

Setup

1. Hand out paper and pens.

Give everyone a full sheet of paper and something to write with.

2. Choose a scorekeeper.

The scorekeeper will also be the starting referee.

3. Write a starting sentence.

To begin the game, the starting referee writes down the first sentence of a new story and then reads that sentence aloud.

Each Round

1. Write.

Each player writes down a possible next sentence for the story, including the referee. The goal is to write a sentence that ends up being similar to other players' sentences, but nobody is allowed to talk while they write.

When you finish writing your sentence, slam your pen down to signal that you are done.

2. Read.

Going clockwise, everyone reads their sentences out loud. The player to the left of the referee reads first.

3. Group.

The referee decides which players wrote sentences with similar content. If two or more players wrote similar sentences, those players are considered to be part of a group.

For example, if the story so far is "The sun was rising over Central Park" and the three players write the sentences below, then players A and B are in a group together.

- A. "I was jogging before work."
- B. "Hundreds of New Yorkers were jogging and doing yoga."
- C. "Meanwhile, I was trapped in a Moroccan dungeon."

The referee is allowed to put their own sentence in a group, but they should try to remain unbiased.

4. Score.

Everyone in the biggest group (the one with the most players) scores a point. If multiple groups are equally big, then everyone in those groups scores a point. If there are no groups, no one scores a point.

The scorekeeper should keep a running tally of points.

5. Add to the story.

The referee picks their favorite sentence from the winning group, and that sentence becomes the next official sentence of the story. If there are no groups, then the referee can pick any sentence they want.

The scorekeeper is responsible for writing down each official sentence of the story.

6. Rotate the referee position

In the next round, the player to the left of the old referee is the new referee.

End

1. After seven rounds, the game is over.

After seven rounds, the scorekeeper reads the entire story and announces everyone's scores. The player with the most points win.

If you want to play a longer or shorter game, you can pick a different number of rounds instead of seven.

2. Title the story.

The winner gets to title the story. If there is a tie, the tying players make up a title together.