



Open, steal or keep?

Game 1: Classic Steal



The favorite open-or-steal gift game. Best for 6 to 40 players, about 30 to 60 minutes.

1 Set the house rules

Agree on a gift budget and a steal limit (3 steals per gift is classic). Mark them on the host sheet.

2 Bring one wrapped gift

Each player adds one wrapped gift to the pile. No names on gifts.

3 Draw numbers

Put tickets 1 to N in a bowl (N = number of players). Everyone draws one. That's the turn order.

4 Player 1 opens

Player 1 picks any wrapped gift and opens it for everyone to see.

5 Open or steal

On your turn, either open a new wrapped gift or steal any opened gift that isn't frozen.

6 Robbed? Go again

If your gift is stolen, you open a new gift or steal a different one. You can't steal back the gift that was just taken from you. The turn ends when someone opens a new gift.

7 Frozen gifts

When a gift is stolen for the 3rd time (or hits your house limit), it's frozen. Hang a FROZEN tag on it. It stays put.

8 Final swap

After the last gift is opened, Player 1 may swap with any unfrozen gift. The robbed player takes Player 1's gift. Game over!

House rule options

Pick any and announce them before you start:

- **Two-steal max:** gifts freeze after the 2nd steal.
- **One steal per turn:** a gift can't be stolen twice in the same turn.
- **Speed round:** 30 seconds to decide, or you must open.
- **Theme swap:** cozy, funny, under \$10, or homemade.

Host tips

- Number each gift with a **Gift No.** tag (p.16) as it's opened, and log steals on the **steal tracker** (p.6).
- Keep opened gifts in plain sight so everyone can see what's up for grabs.
- Over 25 players? Use the two-steal max or a speed round to keep it moving.

Example: Ana (No. 1) opens a cozy blanket. Ben (No. 2) steals it, so Ana opens a new gift, a puzzle. Cara (No. 3) steals the blanket from Ben (its 2nd steal). Ben can't take the blanket straight back, so he steals the puzzle from Ana, and Ana opens another new gift. That ends Cara's turn.



Who has what? **Steal Tracker**



Write each gift down as it's opened. Add a name each time it's stolen. When the steal limit is reached, the gift is frozen.

Host: _____ Steal limit per gift: _____

Gift No.	What's the gift?	Opened by	1st steal	2nd steal	3rd steal	Ends with

More than 20 gifts? Print a second copy of this page.