



"EL QUINTO"

- "*El quinto*" is a game which is usually played during the Christmas holidays in lots of Catalan places, such as Terrassa, Empordà, Baix Llobregat...From all Catalonia, Terrassa is the only place in which a person can win if all the gaps are filled in.
- In our city, Terrassa, "quinto" is a very traditional and popular game to be played usually during Christmas. You can play it at home with your family and friends or you can go to public places, such as "el Social" site, castellers' site... These kinds of places are opened from midday to late at night, and almost everybody meets there to play and have fun.
- The objective of this game is to fill in a paper board full of numbers (from one to ninety) with some kind of counter which is usually a seed. There's a very important person in this game who is called "lloro", which in English means parrot. The "lloro" will sing the names of the numbers he or she finds in a pot, and if you hear the name of a number which is written on your board, you have to put one of the counters on it. The first person who has full box shouts "quinto" and he/she wins a chosen prize. It's similar to a bingo game.
- In case two players shout "quinto" at the same time and their numbers are all correct and have been sung, the prize will be divided in two parts.
- Obviously, as there are so many people, there has to be some kind of order in the places. There's the "lloro", who as said before, sings the numbers to the players, but apart from him/her, there's an assistant who helps him/her and if someone wins, the assistant checks that all the numbers have really been sung. These two people are on a stage sitting in front of a table. If the players want a different "lloro" they will change their roles. There are also some people who are

in charge of collecting the money before the game starts depending on the size of the room and the amount of people. To help with the security of the place and the safety of the players there are normally two or three guards. There are other people who are in charge of giving the prize to the winner of the game.

- Sometimes, the price to play changes and it costs double or half the original price. People are not supposed to play and to pay for every game if they want to take a break.
- To keep the players entertained and satisfied, there's usually a bar. Some of the attendants become waiters for a while and they will give you drinks and food if you order them.
- The "lloro" can be asked by any player to shake the pot with all the numbers if they feel unlucky.
- This game has its origins in southern France, where king Lluís IV asked for a game which allowed him to get more resources for his country. Because of this, "Quinto" is also played in France.
- Some expressions are used to make it easier for people to interact or have fun. Most of them rhyme in Catalan, the language spoken in Catalonia. Some examples would be:
 - **1:** *el més petit, Cap d'Any* (the youngest one, New Year's Eve)
 - **2:** *dos, tres, quatre* (two, three, four)
 - **3:** *tricicle* (tricycle)
 - **4:** *quadrat* (square)
 - **5:** *quinto*
 - **11:** *diada* (*National Catalan Festivity*)
 - **12:** *els mesos* (the months)
 - **16:** *l'edat del "pavo"* (puberty)
 - **18:** *major d'edat* (older than 18)
 - **21:** *el més elegant* (the most elegant) In catalonia there is an expression which is: "*anar de vint-i-un botons*" (this expression means that somebody is very

elegant, literally in English, it means to wear something with twenty-one buttons, something which is very very smart)

- **23:** *Sant Jordi* (Saint George)
 - **31:** *el últim dia de l'any* (last day of the year)
 - **36:** *l'any de la guerra* (the year of war). On the 18 of July of 1936 the first Spanish civil war started.
 - **39:** *l'any que la guerra s'acaba* (the year in which the war ends). In 1939 the first civil war ended
 - **45:** *mitja part* (a break)
 - **60:** *el cansat* (the tired one)
 - **65:** *jubilat* (retired)
 - **69:** *arriba y abajo* (up and down)
 - **90:** *l'últim* (the last one)
-
- Here we have a link in which we can see a room with the parrot singing some numbers and each player looking at the numbers and putting some counters in the gaps if they have the number. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncdJ-fPj50g>

By Mar Prats, Ona Castro, Alejandra González and Marina Tovar.

