

Silent Phrase Charades

Host card | 4-10 players | Approx. 10-15 minutes | 1.0.0

Use gestures to show a short familiar phrase. The audience explains what it noticed before the actor reveals the answer.

Bring and set up

The prompt list below or a few paper slips; A clear space beside the table.

Agree that actors stay in their own clear space and mime with empty hands. Nobody needs to climb, chase, lift another person or use a real prop.

Choose one actor or a willing pair. The host quietly supplies a phrase; everyone may choose a different prompt or pass.

How to play

1. Actors use gestures but no spoken words or drawn letters. The audience takes turns proposing a phrase.
2. Allow about one minute, then reveal the phrase even if it was not guessed. Invite the actor to explain a gesture.
3. Rotate so each willing player can act. A helpful clue from the host is allowed if the group asks for it.

Too many cooks spoil the broth

Two actors can mime stirring the same imaginary pot and disagreeing about what to add. The audience may describe "people cooking together" before reaching the full phrase. Accept the intended meaning rather than insisting on exact wording.

Three-part session

1. Everyday action: Host-only choice: opening an umbrella, searching for a lost key, or wrapping a present. Show the actor one choice privately.
2. A familiar phrase: Host-only choice: time flies, a fish out of water, or too many cooks spoil the broth. Explain an unfamiliar phrase before acting.
3. A willing pair: Two actors choose a short phrase together and agree on two gestures. Give the audience one spoken category clue if needed.

Offer support

Use a concrete action instead of an idiom, or let the actor and a buddy practise once with the host.

If something goes wrong

If the audience has never heard a phrase, reveal and explain it; do not treat that as a failure to observe. Avoid prompts based on a guest's appearance or habits.

Finish together

Give every willing actor a turn, then ask the group which gesture communicated most clearly.

Party Puzzle Parcel | Free host materials | Adult-led session; time is a planning estimate.

Rules reference: Project Gutenberg 31186; acting proverbs. Original modern host instructions.