

24 *More* Corporate Party Games



Strategic Event Design
the intelligent choice

Loosen up that necktie. It's time for fun.



Games are great for corporate gatherings because they can work as icebreakers and encourage players to mingle. They force people to loosen up and can help you realize the goal of your event. Plus, they will give participants something to giggle with their colleagues for years to come.

You simply cannot have too many corporate party games in your back pocket. Company anniversaries, annual outings, VIP birthdays, holidays and other special occasions are going to populate your calendar, and here are some more ideas to help you celebrate. Everyone in a large group of professionals can enjoy these games: co-workers, clients, and even senior staff. Consider the guest list and have a few games (or 24) up your sleeve.

Need a little help? Strategic Event Design specializes in helping you achieve the goal of your event, whether that is closing a sale or simply having a little fun. We work with you and your staff to come up with customized games and events that help achieve your goal. Find out more at StrategicEventDesign.com.

1. Blobs and Lines

GREAT FOR: AN EARLY MORNING ICEBREAKER

This “get to know you” game would be appropriate for any group of people, especially in an office setting. This is an easy format that encourages people get to know each other quickly. The game leader has a list of ways to gather in blobs or line up. It could be lining up in order of birthday, or alphabetically in order of last name. You could have people group in blobs of who has dogs, cats or both. People are mingling back and forth, forming groups and lines.

There are no winners or losers, just a bit of fun and gets the blood flowing. The host can come up with topics that are specific to your event. For example, if it’s the holiday party, line up by those who have completed their shopping and those who haven’t. It encourages attendees to make eye contact with others, perhaps some casual banter, and get to know interesting things about them that may spark conversation later.

2. Geocaching

GREAT FOR: ENCOURAGING TEAMWORK

Geocaching was made popular in the early 2000’s when it used GPS devices to locate “caches”, which were typically waterproof boxes containing a notebook and pencil. These days the activity can be done with smartphone apps, but it will take some advanced coordination on your end.

Come up with a larger riddle or theme to your scavenger hunt and try to make it fit the mold of your event. Perhaps there are pieces to a puzzle in each box and the entire group has to work to put the puzzle together at the end.

3. Group Timeline

GREAT FOR: DIFFERENT GENERATIONS IN THE GROUP

Ask each person in your group to write down 3 memorable events from their life and the date. Next, create a large blank timeline, perhaps on the

company whiteboard or on a wall in the ballroom of your event. Add several dates to the timeline for important cultural, company or local events and dates.

Ask each person to post his or her events to the right place on the timeline. This activity gives great perspective to young and old about how the group collectively fits together. It's also a wonderful conversation starter.

4. Matching Game

GREAT FOR: CONVERSATION STARTER FOR A LARGE GROUP

Write or print the names of famous celebrity couples on sticky name tags, one for each tag. Mix them so they are no longer matching. Stick a label with a name on each guest's back as they arrive.

Guests can then ask yes or no questions to find out who's name is on their back and then find their match among the crowd. A fun twist is to ask guests to impersonate their celebrity match in a red-carpet photo booth!



5. 2 Truths, 1 Lie

GREAT FOR: GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PARTICIPANTS

Give each participant an index card and have him or her write down two interesting and true things about themselves. Next have them fabricate something that is believable but untrue. Go around the room and have each person read their three cards at random.

Everyone else as a group discusses which one they think is a lie. This encourages conversation about the person in question, and might bring up some other interesting facts about them.

6. The Next Big Thing

GREAT FOR: TEAMWORK, THOUGHT AND BRAINSTORMING

Gather your small group or have your larger group break into teams of 10. Explain to the group about a new problem society is having. This could be real or completely fabricated. For example, the year is 2100 and there is no more snow at the world's ski resorts. They need a new sport invented that will take off and be as big as skiing in order to draw crowds and use the infrastructure that has been built.

Task your team with inventing the next big thing. Then, have them present their ideas to you or the rest of the groups, including drawings and live demonstrations.

7. Company Olympics

GREAT FOR: AN ALL DAY COMPETITION

This is a great activity if you are an international corporation and have visitors in from your other locations. First, have each department break out and choose a country. Next, choose some judges, often the senior level staff.

Choose and set rules for three activities. They can be real (a race, bowling, or game of corn hole) or totally silly (such as a dance competition). Have the judges give out bronze, silver and gold medals for each event, and then overall medals for best performance. Don't forget to have a medal ceremony where you have that country's anthem queued up.



8. Breakfast Scramble

GREAT FOR: A QUICK MORNING WAKE UP ACTIVITY

Simple, inexpensive and fun, this game is perfect for a morning meeting. All you need are scissors and two empty cereal boxes. Cut a cereal box into twenty pieces. Break your group into two teams, hand them some scotch tape and see who can put their cereal box back together the fastest. Alternately you can give teams 60 seconds to see who gets their box together the best.

9. Customized Mad Libs

GREAT FOR: EASY PARTICIPATION, HUMOR

Get the best writer you know to help with this one. Write a story about your company, your CEO, or the guest of honor. Make sure the content is light, has some recognizable truths about the person, and that it does not offend anybody. Leave many of the verbs, adverbs, nouns and pronouns out of the story as blank lines.

Next pass the story around with a pen and have each participant fill in a word. Alternatively there could be an m/c who is calling out which word type is needed, and users can shout them out. These always result in hilarious stories, so be sure to get a microphone to read the final story to the group.

10. Balloon Volleyball

GREAT FOR: GETTING MOVING WITH A LARGE GROUP

Perfect for a ballroom or large boardroom! This game is just like regular volleyball, but you use a balloon. If the balloon hits the floor on your side of the imaginary net, the other team gets a point.

11. Dance Chain

GREAT FOR: A BIT OF HUMILIATION

Test your dance moves and memory! Start with a group standing in a circle. Designate someone to begin by doing a simple dance move. The person next to them does the move and adds one. On and on the game goes as

the routine gets longer and longer. The grand finale is a choreographed dance sequence.

12. The Human Jukebox

GREAT FOR: 'JOG YOUR MEMORY' AND USE YOUR VOICE

One player starts by singing a line of a song, then the next player has to continue with a line of the song using at least one of the words from the previous user. You could start it off with “you can’t always get what you want” (Rolling Stones) and the next user might lead off with “what a girl wants” (Christina Aguilera). No winners or losers, just a lot of fun (humiliation).



13. Partners in Pen

GREAT FOR: AN EARLY MORNING ICEBREAKER

Great for team building and communication, Partners in Pen is done with one person drawing and the other person knowing the subject like, “castle” or “truck. The player drawing does not know the subject but can ask questions while they draw. The other person instructs them on exactly what to draw and how. Best picture in the group wins.

14. Pictionary Telephone

GREAT FOR: TESTING CREATIVITY AND HUMOR

Each player needs a piece of paper and a pencil. Everyone starts by writing a sentence at the top of his or her paper. It could be anything simple like “The dog chases the butterfly” or even a song lyric. Once all sentences are written all papers are passed to the player on the right. Next everyone

illustrates the sentence given to him or her with a small picture under the sentence.

Once the drawings are complete, fold the paper to cover the sentence and pass them to the right again. They then take a look at the photo and write what they think it illustrates. Fold and pass again. Once the papers are used up they players can read and laugh at how the sentences have changed along the way. Prizes could be awarded to the best drawing or funniest sentence.

15. Name Tag Topics

GREAT FOR: LARGE GROUPS OF STRANGERS

Not so much a game, but more of a fun way for people to start talking to each other. As people walk into an event have them choose a “name tag” at random. But instead of a name the tag states, “ask me about the worst date I’ve ever had”, or “ask me about my first job”. This gets people talking and hopefully laughing.

16. Winking Assassin

GREAT FOR: PURE FUN AND MYSTERY

A murder mystery you can play without the haunted mansion. One person is designated to be the “Godfather” and discreetly taps a player on the shoulder. This is the designated “assassin”. The assassin “kills” people by winking at them, once killed the person slumps over.

If someone sees the winker, they point and say “they are the killer” and if they are right, they are the winner and are promoted to be the next “Godfather.” If they are wrong, they “die” or kicked out of the game and the assassin remains at large.

17. Monopoly Mayhem

GREAT FOR: ENCOURAGING SILLINESS

Each person receives \$500 in Monopoly money upon arrival. Players are then invited to make wagers or dares throughout the night. For example you could pay someone \$10 to do a headstand. The one with the most money at the end of the evening is the winner.



There are all kinds of fun ideas for this like set up a jail if you run out of money or create a “pass go” photo booth. Pass out disposable or polaroid cameras to capture the mayhem. The possibilities are endless.

18. The Name Game

GREAT FOR: MEMORY, INTERACTION AND FUN

Turn dropping names into a game. One person starts with a famous person’s name, and the next person has to say a famous person’s name that starts with the first letter of the previous person’s last name. For example, the first player says “Michael Jordan”, and the second person says “Jamie Foxx”. This continues around the circle until a participant can’t think of a name.

For an extra twist, set the rule that “doubles” switch the order of things. So if the name “Danny Devito” is said, the order switches up back to the previous person. The same goes for single word names like Oprah. This game is fun for a more timid or shy group who would otherwise be hesitant to interact.

19. Quirk Alert Bingo

GREAT FOR: ROASTING COLLEAGUES AND BOSSES

Before guests arrive, pass out a blank BINGO card. Have them fill out each square based on what they think various guests will do. For example, “Betty will wear high-heeled shoes” or “Joe will talk about his new car”. During the party contestants mark off their squares as the predictions come true. This first with a bingo wins a prize.

This is especially fun in smaller groups or for people who don’t mind a little “roasting”.

20. Who Am I?

GREAT FOR: A SILLY DAY AT THE OFFICE

This is essentially like a group game of 20 questions. During a cocktail or coffee hour, hand out a covered card to each guest. These cards will contain the name of a famous personality or a type of person (i.e. Marilyn Monroe or a toddler). As the group walks around and mingles, guests ask each other questions to try to get to who the person is supposed to be.



If a person guesses, right, they get to collect the card and the props for guessing! Offer up a fun prize for the one who gets the most wins.

21. Jumbo Jenga

GREAT FOR: A LITTLE SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Everyone loves Jenga! These giant blocks can be customized with logos, challenges and dares. Give each player a block upon entry and start building or dismantling your tower. Jenga really shows how steady and balanced a person is. Have a great prize for the winners.

22. Sticker Stalker

GREAT FOR: A SILLY DAY AT THE OFFICE

An office that plays together, stays together, right? Give each player a pack of their own distinct stickers, it could be that one person gets red stars, one gets gold, one blue. The object of the game is to stick the most stickers on your co-worker's backs, without them knowing! The winner is the one who manages to get the most stickers stuck.

This goes by the honor system: no cheating and taking the stickers off if you notice them. Have a fun prize for the winner.

23. Silent Charades

GREAT FOR: MEETING NEW PEOPLE

Print out doubles of charade cards, or two matching cards. For example, if you have 20 people you will print 10 charade cards twice. Mix up the cards and have each player take one. The rules are that there is NO TALKING. When the leader says "Go" start acting out your card. The twist is that you need to find the other person acting out the same thing. When you have found each other, sit down together and remember-no talking! Once everyone is seated, walk around and make sure all charade cards match.

24. This or That

GREAT FOR: AN EASY ICEBREAKER

Another fun icebreaker that gets people mingling is called "this or that." Here's how it works: players physically take a stance on light topics such as "what is a better ice cream flavor, vanilla or chocolate?" Keep the topics going as players move back and forth between groups. Keep track of who had to cross the lines the most times. This is a fun way to get your group moving a little (but not too much).

Sit back, let us help. And put your game face on.



These games are sure to bring a smile and laugh to your next corporate gathering. Strategic Event Design is a full service event agency that can help with all things events. From games and themes to execution and ROI tracking, we assist in making your next event even better. Contact us today.

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