

PLAYMURDERMYSTERY.COM

VIRTUAL PARTY INSTRUCTIONS

- 1/ Select which game you wish to play. We recommend playing a game with 8 or fewer characters to keep the screen from being cluttered. You could go for a larger game but this would make each person's screen section very small to follow.

- 2/ Select which video app you will use
 - i) The most popular seems to be Zoom. You can either use the free version, but this is limited to around 40 minutes, so you may need to have a break and then re-invite everybody to join the second half. There seems to be no limit on the number of times you can re-join. We have done up to four sessions
The alternative is to upgrade to the paid version with a monthly subscription.
 - ii) Other apps:
You may be able to try one of the following (but these do not seem to work as well as Zoom)
 - Skype (you may need to pay to upgrade)
 - Microsoft Teams (can be restrictive)
 - We Chat
 - Google Hangouts
 - Houseparty(We have not tried any of these ourselves so they may not be suitable)

- 3/ Select your players.

- 4/ Allocate the characters.

- 5/ Set up the game materials. Take the full pdf for the purchased game version and do the following:
 - i) Set up a folder on your device for the event with sub folders for
 - (a) Invitations and costumes
 - (b) Each character
 - (c) Clues
 - ii) Separate the invitation page and costume page from the relevant section
 - iii) Print out the invitations for each guest and fill in the details. You can then scan or photograph each one.
 - iv) Split the player slips into separate pdfs for each guest and save in their folder. If you need any help with this please e mail us and we will try to assist.
 - v) Split the player clues section into separate pdfs for each guest and save in their folder

- 6/ Send out the materials to the guests
 - i) Each guest should receive:
 - An invitation
 - Costume suggestions
 - Their own character player slips (not everybody's)
 - Any clues for them to read out (not everybody's)
 - ii) The guests can choose whether to print out their booklets and clues or whether to display them on a separate device from the one they are using for the murder mystery.

- 7/ Check your players each have:
A device that they can use for the murder mystery eg. laptop, Smart TV, Desktop PC, Phone or tablet. (Ensure that it has a microphone, camera and speaker)
Advise them to make sure their device is fully charged (perhaps with the charger plugged in). It is

best for all couples/guests in the same room to have one device (to save getting any feedback issues) to use for the murder mystery (to save getting any feedback issues) and then print out their character parts and clues (or have a further device on which to view these).

8/ Zoom Settings

- Allow guests to rename themselves so they can rename as their characters
- Schedule your party (name/date/description)
- Guests should be able to update the Avatar so that it is more in line with their character
- If you are on the free version you will need to set up multiple minutes
- Audio - Select the green share screen button and in the advanced tab choose select music or computer sound only. You will need to select computer for the audio option so you can share the introduction audio. If you are unable to do this you can always read the introduction out loud

Whilst playing the audio introduction we recommend you mute the guests' microphones to avoid too much noise (you can ask all guests to mute their own microphones)

If you are using the free version you will need to rename the characters for each 40 minute session

9/ Running The Actual Game

Launch the game:

- Assemble the guests on your video app
- Read out or play the introduction (this can be shared as an audio file if using Zoom or some video apps)
- Work through the rounds in order with guests introducing themselves and asking/answering their questions
- The guests should read out the appropriate player clues where referred to in their character booklets
- Before reading the solution round (in number order) please ask the guests to make their accusations (it is best to ask all guests to write their accusations on a piece of card or paper and hold them up to the screen when you say. They can then explain their reasoning after guessing.)
- Solution round: The guests should then read their solution round in the order of the number at the start of the final round.

10/ Other miscellaneous Hints & Tips

- i) Use rests for the various devices so nobody has to hold theirs
- ii) If using laptops/PCs ensure you have a microphone, speakers and a webcam
- iii) Ensure all devices are well charged
- iv) Suggest all guests have a notepad and pen
- v) Duration: parties are running more quickly when played digitally but can still be very flexible unless restricted by your video app. We suggest allowing two hours.

11/ Food

- i) Some parties are being run with full meals and some with just snacks. If you are using a time restricted app then this may prevent long gaps between the rounds
- ii) Some foods such as crisps can be very loud when using a video app.

12/ Feedback

We would love to hear your feedback and comments together with any hints/tips for running a virtual murder mystery. Please send to info@playmurdermystery.com