

BINGO is the GAME-O!

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Messenger Staff

To some people, there is nothing like being able to call out “Bingo!” and winning a Bingo game. It is a game that, although there have been many different versions throughout the years, is still one of the most popular games and forms of gambling played today which is pretty impressive considering it is estimated to be around 490 years old.

Bingo is a game of chance in which each player matches the numbers printed in different arrangements on cards. The most common Bingo cards are flat pieces of cardboard or disposable paper that contain 25 squares arranged in five vertical columns and five side-to-side rows. Each space in the grid contains a number, except the middles square, which is designated as a “free” space.

The game caller draws balls or numbers at random, marking the selected numbers that have been called. When a player finds that the selected numbers are arranged on their card in a horizontal, vertical or diagonal line, they call out “Bingo” to alert all players to a winning card. There is also a “coverall” game where all the numbers on the card have to be called in order to win. Players compete against each other to be the first to have a winning arrangement for the prize or jackpot. After the winner is declared, some-

times upon examination of the winning numbers of the player, the players clear their number cards, and a new game begins.

In December 1929, Edwin S. Lowe, a toy merchandiser, introduced a game named “Beano” using dried beans, a rubber stamp, and cardboard sheets at a traveling carnival near Atlanta. He then took the game to New York where it quickly became popular. Lowe’s bingo game had two versions: a 12-card set for \$1.00, and a 24-card set for \$2.00. No one is sure when the name switched from “Beano” to “Bingo”, but there are claims that one of Lowe’s friends was so excited to win that she yelled out “Bingo” instead of “Beano” and the name stuck.

When I was growing up, we played at the Meade County Fair with cards that had little sliding doors (for lack of a better word) that you slid over the number that was called. It only cost 25 cents to play, and I don’t remember what the prize money was for sure per game, but I want to say it was \$1! In the 1970’s, most places where I played Bingo had cardboard cards and little round discs you covered over the numbers when they were called. My sister played Bingo a few times a week, playing about 20 cards at a time. When I went with her, I was lucky if I could keep up with two or three cards. She won many Bingo games but all I ever managed to win was

B I N G O				
3	18	32	51	69
12	29	40	60	61
7	30	FREE SPACE	55	74
5	22	38	53	68
13	26	43	59	60

Example of the a Bingo card.

the \$5 door prize!

Over the years, Bingo evolved into using paper cards and daubers to mark the matching numbers. Electronic Bingo has also come into play where the game is played on a hand-held device. The Bingo cards are downloaded into the device when purchased prior to the game. You can also download Apps for Bingo on your cell phone, computer or tablet.

Bingo is a popular game at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Residents at Brandenburg Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center love to play Bingo and fortunately that is offered to them at least three times a week. Some of them would play every day if they could. And some of them take particular delight in yelling out “Bingo!” at the top of their lungs and some are surprisingly loud! Bingo is also a game played at churches, fairs, parties, charity events, and other special events.

My sister-in-law has played Bingo for over 25

years beginning when it was first offered at the Farm Bureau building at the Meade County Fairgrounds on Sunday nights where it was held until just this past August. She now plays weekly at the VFW Post in Brandenburg. My niece used to play several nights a week but has slowed down on playing in the last couple of years. She said that Speed Bingo was her favorite because of the fast pace but she didn’t like Coverall because it took too long to play. She said her favorite part about the game was yelling “Bingo!” and winning.

My cousin said he went with his aunt many years ago. She played a lot, and she was good at it. She played about ten cards of her own and saw that he had Bingo on his one card, which he missed. He won \$750 and hasn’t played Bingo since, so he said he came out ahead.

When all is said and done, and even though Bingo is a really fun game, it is a form of gambling and can be ad-



An unidentified player manages several cards at once while participating in Bingo.

dictive which I have seen first-hand in not one, but several people. People tell me about how much they win all the time, but I often wonder if they really come out ahead after subtracting how much they paid to play the games. Fortunately, that was never an issue for me, maybe because I never won enough to want to play more, and I don’t like throwing money away!

There are several places where Bingo is played on a continuing basis in our community and surrounding communities, and I have listed a few of them:

VFW Post #11404 in Brandenburg: Bingo is held every Wednesday at 7 pm. and on the 4th Sunday of the month at 1 pm.

St. Mary Magdalene of Pazzi Catholic Church in Payneville:

Bingo is held every Friday night at 7 p.m.

Southland Bingo Hall in Radcliff: Bingo is held every day of the week, every night at 7:30, Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 and Friday and Saturday have midnight sessions.

Old Capitol VFW Post #2950 in Corydon: Bingo will restart on Friday, January 17th at 7 p.m. And will be held every other week after with ten rounds of Bingo each time.

Houston Bowling Center on Fort Knox: Electronic Bingo is available during hours the Center is open.

Samuel Adams Brewhouse on Fort Knox: Electronic Bingo is available during hours the Brewhouse is open.

If you play the game, good luck, and don’t forget to holler “BINGO!” as loud as you can!



Tammie Beasley is a freelance writer for The Messenger. If you have any comments or questions, contact tammie.beasley@twc.com

Dear Addie:

We recently visited our family for the holidays. We had an enjoyable time, but their house smells like wet dogs. It was awful. We did not say anything and just suffered through, but now they have reached out and invited us to come again. We would like to go, but we will NOT be staying at their house. We will be getting a hotel or an Airbnb instead. Should we tell them why? Or just leave it. We LOVE these relatives and are dismayed at the smell. Their house is very neat and tidy, and they are good housekeepers. They were truly kind and generous to us. I hate to hurt their feelings, but I honestly do not think they know their house smells so bad. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Stink, stank, STUNK!

Dear Stink, stank, STUNK,

This can be a delicate situation, but it sounds like your concern comes from a place of love and care for your family. It is also completely valid to want to stay in an environment that is comfortable for you, especially during the holidays. If you do choose to stay elsewhere during your next visit, remember that you do not necessarily have to share the reason unless asked directly. You can say something like, “We loved staying with you last time, but we’re going to book a hotel/Airbnb this time for convenience.” You can frame it as wanting your own space or flexibility, which is an easy explanation that does not risk offense. This might also be a better option if you are truly worried about their response to you telling them. If you do feel that you need to address the odor issue for their benefit, I would tread gently. Many people do not realize how their homes smell because they are used to it. Mentioning the smell could hurt feelings, even unintentionally. One option is to approach it as a favor rather than a criticism:



“We noticed a bit of a smell last time; we are wondering if there might be a problem with the carpet or something? We would hate for that to get worse.” This may be a way to kick start them into realizing they may have a problem. I would also suggest that you come out front and explain what you feel. Depending on your relationship, total honesty may be the best option. Ultimately, consider what is more important: addressing the smell or maintaining the current dynamic. Sometimes, love means navigating these awkward truths with grace or choosing to let them go.

Warmly,
Addie

Dear Addie,

I recently started a new job, and one of my coworkers is nice too. She stops by my desk multiple times a day to chat about her personal life, her dog, her dinner plans, you name it. At first, I did not mind, but now it is making it hard to focus

on my work. I do not want to hurt her feelings because she is clearly just trying to be friendly, but I also need to get my work done! How can I set boundaries without coming off as rude?

Sincerely,
Boundaries Needed

Dear Boundaries Needed,

It is always nice to have friendly coworkers, but I completely understand how excessive interruptions can get in the way of your work. The key here is to set boundaries kindly but also to be firm. The next time your coworker stops by to chat, acknowledge her friendliness while steering the conversation in a more productive direction like, “That sounds so interesting! I would love to hear more later, but I must focus on this project right now.” This way, you are being clear that you are busy while also showing your interest. However, if this continues to become a regular issue, consider setting up more obvious signals to show her when you are busy. For instance, wearing headphones or leaving a sticky note that says, “In the zone, come back later!” can gently communicate that you are not available for casual conversations. You also need to stick with these signals if she does still interrupt. For example, take off only one headphone and express that you really are busy. This will solidify their seriousness. You might also suggest a specific time to catch up, like during lunch or a break. Most people do not realize they are interrupting until it is pointed out and framing it positively will help avoid hurt feelings. With a little finesse, you can keep your relationship friendly while preserving your productivity. But remember, if this becomes more of a problem, do not be afraid to have a frank conversation or approach a supervisor.

Best of luck!
Addie



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