

The Rules of the 'Notorious' Holiday Gift Exchange

Object:

The Holiday Gift Exchange is not a game for the timid or weak at heart! It is a game of strategy, wits, and with quite a bit of luck mixed in. The object of the game is to end up with a wonderful gift (preferably the best!) when the last number is called. The nice part about this is that generally everyone's idea of the best is different!

Equipment:

- One really nice gift (that you yourself would like to get), with a minimum price of \$20.00 for each person who would like to participate.
 - Numbered tickets for the amount of gifts in the gift exchange.
 - A Scorekeeper with pad and pencil to keep track of how many times a gift has been 'stolen'.
- Players with extremely competitive attitudes and a good memory doesn't hurt either!

Set-up:

Each player that brings a gift will draw a number from the pool of numbers in the basket provided. The gifts that are the focus of the game will be exhibited on a table in front of all the players. *Keep in mind that part of the strategy of the game is to confuse the players by wrapping your gift in interesting and even deceptive ways to completely disguise your gift and totally surprise the other players in the game. Everyone gets really comfortable with a good view of the playing area as this game takes some time. It may not hurt to have a paper and pencil to keep track of the gifts.

Terms used in the Game:

Stealing:

This term is used when one player takes a gift from another player.

Round of Play:

The definition of a 'round of play' is when a player either unwraps a new gift or 'steals' a gift from another player who has already opened a gift. If the player 'steals' a gift, then the player the gift is 'stolen' from can only go to the gift table and open another gift. Whenever a new gift is opened then that 'round of play' is over.

Dead:

This term is used when a gift has been 'stolen' three times. The gift is then considered 'dead' and can no longer be 'stolen' until the end of the game.

Game Play:

The lucky player with the lowest number ticket gets to go first to the gift table and unwrap the first gift.

The player then shows it to all of the other players and then sits down with their gift and admire it until...

The next player (player #2) can either take the gift that the first person unwrapped or go to the table and unwrap another gift.

If player #2 chooses to unwrap another gift then that 'round of play' is over.

If player #2 chooses to 'steal' the unwrapped gift from player #1 then player #1 then needs to go back to the gift table and unwrap another gift. When the new gift is unwrapped and shown to all of the players in the game then player #1 sits back down with the new gift and that 'round of play' is completed. Player #3 can then choose to 'steal' either of the opened gifts from players #1 or #2 or go to the gift table and unwrap another gift.

The play goes on in this way with each player either opening a new gift or 'stealing' a gift from another player. *I think that you can see where it is not advised to get too attached to your gift too soon!

Now this is where it can get complicated! A gift can only be 'stolen' a total of three times and then it is considered 'dead'. The scorekeeper keeps track of how many times a gift is 'stolen' and calls out when a gift is 'dead'.

The play of the game continues in this way until all of the gifts on the gift table are opened.

The play then goes back to the player with the first number. This lucky player can now choose any of the opened gifts in the room (including any of the 'dead' gifts) or keep the gift they have. If the player chooses to keep the gift they have then the game is over. If however, Player #1 decides to take another player's gift then that player must then graciously accept the gift that player #1 has