

Happy Birthday, Robot!

Happy Birthday, Robot! is a storytelling game for clever kids, gamer parents, and fun classrooms. This is a condensed overview of how to play.

Stuff You Need to Play

(See Page 15 for more information.)

- 3-5 Players
- 30-45 Minutes
- 20 coins with a HEADS and

TAILS:



- 10-15 Robot Dice with sides like this:



- A Sheet of Paper with *Happy Birthday, Robot!* written on it.
- Pencil

Turn Order

The youngest player takes the first turn. Turns continue clockwise around the table.

Each turn produces a new sentence in *Robot's Birthday*. Once everyone has a turn, that completes a round. Playing several rounds creates the story. (See Page 16.)

Storyteller and Neighbors

On your turn, you are called the Storyteller. The players next to you are called the Neighbor on your left and Neighbor on your right. (See Page 16.)

You are free to photocopy or print this page for your reference.

On Your Turn...

STEP 1: ROLL SOME DICE.

Take up to three dice from the general pool and roll them. Keep each . Pass any  to the Neighbor on your right. Pass any  to the Neighbor on your left. You can continue rolling more dice, but only one, two, or three at a time. There is no limit to how many you can collect. You *must* stop rolling if a Neighbor gets four or more dice. (See Page 17.)

STEP 2: BEGIN A SENTENCE.

Write the first words of a sentence in Robot's story. You may write as many words as you have . You may write fewer words, but not more than that. You may add the word *Robot* to the sentence once for free, even if you don't have enough dice to add any more words. The possessive form, *Robot's*, also counts, but not the plural, *robots*, and lowercase, *robot*. (See Page 18.)

STEP 3: NEIGHBOR ON YOUR RIGHT MAY ADD TO THE SENTENCE.

The Neighbor on your right may add a new word to the sentence for each die she possesses. She cannot add more words than she has dice. She may write fewer words than that, but not more. She may add words anywhere she likes in the sentence. She cannot rearrange or change your words. She may use the word *and* once as a free word. (See Page 19.)

STEP 4: NEIGHBOR ON YOUR LEFT MAY ADD TO THE SENTENCE.

The Neighbor on your left may add a new word to the sentence for each die he possesses. He cannot add more words than he has dice. He may write fewer words than that, but not more. He may add words anywhere he likes in the sentence. He cannot rearrange or change existing words. He may use the word *but* once as a free word. (See Page 20.)



STEP 5: COLLECT SOME COINS AND END YOUR TURN.

You, the Storyteller, get one  for each word you wrote from . Do not collect coins for writing free words. When you collect your coins, keep the  side up. Neighbors do not collect coins.

At the end of your turn, everyone must return all the dice they've collected back to the general pool. After you end your turn, the sentence you and your Neighbors created cannot be changed. The Neighbor on your left becomes the Storyteller and begins a new sentence. (See Page 21.)

Giving Players Free Words

You may give s to other players at any time in any amount. When you do so, flip the coin over so that it is . Keep any  coins for the rest of the game. They cannot be given away, nor may anyone take them away. When you're the Storyteller, each  you possess gives you one free word. The bonus does *not* apply to Neighbors. (See Page 22.)

How the Story Ends

If any player has ten or more coins of any kind, this is the last normal round of play. Continue until this round is complete, then go to the Epilogue. (See Page 23.)

The Epilogue

The Epilogue is a special round at the end of the game. Each player takes turns writing one last sentence to end the story. Whoever has the most coins goes first. Whoever has the next most coins goes next. If there is a tie, whoever is younger wins the tie. Continue until the player with the fewest coins ends the story. On your turn, write one word per coin you possess, regardless of whether it is  or . You may also use *Robot*, *and*, and *but* once each as you wish. (See Page 24.)