GENERAL

what are cards against humanity

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What Are Cards Against Humanity?

Have you ever been invited to a game night and found yourself staring at a stack of cards that look like they were printed in a different dimension? That's **Cards Against Humanity**for you—a party game that blends humor, irreverence, and a dash of dark comedy into a format that's both simple to learn and endlessly entertaining. In this article we'll dive deep into the world of Cards Against Humanity: its origins, how it's played, why it's become a cultural phenomenon, and even how you can keep the laughs coming with online versions and themed expansions.

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The History of Cards Against Humanity

It all began in 2008, when a group of friends in Brooklyn, New York, decided to create a party game that would push the boundaries of what was socially acceptable. The founders—Ben Huh, a former copywriter, and friends Jeremy Liew, David W. S. McKay, and Daniel O'Connor—wanted a game that would make people laugh by forcing them to choose the most outrageous, politically incorrect answer to a given question.

They started by printing cards on a local print shop and selling them at a small gathering. Word spread quickly, and by 2010, Cards Against Humanity had become an overnight sensation. The company grew from a small indie startup into a multi-million dollar enterprise, thanks largely to a combination of clever marketing, a strong sense of community, and the sheer novelty of the game's premise.

Today, the game has spawned dozens of expansions, themed decks, and even a charitable "Charity Edition" that donates a portion of its profits to various causes. The brand's influence extends beyond the tabletop, inspiring memes, podcasts, and countless fan-made variations.

What Exactly Is Cards Against Humanity?

At its core, Cards Against Humanity is a **party game**that revolves around completing fill-in-the-blank statements with the most outrageous, funny, or politically incorrect phrase possible. The game is designed for 4–20 players, though it's most fun with a larger group. It's a social experiment, a test of creativity, and a source of unfiltered humor—all wrapped in a simple card game format.

Each round, a "Card Czar" (or "Judge") reads a black card that contains a sentence with a missing word or phrase. Players submit white cards from their hand that best fill in the blank. The Czar then reads all the submissions aloud

and picks the one they find most amusing or fitting. The player who submitted the chosen card earns a point, and the role of Czar rotates to keep everyone involved.

While the game's rules are straightforward, the real magic lies in the diversity of the cards. From absurd cultural references to edgy social commentary, the card pool encourages players to think outside the box and revel in the unexpected.

How to Play the Game

Below is a step-by-step guide to get you started. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a first time player, these instructions will keep the flow smooth and the laughs coming.

1. Gather Your Players

Cards Against Humanity is best played with at least 4 players, but the more the merrier. The game is designed for a large group, and the hilarity usually scales with the number of participants.

2. Set Up the Decks

Separate the black and white cards. Shuffle the black cards and place them in a draw pile. Shuffle the white cards and deal 10 to each player. The remaining white cards form a draw pile for the round.

3. Choose the First Card Czar

Pick a player to start as the Card Czar. They will read the black card and judge the responses. After each round, the Czar role rotates clockwise.

4. Read the Black Card

The Card Czar reads the black card out loud. It will typically contain a statement with a blank that players must fill in. Example: "The new policy on ___ has been a huge success."

5. Submit Your White Cards

All players, except the Czar, choose one of their white cards that they think best completes the sentence. They place the chosen card face down in a pile in front of the Czar.

6. Shuffle and Read

The Czar shuffles the submitted cards to keep the order random. They then read each card aloud, sometimes with exaggerated emotion or a dramatic pause to increase comedic effect.

7. Select the Winning Card

After reading all submissions, the Czar picks the card they find most hilarious or appropriate. The player who submitted that card receives a point (often a blank "score card" or a token).

8. Deal New Cards

Everyone draws a new white card to replenish their hand back to 10 cards. The next player becomes the new Czar, and the game continues.

9. Determine the Winner

Play continues until a predetermined point threshold is reached—commonly 5 or 10 points. The player with the most points wins the round. In many groups, the "winner" gets to assign a silly punishment or perform a funny challenge.

Game Components and Variations

While the core game remains the same, there are several variations and expansions that keep the experience fresh. Below are some of the most popular options:

Standard Deck

- Black cards: 99
- White cards: 500+
- Ideal for: 4–20 players

Expansions

- “The Pack” (200+ new cards)
- “The Pack 2” (400+ cards)
- “The Pack 3” (300+ cards)
- “The Pack 4” (600+ cards)
- “The Pack 5” (600+ cards)
- “The Pack 6” (200+ cards)
- “The Pack 7” (400+ cards)

Themed Decks

- “The Pack for Kids” (cleaned up content for younger audiences)
- “The Pack for Couples” (romantic and flirtatious cards)
- “The Pack for LGBTQ+” (inclusive language and references)
- “The Pack for Politicians” (political satire)

Special Editions

- “Charity Edition” (donates a portion of proceeds)
- “Corporate Edition” (business centric humor)
- “Holiday Edition” (seasonal themed cards)

Digital Versions

For those who prefer a virtual experience, several official and fan made digital adaptations exist. These include browser-based games, mobile apps, and even integration with popular streaming platforms.

Why Has It Gained Such Massive Popularity?

There are several factors that contribute to Cards Against Humanity’s enduring appeal:

1. Simplicity

The rules are easy to learn and quick to pick up, making it accessible for all ages (within the appropriate content guidelines).

2. Social Interaction

It encourages group participation, laughter, and a sense of camaraderie. The game’s format ensures that every player gets a chance to contribute.

3. Freedom of Expression

Players can vent frustrations, poke fun at current events, and explore taboo topics in a safe, controlled environment.

4. Endless Replayability

With thousands of unique cards, no two rounds are ever the same. The random nature of card combinations keeps the game fresh.

5. Cultural Relevance

Cards Against Humanity often references pop culture, politics, and social trends, making it highly relatable to modern audiences.

Online and Digital Versions

As the gaming world moves online, Cards Against Humanity has adapted with several digital options. These platforms allow you to play with friends across the globe, and many include features like voice chat, custom decks, and real time scoring.

Official Website

The official Cards Against Humanity website offers a free online version that's easy to set up. Players can create a lobby, invite friends, and play in real time.

Mobile Apps

- Cards Against Humanity (iOS & Android) – A faithful adaptation of the tabletop experience.
- Hearthstone: Cards Against Humanity – A hybrid card game that blends Hearthstone mechanics with Cards Against Humanity humor.

Third Party Platforms

- BoardGameArena – Offers a browser based version with matchmaking and chat.
- Tabletop Simulator – A sandbox that allows you to import custom decks and play in VR.
- Steam – Features a digital version that supports multiplayer and custom card packs.

Streaming Integration

Popular streaming platforms like Twitch and Discord have custom bots that can host a game of Cards Against Humanity. These bots can handle card distribution, scoring, and even voice prompts.

Pro Tips for a Better Game Night

Whether you're a seasoned player or a newcomer, the following tips can elevate your Cards Against Humanity experience.

1. Set Ground Rules

Before starting, discuss what is acceptable. Some groups prefer a "clean" version, while others embrace the full adult humor. Clarifying expectations helps prevent awkward moments.

2. Use Custom Decks

Mix in themed expansions or create your own cards tailored to your group's inside jokes. This personal touch can make the game feel fresh and relevant.

3. Encourage Creative Thinking

Remind players to think outside the box. The more unexpected the answer, the higher the chances of a laugh.

4. Keep the Pace Quick

Set a time limit for each round (e.g., 30 seconds). A faster pace keeps the energy high and prevents the game from

dragging.

5. Use a Scorekeeper

Designate a scorekeeper or use a simple tally sheet to track points. This ensures fairness and adds a competitive edge.

6. Celebrate the Loser

Have a lighthearted punishment for the player with the lowest score. This could be a silly dare, a truth question, or a brief “humiliation” segment.

7. Rotate the Card Czar

Rotating the role ensures everyone gets a chance to judge and keeps the dynamic balanced.

8. Mix in Other Party Games

Combine Cards Against Humanity with other classic party games like Charades or Pictionary for a full night of entertainment.

Conclusion

Cards Against Humanity has carved out a unique niche in the world of party games. Its blend of

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