



OFFICE PARTIES

Where the Only Rule is to Have Fun!



How to throw an Office Party
Any Time Of The Year

- The Fun Guide

Index

INTRODUCTION

How to throw an Office Party Any Time of The Year - The Fun Guide	02
--	----

CHAPTER 1

Virtual holiday Party Ideas for Work	03
--	----

CHAPTER 2

Virtual Dinner Party Ideas	15
----------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 3

Virtual Farewell party ideas	17
------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 4

Virtual Work Anniversary Ideas	19
--------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 5

Virtual Retirement Party Ideas	21
--------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 6

Virtual Baby Shower Ideas	23
---------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 7

What Is A Virtual Holiday Party?	24
--	----

CHAPTER 8

Virtual Holiday Party Ideas	26
-----------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 9

Virtual Holiday Party Games	31
-----------------------------------	----

CHAPTER 10

Bonus: Virtual Holiday Party Ideas	35
--	----

Concluding thoughts to wind the party down	41
--	----

INTRODUCTION

How to throw an Office Party Any Time of The Year - The Fun Guide

Did you ever think you'd come across an eBook telling you how to throw an office party? I didn't either-until it was apparent how people are more themselves at an informal than formal gathering. And no one can really blame you for wanting to remain behind that stoic mask of professionalism, whether you're working remotely or back to the office.

Does it have to be that way, though?

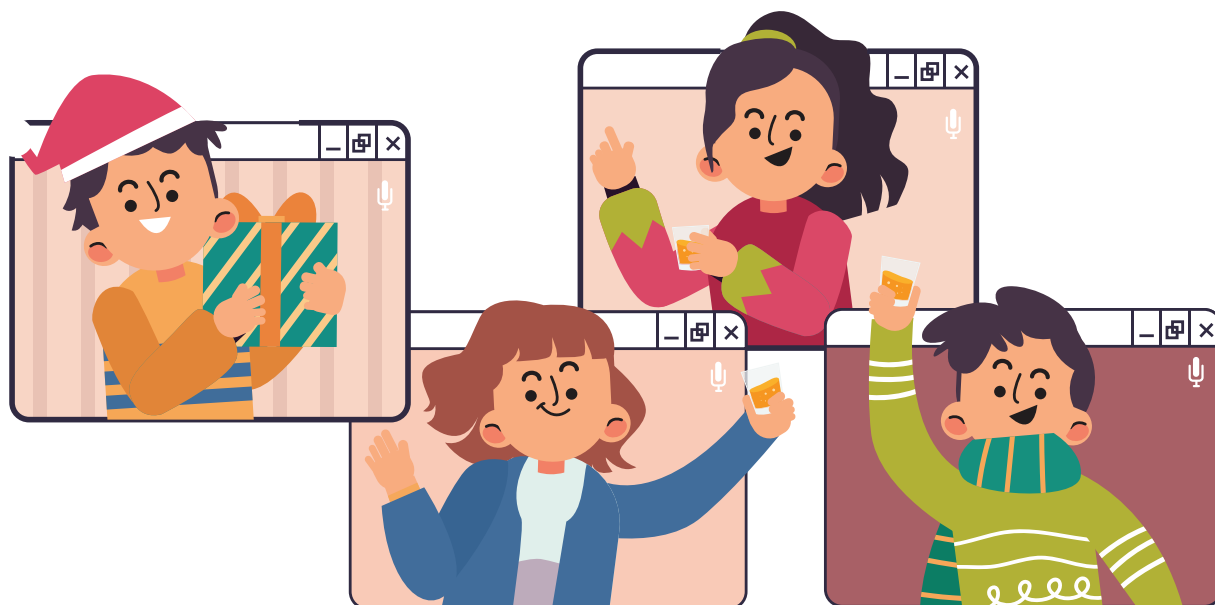
We decided to go the fun route and compile a guide of 'PARTY ON' ideas for every occasion - from celebrating a colleague's retirement in style to hanging up those Christmas or Diwali lights. Everyone deserves to party together, no matter how senior they are. Read through these and let us know which ones you have tried, or look forward to trying!



Chapter 1

Virtual holiday Party Ideas for Work

The only rule to trying out virtual holiday party ideas is to follow the 3 I's: inform, include and involve everyone! Here are a few ideas;



1.1 Virtual amazing escape

Playing a virtual escape game adventure brings teammates together where they can flex their creativity and problem solving abilities. The amazing escape sends your team on an adventure to solve a timed mystery or puzzle. Amazing escapes feature themed rooms.

The game accommodates small (up to 8) and large (25+) groups, so you should not have any issues getting whole departments or the entire office into it. The games are built for remote workspaces and distributed teams, and arranging them is a breeze. To create a better experience, you get a friendly host who'll join you on a zoom call and guide you throughout the game. For small groups, the game costs \$32-35 per player. However, if you have a group of 25 or more, you'll have to fill out an online form.

Guests can make their selection. The session is initiated and moderated by a session facilitator, who will provide instructions on call before sending the team to the room. There are usually clues or riddles to get you closer to the finish line. The best part about escape adventures, is that they're designed for large teams, and several such teams can play separate themes at once!

1.2 Paired potluck

In a paired potluck, you can opt to assign co workers based on their relationship or at random. The latter would be a better option if you want to turn this party into an opportunity for them to get to know each other better. Citybrewtours do wine and cheese pairings which are live, virtual guided tours. The events include custom tasting boxes that participants receive before the event.

If you want to start small and keep this within the team, you can instead have the assigned pair exchange their recipes. Once everyone has their recipes, they will need to recreate it in their kitchens and present it as a group on a call!



1.3 Virtual scavenger hunt

A virtual scavenger is an online game, where the task is to find things that are mentioned on the given list. The activities enable you and the participants to engage in analytical thinking, while improving their problem-solving capabilities. The game also has a time limit, to create a sense of urgency and boost decision making.

Besides being an amazing team building opportunity, it's fairly easy to organize one even for a distributed team. Just set up an invite when everyone is available, get them on a Zoom or Teams call, provide them a list of things with a deadline, and set them off to hunt. Here are some virtual scavenger hunt ideas for you to explore so that you have an unforgettable experience with the entire team.





1.4 Virtual Karaoke

If you weren't in a band back in school or university, here's your chance to go on a virtual stage and perform! A virtual karaoke is conducted via meeting platforms and can be facilitated either externally or self. The host will moderate the session, take participants through the rules and display the song selections. Ask around if anyone has access to a song's lyrics that they'd like the group to sing.

When the hour's up, you can hold the session over Zoom or via the Karaoke Online Chrome extension. It features an extensive playlist where the lyrics appear on screen as you're sharing it, enabling participants to give the song their all!

1.5 Host an Online Talent show

Who on your team is a talented singer, bassist, painter, dancer or woodworker? Host a virtual talent show to give everyone a fair shot at showing their teammates their hobbies and personal interests! For those of you who tend to get stage fright, the good thing about an inhouse talent show event is that you can do it at home without everyone's physical presence overwhelming you. When you're at ease, you'll be better able to finish your performance.

The virtual talent show will be hosted on a video conferencing platform, but the level of pizzazz remains the same. Do choose an emcee who will play the role of announcing the arrival of the participants.!

1.6 Let's play Bingo

The team played Bingo virtually last Friday on Microsoft Teams and it was a lot of fun! Our HR sent out lotto tickets individually and privately the day before. We convened in the evening and went over the rules for a full house, Early Fives and four corners. As the numbers were called out, the team began crossing them off on their ticket. We got 3 full houses and 2 early-fives. It brought back memories of family get-togethers in the '90s where someone broke out a deck of cards or played bingo in a circle!



1.7 Plan a Murder mystery

A 'Whodunnit?' is a naturally fun and exciting way to encourage teamwork among members. There are plenty of remote murder mystery adventure specialists out there, such as Ghost Ship mysteries, Dr. Ness and Outback. The games I found most intriguing, however, was Murder in Ancient Egypt and Murder in the Queen's court, both of which are hosted by Team Building. If you want to have fun while uncovering a historical fact related to the event, look no further!

1.8 Conduct a Wine tasting tour

If a tour around a vineyard and watching a sommelier in action has been on your or someone else's bucket list, here's your chance to experience the online version! A virtual wine tasting will take you through the production, bottling and tasting of wines, both red and white, depending on the package you prefer.

Virtual wine tasting parties are a delicious and rich way to bring your remote employees together and improve their bond. Once you zero in on the winery and the package, you can have wine tasting kits sent to the addresses of your staff. These events are usually headed by an official from the winery who gives you information about the wines and helps you get the most from experience. We recommend you try some of the wines from The Bordeaux Concierge, Torciano and Samsara Wine. If you're still at a loss and cannot decide which winery or plan to choose, here's a few tasteful ideas to get yours.

1.9 Play Jeopardy with the team online

You have to admit that the American Jeopardy trivia game show really had all of us glued to the TV screens. If you're looking to bring forward that kind of energy and enthusiasm into your next virtual party, then you should definitely try out a few online jeopardy games. The format of online jeopardy is that players get general knowledge clues to which they should frame their responses. You can pit your wits against everyone else and see who knows their world affairs well! Most games are offered as Factiles, Multiple-choice or hints. Due to the global popularity of the original game show, there are numerous websites and apps that let you play Jeopardy online. These games maintain the same experience of the original show,

and can be played on any virtual meeting platform. Websites like Playfac-tile, Jeopardy Labs, Trainingarcade.com, Arkadium and many more enable you to have the same experience that you had as a child. These games can instill a sense of competition, bring friendly rivalry amongst co-workers and provide the right amount of nostalgia to take you back to the old days.

1.10 Game Night (and Face) On!

No virtual office party is complete without playing a diverse mix of online games, be it for large groups, small teams or an entire unit. For your next meeting, you could try to organize a virtual game night that ends the day with a smile on everyone's face. Make it interesting with prizes based on the person who wins most games, or at least one game. When the SIWOM team had a virtual game night, we played games such as Spymaster, Prison Break and even pictictionary using Skribbl.io to guess the object from the freehand drawing!

Online game nights may take some prior planning, and could require people clearing their schedules to ensure availability. Some of the activities that you can include are pop quizzes, puzzles, brain teasers and contests. However, don't keep yourself limited to these.





1.12 Secret Santa

Secret Santa office parties are just as fun online as they are in-person! Set a budget for gifts and use sites like Elfster to draw names. I like what Arcanis has come up with, though, because it does not collect and store names forever like other applications. It's a random name generator that lets you enter your team's name and copy the links over to send to them (don't worry, the others won't be able to find out pairings or swap for someone else).

1.13 Socialbooth

Social booth is a photobooth software that you can install on your machine to snap crazy, clownish photos of the team. Have everyone make silly faces at each other or at the camera and let the software do the rest!

1.14 Spymaster Party

The Sorry, On Mute team clued me in on a Spymaster game they recently stumbled played. It's conducted by codenames and splits teams into two. Each team has a spymaster. The person who elects themselves to be the Spymaster has to give their team a one-word clue and the team has to guess which tile matches the clue. You have to manually end the guessing to let the next team's turn. The team that gets all the tiles right wins!

1.15 Werewolf

The Werewolf game assigns 4 roles to players at random. The choices are werewolf, villager, medic and seer. A random generator tool can facilitate the game's online version. The werewolf eats other players, villagers vote


on who they think the werewolf is, medics rescue the player and seers can reveal if the player guessed to be the werewolf really is one.

This game works better if you set the right scene for it. You can use sound effects such as a wolf howl, thunder or crickets chirping. The game master calls the werewolf to select a victim. The medic has to point to a person to save and the seer reveals whether the person is a werewolf or not, which the game master confirms with a nod or a shake. Then, the game master announces whether the werewolf successfully ate a villager. This is a party game that will keep everyone debating and guessing!



1.16 Puppet theater

This is one of the virtual office party ideas I can't wait to try out myself! A puppet theater set has a plot, character and voices. It is a team building activity that relies on teamwork. Just as you would a real play, each person can be in charge of something. For example, someone from the marketing team can write the story, while the creative team can design puppets out of socks or gloves. As fun as it is, it's a great way to bring everybody together.



Want to make everyone laugh till their sides hurt? Why not download the cards against humanity pack and see just how rude and sarcastic everyone's sentences get?

1.18 Caroling Karaoke party

A virtual karaoke party is a great way to help everyone let go of any inhibition. You can start with either a Christmas carol list of songs, if you want easily accessible lyrics. If the team wants to select jazz, blues, country or pop, let them! The only rule is that everyone has access to the lyrics and video or audio to know how the song goes.

1.19 Holiday in Hawaii

You know those animated background options that appear on Zoom or Skype? You could have everyone set their background to the palm beach theme and dress in loud colors. Participants to this virtual office party can also mix their own drinks, wear Hawaiian floral garland (known as Lei) and start a discussion. If you really want to get into the beach mood, I recommend checking out Neal's deep-sea project!

1.20 Boozy Pictionary

If you want to see who can keep a clear head even with a few drinks in them, Boozy Pictionary is the way to go! Split teams as you would in an actual pictionary game, and whoever guesses wrong has to take a sip of their alcoholic drink. The team that ends up drinking the most is the losing team (sorry, guys, we didn't specify who Boozy Pictionary would be more fun for!)

1.21 Putting the pieces together



If you loved spending hours fitting jigsaw puzzles together, then you're sure to love a trip down memory lane with virtual jigsaw games! There are both free and paid puzzles, the former can be downloaded from Microsoft. The remote and distributed team can issue daily challenges and invite a coworker to compete to complete the puzzle in a certain amount of time. We experimented with a free jigsaw from Ravensburger featuring a butterfly and it was both engrossing and relaxing. You can start a new game and see the percentage of progress on the top left side of the pane.

1.22 Netflix Series Party

All of us have a Netflix series favorite. You could do a cosplay party where everyone dresses up as a character from their show. To play, select the top 5 series all or some are watching or are familiar with. You can either announce who you're going as, or unveil it on the day of the party where your coworkers have to guess who you're supposed to be.

1.23 Dance/ Nightclub Party

Turn your virtual office into a dance floor with a DJ. You can even hang a fake disco ball and dim the lights to create the nightclub ambience. Have everyone turn their camera on and step away from their desk as the DJ begins the countdown to the first song. Family members or housemates too can join in on the fun!





Chapter 2:

Virtual Dinner Party Ideas

2.1 Who has the best fast food order?

I got this idea from a BuzzFeed (India) video I'd watched recently. The BuzzFeed crew sampled their coworker's orders and scored their favorite one on a scale of 20. The order with the highest mark was the winner. I felt that the theme is in line with throwing the team a virtual dinner party! You can play the remote version of this competition. Ask participants to pick a fast food chain of their choice and set an ordering budget.

They can either swap orders and rate each other, or be randomly assigned a member's order to sample, rate and guess who it belongs to. If your budget allows for it, you can play it exactly like BuzzFeed and have everyone taste the same orders in terms of taste, packaging, portion size and whether they'd order it again.

2.2 Cuisine exchange

Another food-related exchange to play as a virtual dinner party idea would be to have everyone swap a daily dish or comfort food recipe with each other. The pairings can be based on people's dietary preferences and availability of ingredients. This is a great game that even internationally located offices can take part in. Someone from the U.S office, for example, can learn how to make Miso soup while sharing a recipe for a Philly Cheese Steak with their Japanese counterpart. The two can film themselves recreating the dishes in their kitchen and present the dish to everyone at a meeting!

2.3 How many popcorn kernels can you eat in a minute?

This is a fun minute-to-win-it game that challenges players to eat as many popcorn kernels, crisps or fries in 60 seconds. The players have to pick the kernels or chips up one by one to make it easier for the others to see how many are down



Chapter 3:

Virtual Farewell party ideas



3.1 Pajama party

Pajamas are the new work suits, so your party goers have the dress code down pat, at least! Host a pajama party where the theme is "casual" and everyone is in lounge wear. You can also decide on a movie or series episode to livestream that everyone can watch together. A movie night with popcorn and the works is just what your coworkers need to unwind as a group before bidding goodbye to a coworker who's leaving the firm!

3.2 Virtual mixology classes

If you can't make it to happy hour, keep the drinks coming with a happy hour cocktail kit under the supervision of a professional mixologist! Sign the team up for mixology lessons so that they can learn how to make their favorite drink with a personal twist. The Vendry offers 46 of the choicest mixology classes in and around the U.S. Krafty Labs, HostEvents and drinkmasterbartending are other options to try, where you can book your class and have the mixology kit shipped to individuals. Events cost between \$400 to 1000 depending on the number of cocktails in the package you book and duration.

3.3 Who has the highest spice tolerance?

Another BuzzFeed original! The spice tolerance challenge will test your colleague's limits by presenting them with spicy foods in increasing order of heat levels. The question is, who will reach for the glass of milk first?

The rules are simple. Contestants arrange the food items in front of the camera and eat it systematically from the least to most spicy. They can have a glass of milk or ice cream on standby in case things get a little heated! But if anyone reaches for the glass in a round then they can't advance to the next round. Keep doing this till someone makes it to the final round (hopefully with their senses intact!). The contestants have autonomy in deciding what foods to eat so long as everybody is able to buy the items before the challenge starts. To set the bar at a comfortably competent high, we suggest including the following

1. Snyder's Jalapeno Pretzels
2. Hot Flaming Cheetos
3. Spicy Tuna Rolls
4. Samyang noodles

3.4 Macaroni Art

Macaroni art is usually a classroom art and crafts activity for young children. But who says only children can stick artwork on the family fridge? Bid your colleague farewell with a work of macaroni art. You can use either dry or parboiled pasta shells and stick them onto a pencil sketch of a subject. You can ship your creations to the colleague, who can look at it whenever they think of you. It'll also give them something to talk about when they have visitors over!

Chapter 4:

Virtual Work Anniversary Ideas



4.1 Give them a day off

What better way to celebrate a virtual work anniversary than to announce you're giving your teammate the day off? If the work anniversary falls on a weekend or public holiday, the employee can opt to take the next day off for an even longer time off.

4.2 Master of the day

The master of the day is a fun activity where the person whose work anniversary it is, gets to command the office for that day. Everyone on the team has to do what they say (within reason, of course!). Funny suggestions include

1. Doing desk exercises for 10 minutes.
2. Taking a silly selfie and posting it on the group chat
3. Office charades
4. Making a chai or coffee the way your coworker takes it.



4.3 Pick your next office

Even if the celebration is virtual, it's fun for everyone to choose the type of office they'd want to work in. The Officefinder offers 360-degree virtual tours of real office spaces that let viewers experience what it's like walking across a lobby, or waiting in the reception area. I quite liked the digital tour of the MeadowCreek Business Center that I clicked on. This work anniversary idea isn't limited to space renters only. You can also create your own office VR experience as a gift for those employees who miss being at work. You can film your current office space from different angles and upload the footage on an interactive VR platform like Eevo.

4.4 Sandwich tower

Create a sandwich tower with fillings of your choice. The rule is that your tower should stand without being held in place by toothpicks or any other placeholder. You'll need

- A loaf of bread
- Condiments of your choosing (vegetarian or non-vegetarian)
- A serving tray
- Napkins

Set a time limit of 30 minutes to make the sandwiches and an extra 5 or 10 minutes for everyone to stack the tower up. They can be near the creation to ensure it doesn't fall over when they're creating it but they have to step back once the countdown ends. I'd say that everyone's a winner if there's food at the end of it!

Chapter 5:

Virtual Retirement Party Ideas



5.1 You've got mail

I'd talked about a mailbox eruption before and I'll say it again- how cool would it be to have a mailbox full of wishes from your coworkers? Since we're talking virtual retirement, you're unlikely to be able to drop by and pay a social visit in person. You can instead arrange to mail cards to your retiring coworker's physical address. Coordinate with everyone to send it out in unison so that they are more likely to receive the cards at once or within a few days.

5.2 Autograph

Gift your soon-to-be retired coworker a book full of everyone's autograph. This autograph book can be filled with thoughtful quotes or funny anecdotes that your colleague can read at leisure. Invite everyone to contribute using a Doc or Presentation and design it the way you would an eBook!

5.3 Roast or Toast

A roast is a panel of coworkers, colleagues, managers or even friends and family members who gently tease the outgoing employee. Remember to keep it respectful and impersonal. If the idea of roasting your coworker doesn't appeal, you can opt to toast to their future happiness!

5.4 Dress up as your coworker

Does your colleague have a particular dressing sense? Why not wear outfits that are their style! and turn on your camera to show them how their look looks on you?



Chapter 6:

Virtual Baby Shower Ideas

6.1 The price is right

This is a popular guessing game people play at virtual baby showers, where the guests have to guess the price of different baby gifts. From bassinets and strollers to overnight bags, the person who is able to get most prices right wins the game!



6.2 Baby bingo

Create bingo cards with baby-related terms, such as diapers, rattle, playpen, naptime etc. The usual rules of bingo apply such as the Early 5, 4 corners and full house, until someone gets a full house!

6.3 Make a doughbaby

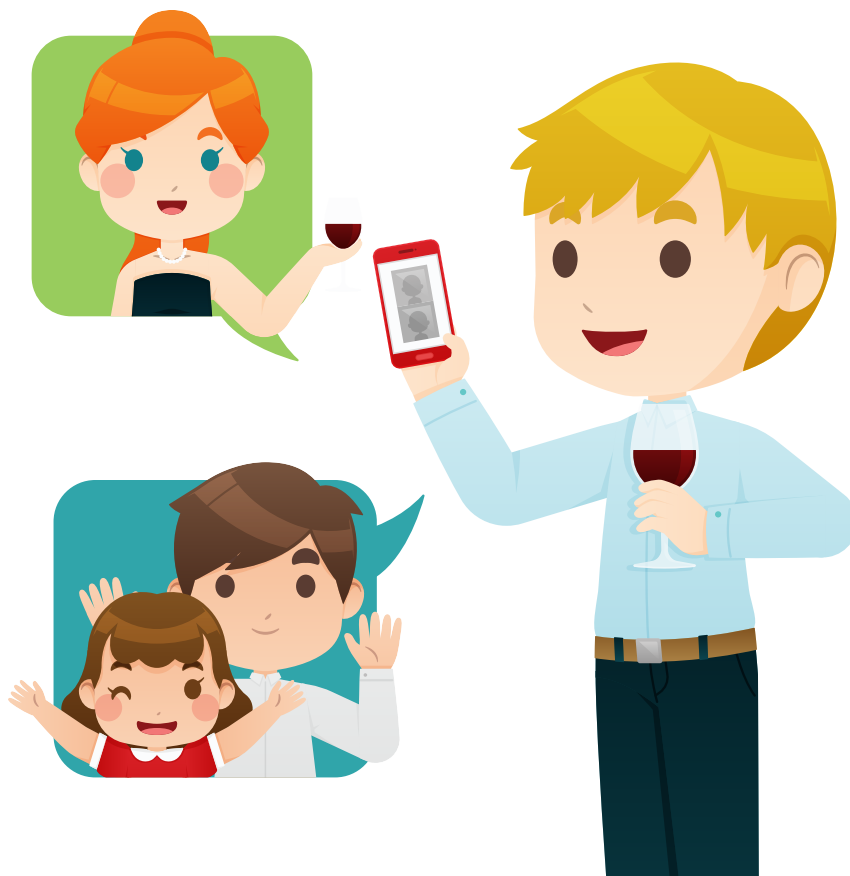
This challenge may leave the mum-to-be and her partner in splits! Everyone has to position themselves in front of the camera with readymade dough. On the count of three, everyone attempts to shape their dough to resemble a baby in any position- asleep, playing or in motion. The doughbaby that looks closest to an actual baby wins!

6.4 Guess the baby photo

Collect everyone's baby pictures beforehand in a secret chat and save them in a folder. Share your screen with the expecting mum and have her try to guess who the baby in the picture is.

Chapter 7:

What Is A Virtual Holiday Party?



A virtual holiday party is an online celebration of a particular holiday or events of cultural and historic significance. The bigger the organization, the more people you'll add to the guest list. Virtual parties differ from offline parties in that you're doing this on a distributed platform for a network of remote employees rather than at a physical location. In other words, you don't have to rent out a venue to accommodate large numbers.

What really sets the mood is following a theme and having everyone dress up to add to the festivities! You can also play a short reel or a YouTube video that explains more about the occasion.

A holiday party for virtual offices lets party-goers mingle one last time before the holidays begin. You'll do everything you would at an actual party, from taking part in games and team-building activities to laughing at a co-worker's wisecracks and loading your plate up with finger food. The only difference is that everyone isn't in the same room when it's happening. Instead, you're facetimeing on camera through Zoom, MS Teams, or any other messaging platform!

There are compelling reasons to try out a few **virtual holiday party ideas**, which include

1. Recounting the most recent achievements.
2. Toasting to a department or unit reaching critical milestones.
3. Recognizing and appreciating the top-performers.
4. Departmental teams getting reacquainted and catching up with one another.
5. Having fun contesting in trivia games, talent shows and much more!
6. Starting your holiday in high spirits!



Chapter 8:


Virtual Holiday Party Ideas



8.1. Santa Costume Contest

One of the best virtual holiday party ideas before the long Christmas break is to have a Santa costume contest! You can even award extra points for the unique twist people make to their outfits, such as sporting string lights, or using props such as fake reindeer, a sack of gifts slung over their shoulder, and a sleigh. The person who manages to reproduce the best Ho Ho Hos in their elaborate outfit wins a virtual Christmas stocking. There's another guessing game to play, which I like to call Guess the Grinch. Here's how you play it;

1. Privately message a minimum of 3 to 5 guests to ask if they'd like to play as the game's subject, aka the Grinch plotting to steal Christmas.
2. Once the cosplayers are finalized, create a secret group chat for discussions and picture sharing.
3. They can decide amongst themselves who gets to be the Grinch. While everyone dresses up as Santa, the person selected to be the Grinch has to mask their identity underneath their Santa costume. For example,



they can paint their hands green instead of their face, or wear a different set of fake glasses.

4. You can create clues in poetry, limerick song form to waylay the guessers.
5. Have everyone turn their camera on once they're ready to start guessing.
6. The person who guesses it right on the first try gets a candy cane. If you guess wrong, you get a virtual lump of coal (sorry!).

8.2. Cultural representation

If your office is fairly multicultural, there are bound to be minor festivals native to a particular region that a team member or two celebrate privately. Find out when that is, and schedule the party prep accordingly. You can enlist the member's help to create a short presentation on its history, influence, and way of celebrating. Let them take charge, such as deciding on a dance recital or performing a song, story voiceover, or skit. Such virtual holiday party ideas make the teammates proud of their heritage and allow the others to learn something new about their colleagues!

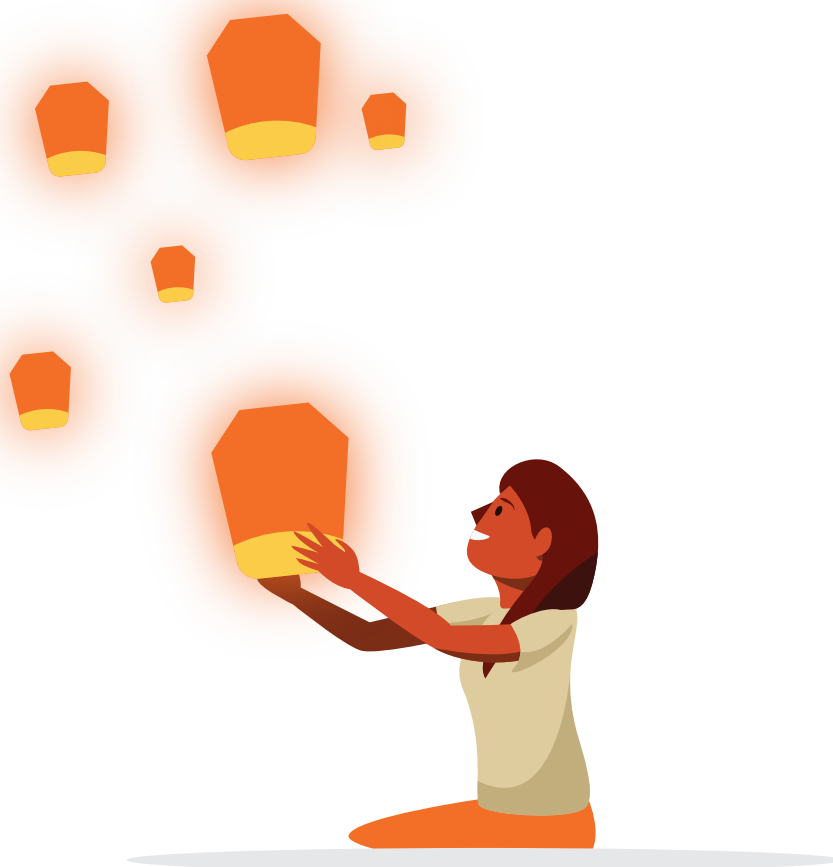
8.3. Fairy tale roundtable

This virtual holiday party lets family members take part too. Working parents can bring their young kids onto the call, and take turns to read fairy tales out loud. They can form an acting cast with other attendees enacting certain scenes. For example, if the story is about Little Red Riding Hood, one parent can act as the Big Bad Wolf while other colleagues play supporting characters such as Little Red's grandma. Bringing the fairy tale to life will make the party interesting for adults and kids alike!

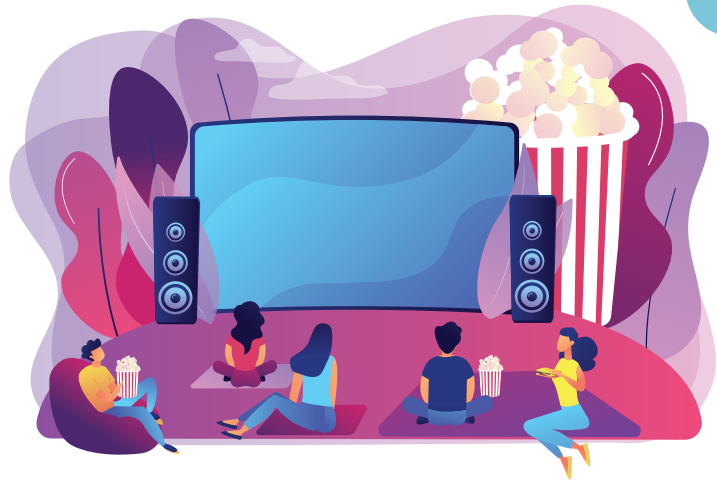
8.4. Light lamps or lanterns

Diwali is the Indian festival of lights celebrated usually in November. It signifies good triumphing over evil, or light over darkness. People celebrate it as a fresh start and decorate their doorstep with clay lamps and floral arrangements. They wear their finest clothes, pay household visits, burst fireworks, and exchange sweets and savories with everyone they know.

Everyone should wear their finest ethnic suits and dresses while munching on delectable sweetmeats, known as mithai. You can arrange to have a mithai box sent to everyone which will contain a selection of milk and ghee-based sweets. Given that it's a festival displaying lamps, move the party towards the end of the day so that the lamps can be lit and shown on camera for everyone to appreciate the arrangement!



8.5. Silent night movie



Have an online movie night where you'll screen share a horror or thriller for the guests to watch. You can do this via Zoom, Skype, or Gaze. It syncs the video feed and lets everyone watch at the same time. Through Gaze, you can create and send an invitation link to the rest of the team and play the movie once everyone's in. It'll be hilarious if you manage to capture people's reactions to the scary bits!

8.6. Holiday Gallery

Have fun creating works of art to go up on your company's very first holiday gallery! This can be showcased in future meetings, or even set as a background in line with team spirit. Set a time limit and a theme or subject everyone should work on. It can be a representation of what the holiday means to them. Give a 30-second warning and start a countdown before everyone steps back from their work and holds it up in front of the camera for the group to see. This is a great photo op so make sure you get it on record!

8.7. Gratitude Quest

Team Building offers a Kindness Quest which lasts for about 1.5 hours for team sizes between 9 to 300+ guests. It's a hosted Zoom event that will take your group through a series of activities to build a community within your company.



If you wish to start small, just form a circle where everyone talks about something or someone at work that they are thankful for, and do a gift exchange and unboxing between colleagues and managers. The pairs have to get their teammate a present based on how well they know each other and later talk about why they chose that item in particular.

8.8. Girgaian Sweetbox

Girgaian sweet boxes are great virtual holiday party ideas for your Middle Eastern coworkers. And they will definitely love you for remembering! Girgaian, also spelled as Qirquain or Gargee'an, is a tradition observed in Arab countries after Ramadan ends. It is similar to Halloween, where children dress up in traditional Arab headdresses and go door to door singing folk songs and holding out their baskets for sweets. Unlike Halloween, there's no horror involved. If someone owns musical instruments such as the Oud or Doumbek (Darbuka) or has a playlist for Arabic music, it can help set the mood and help everyone to appreciate a richly different culture!

Chapter 9:

Virtual Holiday Party Games

9.1. Gift unboxing

Did you make it to Santa's Naughty or Nice list this year? Do a secret Santa exchange and sort names at random to make sure everyone on the team gets to give an item to someone. Surprise everyone by ordering a Caroo box using Snacknation's online form!



9.2. The Statue

Ever struggled to keep a deadpan expression while someone actively tries to get you to crack? The Statue game can be played in turns with the video on. Whoever smiles first loses, while whoever manages to remain a statue until everyone's out wins!

9.3. Never have I ever-The holiday edition

Never have I ever.. Called my teacher mom? Thrown up after a ride? Binned the broccoli on my dinner plate? Get interesting and funny responses to this classic game with the holiday twist. You can choose from over 140 questions here, or create your own. If you're like me and just caught up with season 2 of Devi Vishwakumar's drama on Netflix, you can have a Never Have I ever episode discussion too!



9.4. Who is most likely to?

Host a light-hearted trivia night on who is most likely to do something. For example, which co-worker is most likely to forget to unmute themselves when speaking? Or, who is most likely to own a vintage car or motorcycle? You can hold a polling contest to see who is voting on an answer and matching it to their co-worker. Whoever gets most of the questions right can be declared the game's champion!


9.5 Happy hour cocktail kits

Few things sound better than taking your working socks off during office hours, sitting back, relaxing and taking a sip off that cocktail kit sent from your office. Agreed, being drunk at work might raise some eyebrows, but hey, nothing builds a bond like getting drunk with your co-workers and having a few laughs.

These cocktail kits are a great concoction for everyone to have a relaxing happy hour. There are options even for those who don't drink alcohol, so you're assured in that department as well. Some of the virtual happy hour cocktail kits available are: W&P's virtual happy hour cocktail kit, Amber Ale Kit at City Brew Tours, Fistful of Bourbon kit and the Colour changing gin infusion kit by Sandy Leaf farm. If you want to know more about these cocktail kits, or wish to explore more ideas, head here.

9.6. Minute to win it

Minute to win it games, as the name suggests, are really short and entertaining. Armed with a time limit of 60 seconds, participants have to complete the tasks given to them using household tasks or anything that's near their hands. These games can be played by individuals, groups or even entire teams.



While extremely short, there's a huge variety of these games and can be challenging. Games such as face the cookie, cup tower, sort the cards, cup flip, roll with it, fetch that, separation anxiety are a few games that will help your remote workforce to bond.

9.7. Virtual games for large groups

Always thought organizing games for large groups of people in the office would be a tough nut to crack? No more. We have some virtual game ideas that are specifically meant to be played for groups of more than 10 people, and they are quite engaging at the same time too.

These games can vary in nature, such as virtual trivia, Monster Hunter, I-Spy, and many more. If you want something even more adventurous, you could look for online versions of paintball or laser tag games. The aim of these virtual games is to promote team building and swift decision-making skills, which can help remote employees sharpen their brains after a long (and dull) day at work.

9.6. Minute to win it

Minute to win it games, as the name suggests, are really short and entertaining. Armed with a time limit of 60 seconds, participants have to complete the tasks given to them using household tasks or anything that's near their hands. These games can be played by individuals, groups or even entire teams.

9.8. Dress your pet

Do you have a pet who can steal the limelight? Do you miss the special bring your pet to work days? Fret not, because now you can show off the grandeur of your beloved pet(s) from the comfort of your home. Plus, you can even make them dress sharp and take the cuteness levels a

notch higher. Pets are amazing stress relievers and spending a little time can do wonders for your productivity. Dressing up your pet with amazing clothes and showing them to your fellow workers can be another great way to relax for everyone. After all, why should you restrict the positive energy of your furry friend to yourself when you can share it all around?

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Chapter 10:

Bonus: Virtual Holiday Party Ideas

- Pumpkin carving competition

Every household celebrating Halloween will have multiple Jack-o-Lanterns. Invite Jack over to your virtual meeting by inviting your employees to participate in your pumpkin carving contest. You can also ask them to send in pics of their carving and hold a public poll and the one with the most votes will be declared a winner.

- Halloween themed games

Best time to hold communication intensive games like murder mystery and Halloween trivia. This can be held along with the costume contest to make it even more exciting and festive – what can be more fun than a group of people dressed as zombies and vampires, competing in a game against other zombies and vampires!





- Virtual trick or treat

No one is too old for trick or treating. But doing it virtually can be a challenge. But it can be modified and played along with your team members. You can have one person ask another trick questions, if they get the answer wrong, they have to treat the other person, and if they get it right, they will get the treat from the questioner. To make it more fun, you can also switch it with a classic game of You Laugh You Lose. Winner gets the treat from the loser.

- Decorate your workspace

We borrowed inspiration from indiewire to decorate our offices a year and a half ago. Since we did not want to break the tradition, we switched it to decorate your (home) workspace. The scariest décor takes the win.

2.2 Virtual New Year's Eve party ideas

- Virtual dance party at midnight

What's a party without some music and dance? Gather your employees a couple of hours before midnight on Zoom or any other video conferencing platform, select your music from YouTube or even hire a virtual DJ, dance on till the dawn. People can also have their own BYOB – hey, its their house, their rules!

- Best of the year - Work theme

If you prefer a more subtle celebration with your colleagues, then go for an office themed celebration. Gather up everyone and give out awards or appreciations to the “Best X of the Year”. This can be kept quite informal & in festive spirit, and separate from the annual performance awards.

- Ball drop livestream

The New Year tradition of every New Yorker – watching the Times Square ball drop. Gather your team around midnight and continue this tradition virtually by watching a live stream of the Ball Drop. If you are located outside the NY time zone, then you can view this YouTube playlist of ball drops.



2.3. Virtual Christmas party ideas

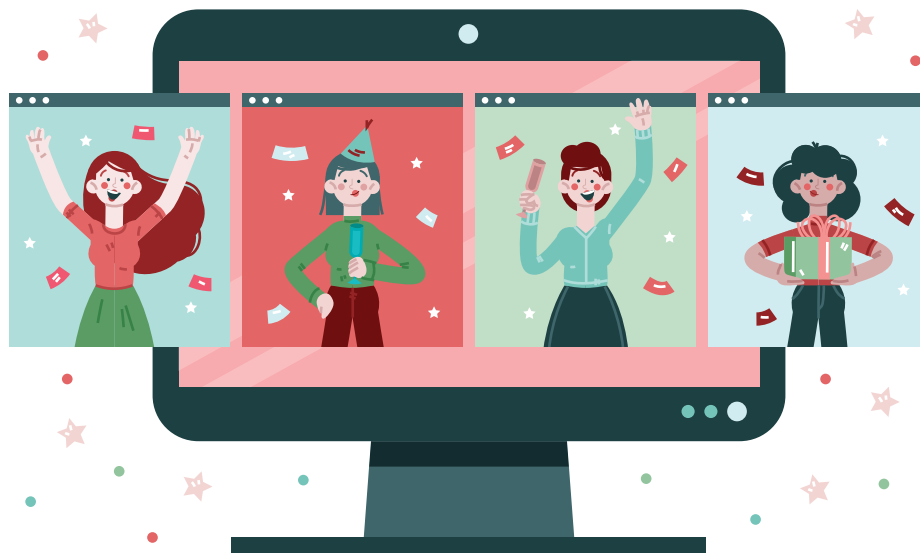


- Gifts galore

Christmas is synonymous with gifting. Send your employees Xmas gift boxes to their homes and include them in the festivities. It can be customized branded items, Christmas goodie bag that includes, candies, ginger bread cookies, hot chocolate mix, etc.

- Virtual secret Santa

Gift receiving is as rewarding as gift giving. You can have your team mates pick a random number that corresponds to a name on your sheet/document, have the secret Santa send presents, and open them all together over a virtual meeting. These gifts can be physical or virtual like gift cards or subscriptions.



- Carol contests

Carol contests always remind me of Brooklyn 99's Captain Latvia episode. You can be either the PD or MTA, sing a traditional carol or mix it up and make your own lyrics. If you plan to do this as a team event, make sure you inform the employees well in advance so they have time to prepare.

- Happy hour

A holiday themed happy hour is something everyone ly Day" on New Year's Eve, invite your employees' families over video conferencing and hold family inclusive activities and games. You can even go the extra mile and send in goodies in advance – like take the t-shirt sizes of family members and send in branded customized tees, and everyone can wear it during the celebration.

2.4. Virtual Diwali party ideas

- Rangoli competition

Rangolis are integral part of all festivals, and even a daily ritual in many homes. Boost your colleagues to turn the floor of their houses to colours by



organizing a rangoli doodle competition. They can share the pictures of the rangoli and a selected judge can choose winners.

- **Paint your diya**

Insistence of green Diwali has brought back the traditional methods of celebrating the festival in many places – by lighting diyas. Encourage your colleagues to support the local potters by buying a plain diya from them, paint it and then send in pictures.

- **Ethnic wear**

What is more traditional about Diwali than dressing up in new traditional clothes. Hold a video conference with your team mates dressed up in ethnic wear representing their culture. You can also add in activities like a mini fashion show, some can speak about how they are celebrating Diwali, etc.

- **Donate to a charity**

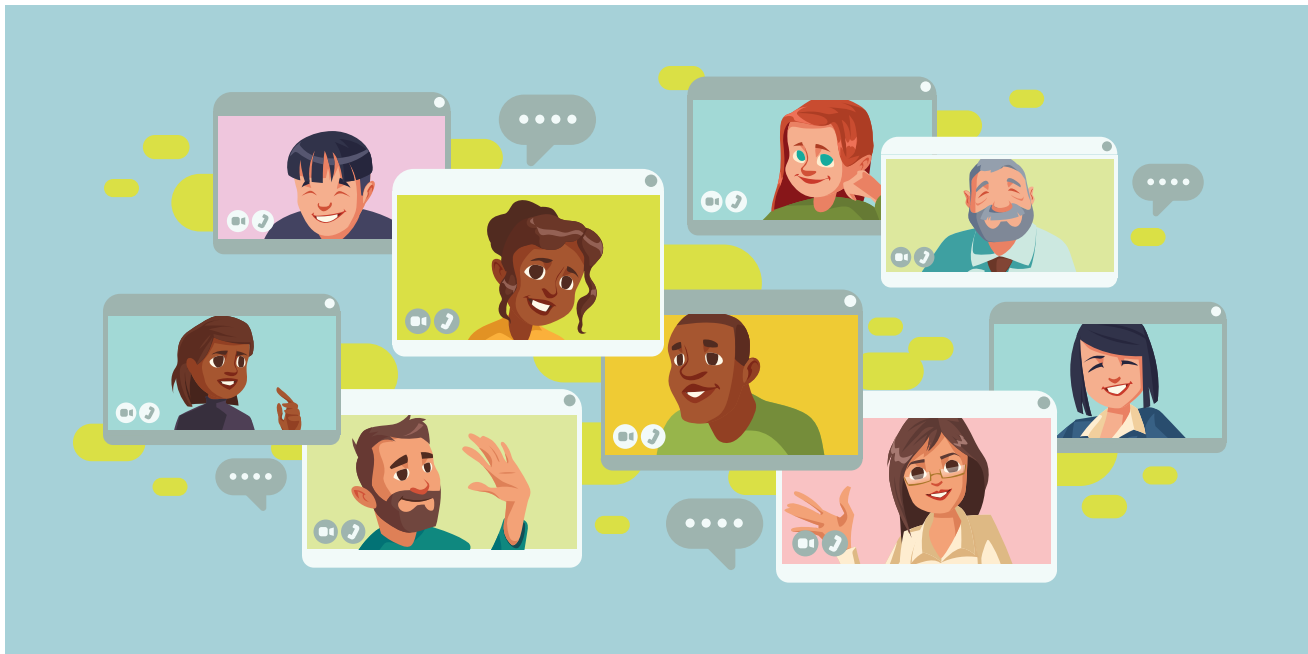
Diwali is all about spreading joy and sharing happiness. Organize a fundraiser and invite your employees to donate to a cause and light up someone else's lives


Concluding Thoughts

To wind the party down

Working remotely has resulted in many employees putting work before fun. Throwing parties by occasion shows your employees you remember their milestones and do not just see them as another cog in the wheel. Better still would be involving them in the planning and hosting duties. It builds up the anticipation and excitement!

If the offices close up for a public or national holiday, you can always get into the mood before the team breaks up by having a special pre-holiday party. Office parties feature many team-building exercises by default, which lets your members catch up, bond and connect with each other for something other than work-talk. They can also recharge and resume work the next day in a better frame of mind. Think how productive everyone will be when they're in a good mood!





I'll conclude this party guide with tips to make those parties in your future even more fun;

1. Institute a suggestion box

Suggestions should be welcome and everyone should have a say in what they'd like to see at the party. Websites like the custominsight or suggestionox can help users anonymously enter ideas. To make the process of deciding on the games and activities fair, let everyone vote on the top 3 or 5 games that sound interesting and fun to them. The games that get maximum votes get picked!

2. Decide on a theme

A theme helps everyone get into the mood to party, be it a scavenger hunt, holiday party or attire. When everyone complies, it is also a show of a united front!

3. Set a budget for gifting options

Always, ALWAYS ask what amount employees would be comfortable spending out of their pockets before deciding on a budget. Stick to a safe lower and upper limit so that no one goes overboard or spends too little.

4. Let Loose!

It's not a party if you're still having some hang ups, is it? Remember, the reasons to have a party are threefold: to get everyone to mingle, take a well-deserved break from work-related discussions, and to give you a high from the fun!