NO GENE IS PERFECT

Investigating the function of genes is an important part of the daily lives of molecular biologists. As soon as they discover a new gene, they also have to find a name for it. Of course, there are different strategies to name a gene: either conventional with a sequence of hardly memorizable letters and numbers, or a creative and catchy gene name. Usually, the name represents a description of the phenotype, that occurs when the gene is mutated und thus gives a hint about the function of the gene.

For this game, which you can play not only during the holiday season with friends and family, we have collected funny and creative gene names. Inspired by the game "Nobody is Perfect", you have to trick your fellow players in order to win the game.

GAME PREPARATION

DO <u>NOT</u> READ THE CARDS IN ADVANCE!

Print the cards on a slightly thicker paper. Cut out the cards and place them in a face-down deck in the center of the group of players. Have pens and paper ready.

AIM OF THE GAME

The aim of the game is to find the hidden clues in the gene names and correctly guess as many functions as possible. At the same time, the aim is to decieve the co-players with a creative alternative explanation.

GAMEPLAY

The youngest player starts as game leader. He or she draws the top card from the deck and reads aloud the name of the mutated gene (NOT the description), whose function has to be guessed. One way the game could be started would be, for example, "What happens when there is a mutation on the Superman gene?" The co-players write down their answer on a piece of paper. They should be as creative as possible because points can be scored for particularly clever answers.

In the meantime, the game leader also writes down the correct answer on a piece of paper.

As soon as all the answers are written down, the game leader collects the papers and shuffles them. The answers are read out in turn and all the players have to guess the correct answer at the same time by writing the number of the chosen answer on a piece of paper and placing it in the center of the group.

Afterwards, the game leader solves the function of the mutated gene and the points are distributed. The person, who guessed the correct answer, scores 3 points. At this point, also the creative answers are honoured: If other players have chosen your answer, you score 2 additional points for each person who thought your explanation was the correct one.

The points are written down and it is the next player's turn. He or she is now game leader for this round and starts by drawing a card from the deck. The player with the most points wins.

Tip: If you know the correct answer, it is strategically better to come up with a function that matches the name of the gene and then bet on the correct answer.



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