

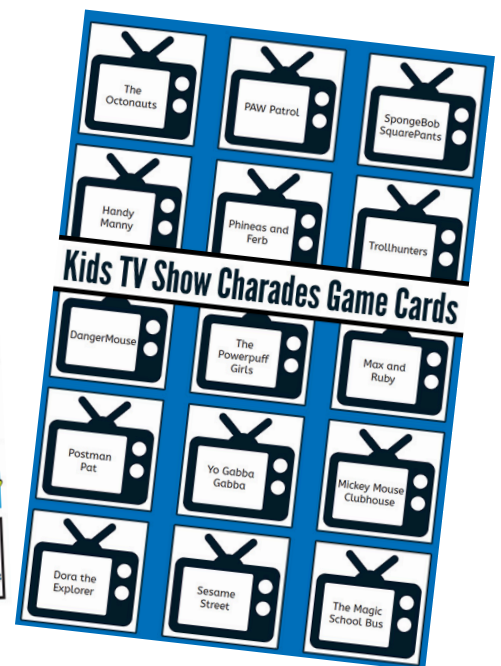
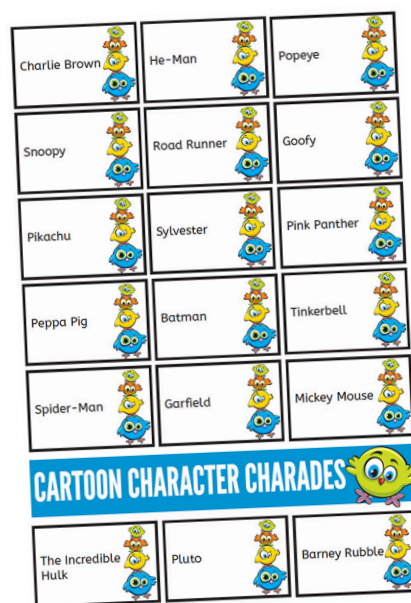
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PRINTABLE  
CHARADES  
GAMES



STOP BY AND SAY HI!



# HOW TO PLAY CHARADES

Originating in France in the 18th century, the game of Charades evolved from a riddle-based game where participants described the individual syllables of a word along with a definition for others to solve. It was later adapted into the game we know today where titles and phrases are acted out without words.

## Basic Rules of Charades

Begin with a bowl of phrases and/or titles. In turn, each player draws a slip from the bowl and acts out the phrase shown using hand signals and body motions but no spoken words.

Players then try to guess the title/phrase. The player giving the correct answer is allocated a point. You may wish to use a timer to keep rounds short and succinct.

When playing with a larger crowd, divide into teams before playing. If a team does not guess the acted phrase correctly within the time limit, the other team can try to guess the phrase and steal the point.

The player or team with the most points wins the game.

## Main Categories of Charades

There are several standard categories and accompanying actions used in Charades;



**Movie title:** Pretend to be turning the reel of an old-fashioned movie camera.



**TV show title:** Draw a rectangle in the air with fingers to indicate a TV.



**Song title:** Draw your hand away from your mouth while pretending to sing.



**Book title:** Pretend to open a book by opening your hands.



**Play title:** Indicate a stage curtain opening by drawing hands apart.



**Quotes & phrases:** Make air quotes with fingers.

## Hand Signals Used in Charades

When playing Charades, common hand signals can help players understand not only the category but also how many words and syllables are in the phrase being acted out.

Some of the most common signals include:

**Number of words or syllables:** Hold up fingers to indicate the number of words, the position of the word being communicated, and to break down individual words into syllables as needed. For example, hold up 3 fingers for a 3-word phrase, followed by 1 finger for the first word.

**Word Length:** Word length can be communicated by showing a "short" word length by spreading thumb and forefinger and a "long" word length by spreading your arms.

**Sounds like:** To indicate that a word is similar in sound to something you are acting out, cup your hand behind your ear.

**Plurals:** Link pinky fingers together to indicate a plural word.

**Longer or shorter:** To demonstrate that a phrase or word a longer or shorter version, stretch your hands or make a karate chop type action.

**Correct guesses:** Tap your nose and point to the person who made a correct guess to let them know they have it "right on the nose".



A Charlie  
Brown  
Christmas



Santa Claus  
is Coming  
to Town



Annabelle's  
Wish



Miracle  
on 34th  
Street



The Muppet  
Christmas  
Carol



A Charlie  
Brown  
Christmas



Santa  
Paws



The  
Snowman



Mickey's  
Once Upon  
a Christmas



The  
Santa  
Clause



Elf



Home  
Alone



The  
Polar  
Express



The  
Grinch



Arthur  
Christmas



The  
Christmas  
Chronicles



The  
Star



A  
Christmas  
Carol





The  
Nightmare  
Before  
Christmas



The  
Nutcracker  
and the  
Four  
Realms



National  
Lampoon's  
Christmas  
Vacation



Mickey's  
Christmas  
Carol



Frosty  
the  
Snowman



Klaus



Babes  
in  
Toyland



Jingle  
All the  
Way



Rise of  
the  
Guardians



Shrek  
the  
Halls



Stick  
Man



The  
Holiday  
Calendar

