The Game Of Scattergories

For 2 to 6 Adult Players

Contents:
6 Folders, 6 Clip strips, 1 Answer pad, 20-Sided die, 48 Category cards, Timer, Die-rolling board, 6 Pencils

Object
Quickly fill out a category list with answers that begin with the same letter. Score points if no other player matches your answers. To win the game, score the most points.

The First Time You Play
Assemble the folders: Attach a clip strip to each of the 6 folders. To do this, follow the Folder Assembly instructions inside the folders.

Insert the timer batteries: Loosen the two screws on the battery compartment, located underneath the timer, and remove the door. Insert two AAA-size batteries (we recommend alkaline), making sure to align the + and - symbols with the markings in the plastic. Then replace the door and tighten the screws.

Game Setup
Separate the category cards into 6 sets of List #1 through List #16. Each set has 8 cards.

For all 6 folders, do the following: slide a set of category cards under the left clip, an answer sheet under the middle and right clips, and a pencil into the middle holder. See Figure 1.

CAUTION:
1. As with all small batteries, the batteries used with this game should be kept away from small children, who still put things in their mouths. If they are swallowed, promptly see a doctor and have the doctor telephone 202-625-3333 collect.
2. Make sure the batteries are inserted correctly and follow the game and battery manufacturers' instructions.
3. Do not mix old and new batteries, or alkaline, standard (carbon-zinc), or rechargeable (nickel-cadmium) batteries.
Game Play
The game is played in 3 rounds. To play a round, do the following steps in order:

1. Each player takes a folder. Decide which List # you want to use, and clip the card onto the folder so that it is facing you. Make sure each player is using the same List #.

2. Set the die-rolling board on the table. One player rolls the letter die on the board and calls out the rolled letter. The rolled letter is the key letter that will be used in this round of play. Caution: the 20-sided die is heavy. Roll it only on the die-rolling board to prevent possible damage to table tops.

3. Start the timer. Turn the timer upside-down, and make sure it's on the 3-minute (• • •) setting. (If necessary, slide the switch to this setting.) Then turn the timer rightside-up again.

Press the top of the timer to start it ticking. (To reset the timer at any time press it to stop, then press it again to start.) Now the round begins!

4. All players quickly fill in the first column of their answer sheets. Answers must fit the category, and must begin with the key letter. See Rules for Acceptable Answers. (These rules also appear inside each folder.)

Figure 2 shows an example of a filled-in answer sheet. Players are using List #1 and the letter P was rolled.

5. When the timer stops, all players must immediately stop writing.

6. Scoring the round: Players, in turn, read their answers aloud. Players mark their own answer sheets by circling acceptable answers that do not match any other player's answers. Continue reading answers until all 12 categories have been marked. Then score 1 point for each of your circled answers.

Record your score at the top of the column on your answer sheet, as shown in Figure 3.

In case of a tie: The players who tied play one more round with a new letter. The player with the highest score in that round is the winner.

Rules for Acceptable Answers
- The first word of your answer must begin with the key letter.
- The articles "A", "An" and "The" cannot be used as key letters. For example, "B" is the key letter for the MOVIE TITLE, A Beautiful Mind; "P" is the key letter for the BOOK, The Pelican Brief.
- The same answer cannot be given more than once in the same round. For example, you cannot answer Gary for A BOY'S NAME and for U.S. CITIES.
- When answering with a proper name, you may use the first or last name, as long as the key letter is the first letter of your answer. For example, if the key letter is G and the category is PRESIDENTS, your answer could be George Bush or Garfield, James.
- Creative answers can be acceptable. For example, if the category is SPICES/HERBS and the key letter is P, you could answer Posi. But if one player challenges the answer, the group must vote on its acceptability.

Figure 4 shows that the player scored 22 points.

Starting a New Game
To start a new game, remove the answer sheet and clip on a blank one (answer sheets are two-sided). Also remove the category card and clip it on the other side, or clip on another card with the desired List # facing you. Make sure all players are using the same List #.

Game Variations
- Extra points: When answering with proper names or titles, score an extra point for using the key letter more than once as a first letter in your answer. For example: Ronald Reagan, Carson City, Simon and Schuster, and The Brady Bunch for 2 points; Hubert Horatio Humphrey for 3 points.
- Time challenge: For an extra-challenging game with less time, set the timer to the 2 ½-minute (• • •) or 2-minute (•) setting. To set the timer, just turn it upside-down and slide the switch to the desired setting.