



MUGSHOTS

TEST YOUR ADJECTIVES WITH THIS CHARADES-INSPIRED DESCRIPTION AND IDENTIFICATION GAME

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Build a detailed description of a famous face
- Practise picking the perfect describing words
- Studying text closely and following clues
- Teamwork makes the dream work

🕒 45 MINUTES - 1 HOUR

WORKING IN TEAMS OF 2 (IDEALLY
A MINIMUM OF FOUR PLAYERS)

DIFFICULTY: 🌟🌟🌟🌟

YOUR MISSION

The best writers are experts when it comes to observing people and picking the right words to describe them. Visual artists do a similar thing, but they observe people and express what they notice with inks, or clay or paint. This game can be played as part of a virtual games night or in person. It will test your powers of description, both as a writer and as a portrait artist.

Your mission is to get really good at describing faces and practise drawing them while SCORING ALL THE POINTS FOR YOUR TEAM and CRUSHING YOUR ENEMIES.

GET STARTED

PHASE 1:

Split into teams of two. Decide who is player one and who is player two – all teams can do the following simultaneously.

Player 1: Think of a famous face. It has to be someone all the players will know. It's a good idea to start with someone whose face has plenty of recognisable features – these are things your partner can easily draw, such as glasses, freckles, wrinkles or facial hair.

You may want to enter your chosen name into an online image search. Look closely at their face and make a mental note of what you see.

Write the name down on a piece of paper and put it in an envelope. Don't show anyone.

YOU WILL NEED

- At least four players (working in teams of two)
- Pen
- Paper
- Envelope
- Timer

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PHASE 2:

Player 1: Take your pen and paper and, in 100 words or less, write a detailed description of that person's face. Make sure you only write about physical features and don't include any other information that might give the game away (that's cheating). Here's an example to get you started:

This person is male with peach-coloured skin. He has large ears, a rectangular-shaped face and a high, wrinkled forehead. His hair is grey, wiry and messy. His nose is prominent and bulbous. His brown eyes are round and droopy at the corners. His eyebrows are unruly and make him look a bit surprised at all times. He has a thick grey moustache that overhangs his mouth, and a stubby chin.

Can you guess who this is? (answer opposite)

Take the time to really think about the language you want to use. Picking the best describing word for each feature is crucial if you want your partner to draw an accurate portrait.

When you're done, and all the other teams have completed this bit, hand your description to your teammate. Do not tell them who you have described.

PHASE 3:

Player 2: Take your partner's description and read it through. Can you guess who it is? It doesn't matter if you don't know yet. Set a timer for three minutes. Now, in each team, player 2 should take a pencil and paper and draw a portrait to match the piece of text. Does this person reveal themselves to you as you draw, or do they remain a mystery?

PHASE 4:

When the three minutes is up, player 2s take it in turns to reveal their drawings to the group and call out the name of the person they have drawn. Is it correct? Yay! Their team scores five points.

If the answer is incorrect, player 1 can give player two a clue or answer a yes/no question. Take another guess. If it's correct, your team scores four points. If it's still wrong, player 2 must allow the other teams to guess. If they guess correctly, they receive the four points.

PHASE 5:

After each turn, players swap places. On the next turn, player two will write the description and player one will draw the portrait.

We'd love to see your descriptions and associated portraits. Don't forget to send your photos to the address on the readers' page of the website and we'll share as many as possible.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- * Do you think that the more you play this game, the better you will get at it?
- * Are some adjectives more useful than others?
- * Can you think of a way to improve this game and make it more fun?

ANSWER: Albert Einstein