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Odd Man Out

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players

Overview:

In this game, we provide a list of three to five items. All but one have something in common. You have to figure out which item on each list is the **Odd Man Out** – and explain why it doesn't fit in with the others.

For example, if the list contained: *Scarlet, Ecrú, Magenta,* and *Crimson*, the **Odd Man Out** would be *Ecrú*, because it is the only color in the list that is not a shade of red. (Ecrú is off-white.) That example was fairly obvious. Here's one that's a little more difficult: *Lion, Elephant, Tiger,* and *Wolf*. The **Odd Man Out** is *Elephant*, because it is the only animal on the list that is not a carnivore. Here's another hard one: *Juneau, Little Rock, Des Moines,* and *Phoenix*. The **Odd Man Out** is *Des Moines*, because it is the only capital city in the list that is not in a state that begins with the letter A.

This game can be challenging, so it might be a particularly good game to play in teams.

Instructions:

1. Divide the players evenly into teams (or as closely as possible).
2. Read the first list of clues. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give one answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly.

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Instructions: All but one item in a given list have something in common. You have to figure out which one is the Odd Man Out – and explain why it doesn't fit in with the others. For example, given: *Scarlet, Ecrú, Magenta, and Crimson*, the Odd Man Out is *Ecrú*, because it is the only color in the list that is not a shade of red.

QUESTIONS

1. Mast, Boom, Keel, Towel
2. Chain Guard, Muffler, Kickstand, Spokes
4. Tabasco, Chihuahua, Burrito, Durango
5. CPU, RAM, USB, CIA
6. Yogurt, Oasis, Food, Assets
7. Shirt, Rifle, Pig, Kite
8. Period, Z, Sixteen, New Year's Eve, Amen
9. Coffee, World, Stanley, Harold
10. Albany, Trenton, Santa Fe, Indianapolis

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ANSWERS

1. *Towel* is the Odd Man Out. All of the other answers are parts of a boat.
2. *Muffler* is the Odd Man Out. All of the other answers are parts of a bicycle.
3. *Burrito* is the Odd Man Out. It is a type of Mexican or Tex-Mex food, while the other answers are all states in Mexico.
4. *CIA* is the Odd Man Out. It is a US federal agency, while the other answers are all related to computers.
5. *Oasis* is the Odd Man Out. All of the other answers are things that are frozen.
6. *Rifle* is the Odd Man Out. All of the other answers are things that have tails.
7. *Sixteen* is the Odd Man Out. All of the other answers come at the end of something: period (the end of a sentence); Z (the end of the alphabet); New Year's Eve (the end of the year); and Amen (the end of a prayer).
8. *Harold* is the Odd Man Out. All of the other answers are types of cups.
9. *Indianapolis* is the Odd Man Out. It is the capital of Indiana, while all of the other answers are capitals of states that start with the word New.