

'White Elephant' Rules and Regulations

THE GIFTS:

1. This party's gift theme is open.
 2. The gift should be valued as close to \$15.00 as is reasonable.
 3. The gift should be something someone would actually want or use.
 4. The gift should be wrapped or in an envelope before arriving to the party. Gift bags are OK only if a wrapped item is inside.
 5. Gift certificates are OK only if it is accompanied by some other item as part of the gift. For instance, a \$15 Starbucks gift certificate, by itself, is not OK, but a \$5 Starbucks gift certificate together with a coffee mug is OK.
 6. As guests arrive to the party, the gifts should be placed in an area where few people can see who brought which gift. All efforts should be made to bide who brought which gift.
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THE GAME:

1. Each guest who wishes to participate must contribute a gift.
2. Prepare slips of paper equal to the number of gifts with clearly written numbers_ Be sure to distinguish 6 from 9, 1 from 7. Each participating guest draws a number and holds onto that slip of paper.
3. On the first turn, the guest with paper slip #1 chooses a gift, opens it, and all admire it.
4. On the second turn, the guest with paper slip #2 gets the choice of "stealing" any unwrapped gift (#1's) or choosing a wrapped one. If #2 steals #1's gift, then #1 must open a wrapped gift.
5. On the third turn, the guest with paper slip #3 gets the choice of "stealing" any unwrapped gift (#1's or #2's) or choosing a wrapped one.

The game continues based on the following:

1. If a gift is stolen from you, you can steal a gift (within limits, described below), or open a wrapped one.
2. The turn proceeds until a wrapped gift is chosen.
3. A gift cannot be immediately stolen back from the guest who just stole it.
4. The third "owner" of a gift gets to keep it. The gift is "dead" after it has been stolen **two times**.
5. "Owners" of "live" gifts must keep them *visible and hold them* up when requested.
6. The gift exchange ends when the last wrapped gift is opened. Usually, guests are encouraged to perpetuate the gift stealing as long as there are "live" gifts, but no one is obligated to do this.