GUESS THE THING

HOW TO PLAY ?

20 questions is a classic game that can be played almost anywhere. It’s great to use when passing the time, meeting new people, or learning more about grammar. To play the basic version of this game, you don’t need anything but yourself and a willing group of players. You can also alter this game to teach ESL students about grammatically correct yes or no questions for a fun afternoon of learning.

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Guess The Thing Instructions

1 Gather a group of 2 to 5 people to play the game.

* .Gather a group of 2 to 5 people to play the game. This game works best with a small to medium-sized group of people so that everyone gets a chance to ask a question. If the group is too big, you may reach the end of the game without giving everyone a turn.[1]
* .This is a great game to play on a road trip or with a group of friends to pass the time.

2 Choose 1 person to be “it” first.

 .Choose 1 person to be “it” first. You can pick anyone in your group to go first. Try assigning them based on who the youngest is, who had the most recent birthday, or something silly, like who can eat a piece of pizza the fastest.[2]

 .You can also pick which order everyone takes turns guessing the same way. For example, going from youngest to oldest or in order of birth month.

3 Pick a person, place, or thing if you are “it.”

* . Think about someone or something that you know enough about to answer some basic questions on. If you choose a person, they can be living, deceased, or even fictional. Make sure you choose a person, place, or thing that most people in your group know about.[3]
* .For example, your item could be “Marylin Monroe,” since she is famous enough that most people will be able to make guesses about her. You could also choose something like New York City, the Eiffel Tower, or even clouds or the sun.
* .Try not to use items like “my mom” or “my dog” unless you are with your siblings or best friends, because the players might not know enough about them to guess.

4 Start by asking general yes or no questions if you are not “it.”

* .If you are a guesser, you are trying to figure out what the “it” person is thinking of. Try using a fairly general opening question that can be answered with “yes” or “no” to narrow down your options. For example:[4]
* .“Is it a person?”
* .“Is it a place?”
* .“Is it an object?”
* .“Is it real or fictional?”

5 Take turns asking yes or no questions.

 .Take turns asking yes or no questions. You can ask questions in any order that you’d like, but make sure each player gets to ask at least 1 question. If a player asks a question that can’t be answered with “yes” or “no,” ask them to rephrase it so that it can be.[5]

 .For example, a player couldn’t ask, “How old are they?” or “What do they look like?” They could ask, “Are they older than 50?” or, “Do they have blonde hair?”

6 Ask more specific questions as you go along.

* .Think about the questions that have already been asked before you ask new questions. For example, if someone already asked about size, move on to color or smell. This will give you an answer faster and use up fewer questions so you can hopefully win the
* .For instance, if you already asked “Is it bigger than a breadbox?” and the answer was yes, try asking something like, “Is it red?”

7 Play until you reach 20 questions or someone gives the right answer.

* .You can either assign someone to count the questions that each player asks, or the group can count them together collectively. If the group reaches 20 questions and they haven’t guessed the person, place, or thing, you can tell them what it is. If someone guesses it before 20 questions have been asked, the game is over.[7]

8 Make the correct guesser the next “it” person.

* . If no one guessed the person, place, or thing at all, whoever wants to go next can have a turn. Keep the game going until everyone has had a chance to be “it.”[8]
* . If someone guesses correctly but they’ve already been “it,” let someone else have a turn instead.
* .Giving everyone a turn makes the game more inclusive and lets everybody have some fun!