

BANG!

Also known as Squirt!, Splat!

The one where...

You have to move fast to shoot the other players with an imaginary gun or duck to avoid being shot yourself!

This is a physical game that uses speed, agility, listening, and a strong awareness of the other players and their names. It's best played by moderate to large sized groups.

Time: About three to five minutes, depending on the size of the group.

Equipment: None

No. of players: 6+

Age group: 5+

Physical effort: 3/5

Mental effort: 2/5

Difficulty: 2/5

This game is good for:

- Speed
- Agility
- Concentration
- Listening
- Learning names
- Improving reaction times

Set up

The players stand in a circle.

Playing the game

The facilitator calls out the name of one of the players in the group. That player must duck, and the two players either side of them must turn towards the player who is ducking and 'shoot' by forming a gun with their hands and calling out 'bang!' If the person ducking is too slow, they are eliminated. If, however, they duck in time, the player who calls out 'bang!' first wins the shootout, and the other player is eliminated (if they call out 'bang!' simultaneously, a draw is declared and no one is eliminated). The eliminated player, who moves out of the circle, then gets to call out the next name. When there are only two players left, the overall winner is decided by a duel. The two players stand back to back in the middle of the space while the last player eliminated chooses a word that will be the signal for the duellists to turn and shoot. The player, having chosen the trigger word, may say three or four other words (it is good if these words sound similar) before the trigger word, so the duellists are not sure when the trigger word will come. For example, the trigger word might be 'banana', but before this the player may say 'bandana', 'Bahamas', and 'banner'. On each word, the duellists must take one big step forwards and only turn and shoot when the trigger word is said. The player who is fastest to shoot, still calling out bang!, is the overall winner.

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Variations

- In groups where there may be sensitivities around depictions of violence, a variation can be played called 'Squirt!' in which the rules are the same but imaginary water pistols rather than guns are used. In another variation called 'Splat!' custard pies replace the guns.
- To add an additional element of drama and imagination to the game, players can act out elaborate deaths when they are eliminated.