

## Spontaneous Problem: Clubhouse

- A. When the team enters the room, tell them, "This is a Verbal problem. In an actual tournament you would have one minute to select five team members to compete. The others could leave or stay to watch, sitting in seats away from the table. If they stayed in the room, they could not assist in solving the problem and could not talk at ANY time."

*Note To Judge: All team members can participate in the Spontaneous Fair.*

B. JUDGE READS TO TEAM:

1. You will have 1 minute to think, and 3 minutes to respond. You may ask questions at any time, but the clock will continue.
2. Your team is to take turns in sequence. You may not skip your turn or repeat or pass. If one member of the team is stuck, the team is stuck.
3. Once the time begins, it will not be stopped. If the judge asks you to repeat a response, to clarify, or to give another response, time will continue. Speak loudly and clearly.
4. You will use a die in giving answers to this problem. After your turn is over, pass the die to the next team member.
5. Your problem is: **"Clubhouse" is a compound word formed from two words that each have a separate meaning when they stand alone. A die has been placed in front of you. On your turn, you will roll the die. If the number you roll is odd, that is, 1,3, or 5, you will give a word or phrase containing the word "CLUB." If the number you roll is even, that is, 2, 4, or 6, you will give a word or phrase containing the word "HOUSE."**
6. You will receive 1 point for each common response. Highly creative and humorous responses will receive 3 points. This is the subjective opinion of the judges, and the judges' decisions are final.
7. Once again, your problem is: A die has been placed in front of you. On your turn, you will roll the die. If the number you roll is odd, you will give a word or phrase containing the word "CLUB." If the number you roll is even, you will give a word or phrase containing the word "HOUSE."

C. FOR JUDGES ONLY

1. Examples of common responses might include:  
"I live in a house."  
"I belong to a club."
2. Examples of creative responses might include:  
"This year we are electing members of the HOUSE of representatives."  
"The club members clubbed me for hiding the ace of clubs up my sleeve."
3. If a team member rolls an even number but gives an answer containing the word CLUB, or an odd number and gives an answer containing HOUSE, tell them to give a different answer.

## Team Copy

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3. Once the time begins, it will not be stopped. If the judge asks you to repeat a response, to clarify, or to give another response, time will continue. Speak loudly and clearly.
4. You will use a die in giving answers to this problem. After your turn is over, pass the die to the next team member.
5. Your problem is: **“Clubhouse” is a compound word formed from two words that each have a separate meaning when they stand alone. A die has been placed in front of you. On your turn, you will roll the die. If the number you roll is odd, that is, 1,3, or 5, you will give a word or phrase containing the word “CLUB.” If the number you roll is even, that is, 2, 4, or 6, you will give a word or phrase containing the word “HOUSE.”**
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## Notes for Coaches Only

These are some of the important items from the discussion periods following this problem at the 2011 Spontaneous Fair.

1. Ask the judge if you can talk during your one minute think time. Is it better to brainstorm together or to brainstorm individually?
2. You might be able to have one member of the team memorize which word is odd and which is even, so that if someone rolled a 5, that person would tell them “club.” Definitely ask the judge if this is ok; many of them will probably say no. In general, asking questions of the judges is a good thing to do.
3. Think about the possibility of using puns. For example, “House it going?” (How’s it going?) is a nice play on words. Judges should welcome this kind of answer, and would be likely to score it as creative.
4. When brainstorming, think about different parts of speech that a word can be, e.g.
  - Noun ... I joined a club; I live in a house. (Boring!)
  - Verb ... She clubbed him over the head; We housed the dogs out back.
  - Adjective ... He ate a club sandwich; She was president of the House Council.Can you think of any other parts of speech that can be used?
5. In general, try to think of things that are out of the ordinary. Being different is much more likely to get you a “creative” than a common.
6. When rolling dice, try to roll it towards the team member who will be going next. They will instinctively pick it up and be ready for their turn.
7. This problem is adapted from one off the Virginia website that used a different compound word. What other compound words can you think of that would be good for this problem?