

Victorian Parlour Games

Throwing the smile

The players sit round in a circle and one of them smiles for a moment or so. He then wipes his hand across his face to wipe off the smile and pretends to throw it to another player of his choice who has to catch it with his hand, put it on, wear it for a while and wipe it off to throw it to someone else. Anyone who smiles out of turn is out and the last player remaining wins the game. Those players who are 'out' will laugh heartily as the game proceeds, thus making it more and more difficult for the remaining players to stay 'in'.

I went to Paris

The first player remarks to the second player "I went to Paris". The second player asks "what did you buy there?" and the first player replies "a pair of shoes" at the same time moving his feet as if he were walking; this movement must be continued throughout the game. The second player then says to the third "I went to Paris" and is asked what he brought there. He also bought a pair of shoes and moves his feet in the same manner as player number one. This is repeated right around the circle until all the players are moving their feet. At this point the first player again says "I went to Paris" and upon being asked what he bought there says "a fan" or any other article for which he can do actions. He then does this action while continuing to move his feet. The game continues until all the players have bought a number of items e.g. gloves (hand wiggling), cake (munching movement), glasses (eye winking). When the game has reached this point all the players could be stamping their feet, wiggling fingers, fanning, moving mouths and winking their eyes.

Endless Story

The participants sit in a circle and one of them starts off a story – any story at all. He may continue for up to one minute and then, without finishing the story, he touches the person on his right who must continue the story, even from the middle of a sentence. This continues until the chain reaches the person who started and he must bring it to a successful conclusion – also within a minute.

What am I doing?

A form of 'solo' charades. One player goes through the motions of doing something – the more ludicrous the better – such as washing an elephant, doing a jigsaw or catching a flea. The other players must try to guess what he is doing, and if they are successful he must pay a forfeit (omit this bit and make it so person who guesses goes next).

Other games include

O'Grady says
Blind man's buff
Charades
Hunt the thimble
Musical Chairs
Postman's knock