



Categories V 1.1 – Draft

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Thank you for helping me test out Categories! The final game may have a better title in the future, but this is the best I have for now.

Version Notes

I've been playing this game for about a year as a quick way to get a group oriented to one another, whether they know each other already or not. The game is therefore a great icebreaker, but I'm working to make it more than that.

This version works as a short experience for a bunch of players (10 – 50, the more the better). The game is currently American-centric, but if you really want to play it in another country, just remove the categories that contain items that are unfamiliar. Additionally, the game is best suited for ages 12 and up, but you can probably play with younger folks if you get rid of troublesome categories.

I am already working on Version 2, which solves a lot of the replayability issues that I discovered in my most recent playtests. Since this version did work quite well, I wanted others to try it out and see if they had the same results.

Please email me at vigeant@gmail.com with the results of your playtest so I can continue to make this game better.

How to Print

The following pages contain the cards, which have been designed for an 8.5 X 11 sheet of paper. You should print “Landscape,” 2-sided, with the binding on the short edge (that just means that everything is oriented correctly). I don't think the cards are perfectly lined up, but they're close enough for a test.

Once all of the cards have been printed, cut them out using scissors or an Xacto blade on the “face” side of the cards (the one with all the solid black). That will make them look the best and most consistent for your players!

How to Setup

Organize the categories (there are 10 items per category and 16 categories in this version). The symbols on the face of each card can be used to help figure out which cards go with one another. For now, the game requires a facilitator to manage the distribution of the cards and keep the time. Separate the category stacks in such a way that you can easily grab the categories you need for each level.

How to Play

Categories is a game about self organization. There are three levels of play that increase in difficulty and hilarity as the game continues. Each level takes about 5 – 10 minutes to play, depending on the number of players.

Each level begins with the facilitator distributing one card per player. The players then need to self organize into categories without talking or sharing the contents of their card in any way other than body movements, similar to Charades.

Level 1

The facilitator tells the group exactly how many categories are in play and how many items per category.

EXAMPLE: There are 24 players. The facilitator announces that there are 4 categories in play with 6 items each.

After you announce the level details, line up the players in a single line and distribute the cards secretly. Make sure you mix up the right number of cards! Try not to use the same category twice during a single play session.

Level 2

The facilitator tells the group exactly how many categories are in play, but does not tell how many items per category.

EXAMPLE: There are 24 players. The facilitator announces that there are 6 categories in play, but does not reveal anything else. The facilitator distributes 3, 3 items, 4 items, 4 items, 4 items and 6 items from different categories.

Level 3

The facilitator tells the group nothing. There can be between 1 and 16 different categories with between 2 and 40 items per each.

Ending a Level

Give the group roughly 5 minutes. If they're really into it, you can give them more – just don't let it go too long! Ask each group to silently nominate a spokesperson and ask each group what they think their category is.

Let them reorganize after the spokespeople have talked and then do a quick debrief before the next level.

SUBWAY



CENTRAL
PROCESSING UNIT



MUSHROOMS



FLOUR



MARS



AUSTRALIA



DOG



COKE



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

PRINCIPAL



MIRRORS



THANKSGIVING



COLON



SKULL



POTASSIUM



WALK



PUZZLE



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

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C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

BURGER KING



HARD DRIVE



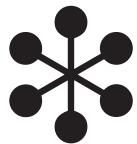
PEPPERONI



YEAST



VENUS



HAWAII



CAT



DIET COKE



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
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C
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EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

STUDENT



DASHBOARD



MEMORIAL DAY



PLUS



VERTEBRAE



SODIUM



STOP



MUSIC



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
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C
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EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

PIZZA HUT



RANDOM ACCESS
MEMORY



ONIONS



WATER



MERCURY



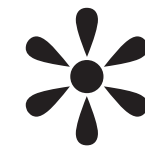
INDONESIA



HAMSTER



PEPSI



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
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RIES

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C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

CUSTODIAN



BRAKES



COLUMBUS DAY



HYPHEN



PELVIS



NITROGEN



DON'T WALK



SPORTS



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
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RIES

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C
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RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

KENTUCKY FRIED
CHICKEN



VIDEO CARD



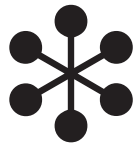
PEPPERS



SALT



JUPITER



JAPAN



GUINEA PIG



MOUNTAIN DEW



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
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C
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RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

LIBRARIAN



CLUTCH



VETERAN'S DAY



ASTERISK



RIB



OXYGEN



DO NOT ENTER



CASUAL



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
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RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

MCDONALD'S



KEYBOARD



OLIVES



SUGAR



HALLEY'S COMET



NEW ZEALAND



IGUANA



DR. PEPPER



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

HISTORY
TEACHER



BATTERY



THE 4TH OF JULY



BRACKETS



STERNUM



HYDROGEN



ONE WAY



ADVENTURE



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

CHICK-FIL-A



MOUSE



ANCHOVIES



BAKING SODA



URSA MAJOR



MADAGASCAR



PARROT



SPRITE



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
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C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

SCIENCE
TEACHER



ALARM



DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR.
DAY



PARENTHESIS



FEMUR



NEON



SPEED LIMIT



ACTION



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

DUNKIN' DONUTS



MONITOR



SAUSAGE



BAKING POWDER



KEPLER BELT



TAHITI



RABBIT



DIET PEPSI



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

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EGO
RIES

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RIES

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RIES

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RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

ENGLISH
TEACHER



AIR CONDITIONER



HALLOWEEN



COMMA



FIBULA



PLATINUM



YIELD



FIRST PERSON
SHOOTER



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
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C
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C
AT
EGO
RIES

TACO BELL



ETHERNET CARD



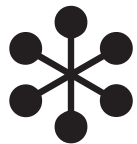
HAM



EGG



THE MOON



FIJI



FERRET



DIET MOUNTAIN
DEW



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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RIES

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AT
EGO
RIES

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RIES

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RIES

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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

MATH TEACHER



SEAT BELT



NEW YEAR'S DAY



PERIOD



TIBIA



LEAD



PEDESTRIAN
CROSSING



STRATEGY



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

WENDY'S



MOTHERBOARD



PINEAPPLE



CORN MEAL



THE SUN



CUBA



TURTLE



DIET DR. PEPPER



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

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EGO
RIES

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RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

VICE PRINCIPAL



AIR BAG



LABOR DAY



DOLLAR SIGN



HUMERUS



SILVER



ROAD WORK



ROLE PLAYING



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

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RIES

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RIES

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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

STARBUCKS



SOUND CARD



EXTRA CHEESE



BROWN SUGAR



THE
INTERNATIONAL
SPACE STATION



JAMAICA



FISH



FANTA



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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RIES

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EGO
RIES

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RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

PHYSICAL
EDUCATION
TEACHER



STEERING WHEEL



VALENTINE'S DAY



EXCLAMATION
MARK



PATELLA



GOLD



DEER CROSSING



SIMULATION



C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
RIES

C
AT
EGO
RIES

C
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EGO
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