHER

Bring the kids along to the store to select board games and other activities that appeal to them. Explain that the majority of game nights will be dedicated to non-electronic games.

Parents can organize game night how they see fit, but working one video game night into the rotation each month can up the fun factor for kids.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE

"Games" encompass a wide array of activities. Organize a pick-up wiffle ball game in the cul-de-sac or an after-dark manhunt game with flashlights (age-permitting). Families with pools can rotate having kids over for pool games, which can include volleyball, diving games or Marco Polo.

PLAN IN ADVANCE

Know what kids will be playing before guests arrive to cut down on arguments over which games to play, which only wastes time. An older child or an adult can chaperone. Game nights can be fun ways for kids to interact away from screens.

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to cats.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 18 = S)

A. 7 3 8 18 15 11 26 18
Clue: Sensory hairs

B. 24 4 7 18
Clue: Feet

C. 5 1 10 24
Clue: Leap off surface

D. 15 8 17 17 12
Clue: Nickname for a cat

Answers: A. whiskers B. paws C. jump D. kitty

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to agriculture.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 19 = S)

A. 24 8 14 9
Clue: Rural area

B. 15 12 8 21 7 19
Clue: Trees, shrubs and more

C. 3 8 14 10 6 19 7
Clue: Gathering crops

D. 12 26 10 6 19 7 17 4 16
Clue: Farm animals

Answers: A. farm B. plants C. harvest D. livestock

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to exercise.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 13 = E)

A. 14 1 21 5 13 15 15
Clue: Being healthy

B. 10 13 1 7 9 21 15
Clue: Heavy exercise tools

C. 7 18 17
Clue: Fitness location

D. 13 3 13 24 19 1 15 13
Clue: Physical activity

Answers: A. fitness B. weights C. gym D. exercise

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to getting organized.

LEISF

Answer: Files

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to water quality.

CAEUNLN

Answer: Unclean

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to cats.

RGSMOO

Answer: Croons

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in California on January 7, 1971. I was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor for a role as a military sergeant. Later, I went on to play a key role in Marvel's Avengers movies.

Answer: Jeremy Renner

Guess Who?

I am a rapper born in Texas on April 22, 1990. Before fame I lived abroad with my parents doing missionary work. I am known for my spitfire lyrics, and my music dates back to the early 2000s. I've also been in a few films in recent years.

Answer: Machine Gun Kelly

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