

# How to Play Charades

## Preparation

You will need to start with a list of words or phrases. See below for some ideas for lists you can make. If your meeting has a theme, you can choose phrases related to that theme. Have each word or phrase printed on a slip of paper.

Alternatively, you can have each player write a common word or phrase on a slip of paper and use those. You have to be a little careful of this approach with youth though. Some may submit impossible or even inappropriate ideas.

## Materials

- Your words or phrases on slips of paper
- A container to draw the slips of paper from
- A 2 minute timer
- A way to keep score, such as a pencil and paper

## How to Play Charades

1. Divide the group into two or more teams.
2. Choose a person from one of the teams to go first. He or she draws a slip of paper with a phrase.
3. Start the timer.
4. The player uses actions only to act out all or part of the phrase to their team. These are common actions the actor can use:
  - To indicate how many words, hold up that number of fingers.
  - After indicating how many words, hold up one finger to indicate the first word, two for the second, etc.
  - To indicate that the word sounds like what is being shown, tug your ear.
  - To indicate that it is a book, open your hands in front of you like a book.
  - To indicate a song, cup your hands in front of your mouth
  - To indicate a movie, pretend to turn a crank.
  - If someone guesses part of the phrase correctly, point at him or her.
5. If the team guesses the phrase correctly before time runs out, they get a point.
6. The next team takes a turn using a new word or phrase.
7. Each team should have an equal number of turns.
8. The team with the most points at the end wins.

## [See some list samples and ideas](#)

### More resources

- [Talent Comm – A Talent Game](#)
- [Pictionary](#)