DIY Bingo

Technology | Games

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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Playing Bingo with people is meaningful because it brings everyone together in a fun and relaxed way, encouraging interaction and bonding. The game's simplicity allows people of all ages and abilities to participate, fostering inclusivity and a sense of community. Each call and mark on the card builds anticipation and excitement, creating shared moments of joy and connection that strengthen relationships and leave lasting positive memories.

TIME

15+ minute set up. Unlimited play.

MATERIALS

- Paper and pens, or a computer/tablet for digital cards
- A list of categories or items (e.g., colors, animals, activities)
- A group of friends or family members to play with on a video call OR in person
- Small objects like buttons or coins (if using physical cards) or a way to mark digital cards

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create Your Bingo Cards:
    a. Option 1: Physical Cards – Draw a grid on a piece of paper (5x5 is common). Fill each square with a different word or picture from your list. Make sure each player's card is different!
    b. Option 2: Digital Cards – Use an online Bingo card generator or a spreadsheet program to create and share Bingo cards with your group.
2. Set Up the Video Call (optional): Choose a video call platform everyone is comfortable with (like Zoom, Google Meet, or Skype). Send out the meeting link to everyone who's playing. Make sure everyone has their Bingo card ready, either printed out or on their device.
3. Explain the Rules: Tell everyone the goal is to mark off a row of items on their card—this can be a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal row. When a caller (you or a designated person) names an item, participants check their cards to see if they have it. If they do, they mark that square. The first person to mark off a full row shouts "Bingo!" and wins.
4. Start the Game: The caller randomly picks and announces items from the list (e.g., "Find the word 'cat'" or "Find the color red"). Participants look for the item on their Bingo card and mark it if they have it.
5. Check for Bingo: When someone shouts "Bingo!" they read out their marked row to confirm the win. If they're correct, they win the round! You can play multiple rounds or just one.
6. Celebrate the Winner: Give the winner a round of applause or a virtual high-five.
7. Keep the Fun Going: Play more rounds with new cards or themes, or switch to another game if the group is ready for a change. If you're playing multiple rounds, you can switch up the Bingo cards or categories.

RESOURCES

- o How to use Zoom: [Getting started guide for new users](#)
- o How to use Google Meet: [Start or schedule a Google Meet video meeting - Android](#)
- o How to use Apple Facetime: [Make FaceTime calls on iPhone - Apple Support (CA)](#)
- o How to use Skype: [How do I get started with Skype? - Microsoft Support](#)
- o How to use Microsoft Teams: [Get started with Microsoft Teams](#)
- o Bingo Category Generator: [Categories Bingo Card](#)

SUPPORTS NEEDED

Some individuals may need assistance in setting up the video call and operating the technology.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

Example Categories/Items for Your Bingo Cards:

- Colors: Red, blue, green, yellow, purple
- Animals: Dog, cat, elephant, bird, fish
- Things: Car, book, hat, tree, phone
- Activities: Dancing, reading, swimming, cooking, singing

Personalize the cards with items that your group loves. Add themed rounds, like "Holiday Bingo" or "Summer Fun Bingo." Make it interactive by encouraging players to share stories or facts about the items they mark.