



Don't Panic! (1/3)+16.65

By David Klionsky

1. Assemble three team members and a live Babel Fish.
2. Make sure team members one, two, and three are wearing shirts of the colors red, green, and blue respectively.
3. Find a nice bowl for the Babel Fish to swim around in, fill it with water, and place the Babel Fish inside.
4. Get a roll of gray duct tape and cut four 1 meter strips of tape. Place the strips tape on the floor in the shape of a square.
5. Assemble four chairs at the corners of the square so that each chair is facing the center of the square.
6. Have the two players of complementary colors sit in two chairs that are opposite each other. The remaining player (now arbitrarily referred to as Charlie) chooses a chair such that if they sat in it, the Red player would be sitting to the immediate left of the Blue player.
7. Have Charlie place the Babel Fish (and its bowl) in the last remaining chair and then sit in the chair that he chose in the previous step.
8. Charlie's chair is now the chair of the Custodian of the Babel Fish. Whoever sits in this chair is in charge of seeing to the Babel Fish's every need, as well as changing the water in the bowl when the Babel Fish splashes it out.
9. Have the team member to the immediate right of the custodian escort the Babel Fish to his own chair and sit in the Babel Fish's old chair.
10. The team member with the Red shirt has been lying to you all. He is actually Vincent Van Gogh, back from the dead! Have Van Gogh fetch a pencil and paper immediately, and make sure he's not lying to you about anything else.
11. The chair to the immediate left of Van Gogh is the Chair of Opposition. If the player sitting in this chair is given an instruction to move or swap seats with player or fish to the left or right from this point on, he moves in the opposite direction.
12. The Babel Fish has just remembered something important! If it ever sees the players sitting in red, green, blue order from left to right, it experiences an inescapable urge to splash all the water out of its bowl. It then does so (didn't I say the urge was inescapable?). It does not feel this urge again until the other players have changed their configuration to something other than red, green, blue order (from the point of view of the Babel Fish) and then changed it back again to red, green, blue order.



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13. Van Gogh: Using your pencil and paper, draw the shape that these instructions previously said to make on the floor with duct tape. You all should keep track of these drawings; they might be worth a lot someday.
14. The responsibilities of the custodian weigh heavily. Van Gogh and the Custodian swap seats. Unless otherwise specified, "swapping seats" means the players move and sit in each other's chairs.
15. One of you hasn't been given an alternate name yet. This team member should swap seats with the team member (or fish) to his immediate left.
16. Custodian, find two more fish bowls. Place bowl A on the tape halfway between your chair and the Green player's chair and place bowl B on the line of tape directly across the shape from bowl A.
17. The players on opposite sides of bowl A swap seats.
18. Charlie: Go to the Home Depot and find some tie-dye colored duct tape. Lay one strip of tape on the floor from your current seat to Bowl A and lay another strip on the floor from Bowl A to the seat occupied by the Babel Fish.
19. Van Gogh: draw the new psychedelic shape as though you were standing behind fish bowl A while facing bowl B. You're such a good artist you can barely stand it.
20. The Chair of Opposition runs out of fuel and no longer has any effect.
21. All players move to the seat to their immediate right. It goes without saying that the custodian should escort the Babel Fish to its new chair.
22. The player sitting to the left of Bowl B (if you were standing at Bowl B facing Bowl A) should change places with the custodian.
23. Van Gogh, you've just had a spark of genius. Feverish with artistic delight, you draw the newest tape shape again as if you were standing behind Bowl B while facing bowl A.
24. Ok, one of you is slacking and hasn't had to change the Babel Fish's water yet. That player should go to a different Home Depot (Lowe's is also acceptable), buy some orange duct tape, and bring it back. No, we're not reimbursing you, slacker.
25. The player who bought the orange tape should lay down strips of tape on the floor from their current seat to the seat they chose at the start of the puzzle, from bowl A to bowl B, from the Babel Fish's seat to their current seat, and from Bowl B to the Babel Fish's seat.



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26. Van Gogh, you know what to do. Draw the orange shape as though you were standing halfway between the custodian and your current seat.
27. Are you all comfortable? If not, you should find some better chairs and start over. This is going to get complicated.
28. Blue and Green players: Exchange chairs with each other, but stay in the same positions relative to the other players. That is, your chairs should move, but you should not.
29. One of the chairs that was just swapped has not been assigned a special role yet and is feeling left out. Look up the first letter in chapter 24 of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and place strips of tape in the shape of this letter on the underside of this chair.
30. Van Gogh: Think back to your fourth drawing. The floor was a very different place back then. Draw the orange tape as it appeared back then, standing from the same place as you stood for drawing four, but also include the line of tie-dye tape that stretched from Bowl A to your current chair in this drawing.
31. Count the number of times the word "escort" is used in this document and cut that many 1 meter strips of neon green tape. Starting from the Blue player's seat, lay the strips along the edges of the square, proceeding from edge to edge counterclockwise. Van Gogh, you know what to do. Draw the neon green shape as though you were standing between the seats of the only two players who have had to change the Babel Fish's water.
32. Van Gogh: hand your precious artwork and pencil to the Green player. Green player: You really dislike the fourth non-zero Fibonacci number. Draw a horizontal line through the drawing corresponding to this number.
33. Green is actually an expert forger. Duplicate Van Gogh's first drawing perfectly. Now draw your own rendition of the letter under your own chair.
34. Green, reorder all the drawings as follows: Van Gogh's 2nd, Van Gogh's 3rd, Van Gogh's 4th, Van Gogh's 1st, Van Gogh's 5th, your forgery, Van Gogh's 6th, and your letter.
35. Go get the Babel Fish some victory popcorn. You've earned it, Babel Fish.