

Guidelines for Charades

Required: a stopwatch or other timer , blank slips of paper for phrases, containers for the slips of paper, a notepad and pencil for scorekeeping.

To play each round follow this procedure: All slips of paper with phrases are placed in labelled containers, one for each team. Ask the player from Team 1 to draw a phrase slip from another teams container. After s/he has had a short time to look at the slip, the timekeeper tells the player to start, noting the time. Team 1 then has three minutes to guess the phrase. If they are able to guess it within the time limit, the timekeeper records how long it took. If they don't guess it, the timekeeper declares that the time is up, and records a time of three minutes. The player from the next team draws a phrase slip from another teams container, and play proceeds as before. Continue until all teams have played the specified number of rounds. The total time scored for each team determines the winner. The team with the smallest time wins.

Gestures and Hand Signals

- Pretending to crank an old-fashioned movie camera:*** A movie title.
Pretending to open a book.. A book title.
Pretending to sing. A song title.
Pretending to open a theatre curtain. A play title.
Drawing a rectangle in the air. A T.V. show
Making quotation marks with the fingers. A quotation.
Holding up a number of fingers:
Indicates, how many words in the target phrase/name/title, followed by a number of fingers to indicate which word is about to be mimed. E.g. 5 fingers =5 words in the title followed by 3 fingers = the 3rd word in the title about to be mimed. If a word need s to be broken into syllables and each syllable is mimed, the same process is followed but the fingers are laid flat against the left palm to indicate how many syllables and which one is being targeted.
- A hand up to the ear.*** Means that the word or syllables you're about to mime sounds like the relevant part of the phrase/name/title.
- Half-clenching the fingers and leaving a small gap in the clench.*** Indicates a short word, usually a preposition or other function word, or possibly a prefix, an, and, at, ex-, in-
- Crossing two hands or fingers to a T.*** Indicates the word 'the'.
- A vigorous shake of the head or upraised palm.*** Someone has guessed wrongly or is pursuing entirely the wrong line of reasoning.
- Pointing to the nose.*** The suggestions are heading in the right direction.
- A thumbs-up sign.*** Someone has guessed a syllable or word correctly.
- Link little fingers.*** It is the plural form of the word.
- Wave hand over shoulder towards back.*** Past tense of the word.
- Stretching a piece of elastic.*** Longer version of the word.
- A chopping action towards forearm.*** A letter of the alphabet. The top of the forearm is closest to the beginning of the alphabet.