

5 Fun Ways to Break the Ice at Your Next Party with Scratch-Off Games

by Susan “The Shower Diva”

What’s worse than standing around at a party feeling awkward because you don’t know anyone? *Hosting* a party where everyone stands around feeling awkward because they don’t know anyone. Yikes! That’s why savvy hosts and hostesses jump-start the fun with *icebreakers*: activities that provoke laughter and conversation. Start your party with a great icebreaker and your guests will quickly begin joking with each other and making new friends. Scratch-off games are an easy-to-play option for any party. The basic scratch-off game is to give each guest a game piece and have them scratch-off the silver area. The guest with the winning card gets the prize. Try one these variations for some extra amusement:

- 1. Scavenger Hunt.** Hide scratch-off game pieces around the party space. Create clues to help guests find the game pieces. When all the guests have arrived, give each one a list of the clues and let the hunt begin. Award prizes to the guests with winning game pieces and award a prize to the guest who finds the most game pieces.
- 2. Pass the Box.** Start with several different sized boxes — there should be as many boxes as you will have guests and the boxes should all “nest.” That is, you should be able to put the smallest box in the next larger box and that should fit into the next larger box and so on. Put a varied number of scratch-off game pieces in each box. One box might have three game pieces and another might have two game pieces. One lucky box might have five game pieces. Label each box with a set of instructions such as, “pass to the person you have known the longest,” “give to the person on your right,” or “pass to the youngest person in the room.” Each person who receives the box opens it and keeps the game pieces they find inside. Then, they follow the instructions on the next box. When all the boxes have been opened, and all the game pieces distributed, find out who has the winning game pieces and award them a prize.
- 3. Number Hunt.** Label scratch-off game pieces with numbers. You should have as many game pieces as you have guests. So, if 25 guests are attending your party, you will need 25 game pieces. Number each game piece. Write the numbers one through 25 on small slips of paper. Place the slips of paper in a dish. As guests arrive, give them a game piece, but ask them not to play it yet. Once everyone is assembled, have each guest draw a slip of paper out of the dish. Then, have them find the guest who is holding the game piece labeled with the number they drew and retrieve “their” game piece. After everyone has the correct game piece, find out who is holding the winning ticket and award them a prize.



Scratch-off games are the perfect choice for birthday boys and girls aged 5—105.



Scratch-off games are available for any occasion.

4. **Dinner Party Starter Version 1.** Tape a scratch-off game piece to the bottom of several (but not all) of your dining room chairs (Make sure one is a winner!). Before the guests choose their seat, tell them about the game pieces. Then have them choose a chair without peeking underneath. After everyone is seated, have your guests check under their seat for a game piece. See which of your guests has a winner and award them a prize.
5. **Dinner Party Starter Version 2.** Tuck a scratch-off game piece into each place setting. You could add it to your place card holders or tuck them in the napkins, for instance. As your guests prepare to eat, they will find the game pieces. After everyone has a good time playing their game pieces, award a prize to the winner.

Scratch-Off Success Tips

- Have a bowl of pennies close at hand to make it easy for your guests to scratch off their game pieces.
- Make sure you pass out a winning game piece. Quality scratch-off game packs will indicate in the instructions which game piece is the winner. If you won't be using the entire pack of game pieces, set aside or discard the extra losing game pieces. Then, shuffle the winner into the game pieces you will use. Now, even you will be surprised when the winner is revealed!
- Pick a line of scratch-off games that include hilarious images on the losing cards and pretty soon everyone will be laughing, whether or not they win a prize.
- Your prizes don't have to be expensive, but they should be something that any of your guests might enjoy. Tasty food treats or a gift card from a local music store are two examples of prizes that anyone might like.



The Losers:



PartyScratchers™ game "Why is Mommy's Belly So Big?" uses plenty of humor to keep baby shower guests entertained.



About Susan "The Shower Diva". Susan Newton is the owner of BadaBadaBINGO Fun Games Co! LLC, a woman-owned and family-operated business dedicated to the design, manufacturing and marketing of innovative and upscale party games and favors. She is also the creator of TheShowerDiva.com, a website designed to help hostesses throw fun, elegant baby and bridal showers and bachelorette parties. Find Susan's original line of scratch-off games, PartyScratchers™ at www.partyscratchers.com.