GIFT EXCHANGE

The left–right game

HOW TO PLAY

You need one wrapped gift per person and one of the three stories that follow: family, office or grown-ups.

Play. Everyone sits in a circle holding a gift. One person reads the story aloud, slowly. Every time they say **LEFT**, everyone passes the gift they are holding to the person on their left. Every time they say **RIGHT**, pass to the right. When the story ends, the gift in your hands is yours to keep.

Tip. The reader can speed up near the end. The capital words are there to help, so practise once before the party.

A Very Merry Muddle

On Christmas Eve the whole family gathered at Gran's house. Gran opened the door and said, "Come in, there's not much time **LEFT** before dinner!" Everyone hurried inside and turned **RIGHT** into the kitchen, where the turkey was resting on the **LEFT** side of the oven. "That doesn't look **RIGHT**," said Uncle Pete. "We've **LEFT** the potatoes in the shed!" So Pete went **RIGHT** back outside, took a **LEFT** at the holly bush and found the potatoes **RIGHT** where Gran had **LEFT** them. Meanwhile the children had **LEFT** a trail of wrapping paper from the **RIGHT** side of the tree all the way down the hall. "**RIGHT**," said Mom, "tidy up, or there will be no pudding **LEFT** for anyone!" The children tidied **RIGHT** away, although the dog ran off with the **LEFT** slipper from Grandad's new pair. At last everyone sat down **RIGHT** on time. Gran raised her glass and smiled. "I'm so glad nobody was **LEFT** out this year. You've listened **RIGHT** to the end of my story, so whatever present you are holding **RIGHT** now is yours to keep. Merry Christmas!"