

Nothings Special

Judge: Preparation:

- Set a table with five chairs for competing team members.
- Provide a copy of the problem instructions on the table for the team members.
- Place 25 playing cards in the center of the table

Judge Instructions:

(Judge: When team members enter the room, tell them)

This is a verbal challenge. You have 1 minute to select the five team members who will compete. The others must sit in these seats and watch or be escorted from the room. They may not assist in solving the problem and may not talk.

(Judge: After 5 Team Members Chosen and seated, Read all the instructions, repeat, then Start the Time)

1. You will have 1 minute to think and 3 minutes to respond. You may ask questions; however, time will continue. Do not talk to each other at any time
2. Once time begins, it will not be stopped, even if a judge asks you to repeat a response, clarify it, or give a more appropriate response. Speak loudly and clearly.
3. Your team will respond in the order that you are seated. You may not skip your turn, repeat an answer or pass. If one member of your team is stuck, then the others must wait for that team member to answer.
4. **Before each team member responds you must pick a card from the table and keep it. Once all the cards have been removed from the table, the problem continues, however, you will not have to retrieve cards from the table before responding.**
5. For the first 25 responses (while there are cards on the table) you will receive 2 points for each common response and 4 points for each highly creative response. For the remaining responses after the first 25, you will receive 1 point for each common response and 3 points for each highly creative response
6. Your challenge is to say where nothing at all is actually special, filling in the blanks in the following: A _____ is nothing, yet _____. For example you might say “A donut hole is nothing, yet without it we only have holes”. Or you might say “A space is nothing, yet without it we would have a lot of very long words”

(Judge: Repeat all the instructions, then Start the Time)

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Team Copy

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