

The Balloon Game

Preparation

- Purchase a pack of strong, good-quality heart-shaped balloons (or use good quality round balloons instead – it's important to use balloons that don't pop easily).
- Purchase 6 different gifts that would encourage a couple to have fun together, such as a book of marriage cartoons or fun dates for couples, a game, vouchers for restaurants or attractions, etc, and 6 gift bags for the prizes.
- Label each gift bag with a number from 1-6. Take 10 8cm square pieces of paper and write a number from 1-6 on six pieces of paper, and leave four blank.
- Roll each paper up tightly and insert it into the neck of a balloon before inflating it. Be careful not to over inflate the balloons – you don't want them to pop too easily.
- Tie the ten balloons securely and keep the balloons and prizes safely out of sight until you need them. A large bin bag may be useful.

How to play the balloon game

- Take out one balloon at a time, at various times throughout the evening, and encourage guests to bat them gently around the room with their hands whilst you play some appropriate music.
- If batting isn't safe because there are unprotected candles on the tables, guests can pass the balloon to each other. If you have a large room, let the guests move to an open space where they can play with the balloon.
- When the music stops ask everyone to stop batting and allow the balloon to be caught by one of the couples, who then move to an open area of the room.
- The couple then have to place the balloon between their two bodies and hug each other tightly until the balloon pops – the stronger the balloons, the more fun this is to watch! A video camera may be useful to capture the action!
- Once the balloon has popped, the couple have to find the paper that was inside the balloon, to see if they have won one of the prize gift bags.

