



Board games buying guide quick reference handout

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The most popular types of board games

Board games run the gamut, from ones you can play with just two people to others that are great for families, kids, adults only, and large groups.

- 1. Family board games** – best for family play including both adults and kids, this includes many of the classics along with modern themed versions of these and entirely new board game titles.
- 2. Strategy board games** – require some strategic and critical thinking along with decision-making skills and are usually geared towards older players.
- 3. Cooperative board games** – Players work together to achieve a common goal in this growing sub-category of board games that has been gaining popularity of late.
- 4. Party board games** – Best for large groups, played in pairs, teams, or as individuals, many of these types of board games use props and some require larger spaces.

Typical pieces you'd find in a board game

1. **Foldable board** – this serves as the playing surface though some board games use other elements.
2. **Small game pieces** – usually in distinct shapes like characters, objects, or colour-coded pieces to identify players.
3. **Cards** – will contain special instructions, missions, properties, and more, often in different categories.
4. **Dice** – help you determine how to move around a board; some board games have wheels, use cards, or other pieces instead.
5. **Timer** – helps keep the game going at a proper pace.

Choosing the right board game

It's important to have a suitable board game, or selection of board games, to play with the family, groups, or bring to events. This depends on, first and foremost, whose playing and how many people.



1. **1.Board games for two** – look for classics designed just for two people, like Scrabble or Chess, or check the minimum number of players noted for a new one.
2. **Board games for small groups** – Strategy or family board games are best.
3. **Board games for large groups** – Look for a good party game that works best with lots of participation, requires teams, and is designed to generate laughs.
4. **Board games played in pairs** – These board games fall into the competitive, strategy, and family categories, but some party games can be played in pairs, too.
5. **Board games played in teams** – Use these for groups of six or more; typically a party game will fit the bill.
6. **Board games for families** – Should be easy to learn, straightforward rules, appropriate for all ages, and plenty of fun.
7. **The most beautiful board games** – These are stunning to look at, often featuring nature, art, and other elements with intricate, colourful, highly detailed components.

The latest evolution in board games

While the classics have staying power and should always be part of the mix, don't be afraid to consider exciting, new board game titles that can change things up for family or party game night. Or upgrade with a themed version of an old classic that plays to current topics, like popular video games, TV shows, movies, pop culture topics, and more.

How to choose the right board game for your event

1. **How many people will you be playing with?** Check the minimum and maximum number of players. If it can be played in teams or pairs, and consider if you'll have an even or odd number of players.
2. **What are the ages?** Age ratings on many games don't need to be taken at face value: you decide if the kids are mature and skilled enough to play. But make sure there's no inappropriate content and that everyone who will be playing will have fun, including kids.
3. **How much space do you have?** If your play area is a small room with a table, Twister might be out of the question. Make sure you have the right space and additional accessories on hand if they are needed.
4. **How long does the game typically take?** Some games can be played from start to finish in 15 minutes, others take hours. Consider how much time you want to dedicate to the game.
5. **How complicated are the rules?** Not only kids, but some elderly players or those who aren't familiar with strategy or cooperative games might not be interested in more complicated ones. Consider not only ages but who will be playing and what their interests are.