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## Twas The Night Before Christmas Gift Exchange Game

I played this gift exchange right/left game over Christmas, I had to share it! This unique gift exchange game uses the popular story of "Twas The Night Before Christmas" and turns it into a fun gift exchange experience that is sure to bring plenty of laughter to your Christmas event.

## Twas The Night Before Christmas Gift Exchange Game Setup

- Seat everyone participating in the gift exchange game in a circle.
- Each person should be holding their gift in their lap.
- Instruct the participants that you are going to read a Christmas story and when you say the words "Left" or "Right" they should pass their gifts to the person on the left or right depending on the word you say.
- Read the story below.

Twas the night **RIGHT** before Christmas when **RIGHT** through the house,  
Not a creature was **LEFT** stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung **RIGHT** by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be **RIGHT** there.

The children were nestled **RIGHT** snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugarplums danced **RIGHT** around in their heads.

And mama **LEFT** in her kerchief, and I **LEFT** in my cap.  
We had just settled **RIGHT** down for a long winter's nap.

When **RIGHT** out on the **LEFT** lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang **RIGHT** from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the **RIGHT** window I **LEFT** like a flash;  
Tore open the **RIGHT** shutters and threw up the **LEFT** sash.



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The moon on the crest of the new-fallen snow,  
**LEFT** the luster of mid-day to objects **RIGHT** below.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver **RIGHT** lively and quick;  
I knew **RIGHT** in a moment it must be St. Nick!

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came;  
And he whistled and shouted, and called them **RIGHT** by name:

“Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On Comet, on Cupid, on Donder and Blitzen!

To the **RIGHT** top of the porch! To the **LEFT** top of the wall!  
Now dash away, dash away, dash **RIGHT** away all!”

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet **RIGHT** with an obstacle, mount **RIGHT** up to the sky.

So **RIGHT** up to the housetop the coursers they **LEFT** flew,  
With a sleigh full of toys and St. Nicholas, too.

And then in a twinkling, I heard **RIGHT** on the roof,  
The prancing and pawing of each little **RIGHT** and **LEFT** hoof.

As I drew in my head and was turning around down,  
The **LEFT** side of the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, **RIGHT** from his head to his **LEFT** foot,  
And his clothes were all **LEFT** tarnished with ashes and soot.

A bundle of toys he flung **RIGHT** on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His **RIGHT** and **LEFT** eyes, oh how they twinkled!

His dimples? Oh, how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!



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His droll little mouth was **LEFT** drawn up like a bow!  
And the beard **LEFT** on his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held **RIGHT** in his teeth,  
And the smoke— it encircled his head like a wreath.

He had a broad face and a round little belly,  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

He was **RIGHT** chubby and plump, a **RIGHT, RIGHT** jolly old elf,  
And I was **LEFT** laughing when I saw him in spite of myself.

A wink of his **LEFT** eye and a **LEFT** twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing **LEFT** to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went **RIGHT** straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; **LEFT** to **RIGHT** then turned with a jerk.

And laying his finger to the **LEFT** of his nose,  
And giving a nod, he **LEFT**... Up the chimney, he rose.

He sprang **RIGHT** to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all **LEFT** like the dawn of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, as he **LEFT**—out of sight,  
“Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!”