
Post No. 17

THE BIG CHRISTMAS CARD MUDDLE
PART I: GETTING INTO THE MUDDLE

Today started off as a very good day. I woke up feeling very happy. You see, last night I finished preparing my Christmas cards... all 235 of them.

I know you must be thinking that 235 is a very large number of cards, but, like most hamsters, I come from a very large family. Also, I am a very popular hamster, so I have a very large number of friends. Since I want to wish all my friends and relatives a very happy Christmas, I have to send out a very large number of Christmas cards.

Because I have to send out so many Christmas cards, I have to work very hard to get them all ready to send out in time for Christmas. Most years, I find myself finishing them off in a big rush at the last moment. This year, I decided that I needed to be better organised. I was determined to avoid that last-minute rush.

First, I asked Diana to draw a picture for the front of my cards. She drew this lovely picture of me. As you can see, I look very handsome in a Santa suit!



I coloured in all the cards myself. Then I decorated them with lots of glitter to make them sparkly. After that, I wrote a personal message inside each of my cards. I know that some people write the same old message in all their Christmas cards, but I prefer to write a different message in each of my cards, to make them extra special. Then I put all my cards in envelopes and sealed them shut.

I was very pleased with myself when I finished all that work last night, in plenty of time for Christmas. As I said earlier, I was also pleased with myself when I woke up in the morning and saw my big pile of Christmas cards, all ready to send out, in plenty of time for Christmas. I was still feeling pretty pleased with myself when I put all of my Christmas cards into a big bag and took them to the post office, early enough that the postman would easily be able to deliver them in time for Christmas. It was only when the I had bought all my stamps and started to take my cards out of the big bag to stick stamps on them that I stopped feeling so very pleased with myself.



You see, I noticed a really, really big problem with my Christmas cards. I had carefully coloured them. I had carefully decorated them. I had carefully written a personal message in each of them. I had carefully put them in envelopes. I had carefully sealed the envelopes shut. I had totally forgotten to address the envelopes.

Aargh!!! All the cards were already in the envelopes! All the envelopes were sealed! None of the envelopes had anyone's name or address on them! All the envelopes looked exactly the same! I was in a big Christmas card muddle!

So you can understand what a big muddle my big Christmas card muddle was, I will explain a bit more. All of my cards were completely and utterly personal. For example, on the card that I had planned to send to Kimster, I had coloured my picture blue, as a funny Christmas reminder of the day that Kimster turned blue. Why would I send anyone else a Christmas card with a picture of a blue hamster in a Santa suit? I needed to figure out which card was Kimster's card and put Kimster's address on the envelope. Then I needed to do that for all the other 234 cards.

I held up one of my envelopes to the light and examined it.



I had hoped that through the paper of the envelope I would be able to see the card

and somehow figure out whose card it was. For example, if I could see the blue Santa, I would know it was Kimster's card. Unfortunately, the envelopes were made out of thick, high-quality paper. It was impossible to see through them, even with the light shining on them.

I thought the solution was to open up all the envelopes and take out my cards. Then I could put them in new envelopes, putting the right name and address on each envelope before sealing it shut and putting a stamp on it. Deep in my heart, I knew that was the sensible thing to do, but I had spent such a long time putting my cards into their envelopes and sealing them shut that I really did not want to have to take them all out and do all that again. I sat down on the floor of the post office for a quiet think.



I thought and thought and thought, all the while looking at my big bag of cards, until I thought that I had thought of a way out of my big muddle.

I addressed all the envelopes. I had not figured out how to guess which card was for which person, but I made sure that one of my sealed envelopes was addressed to each of my friends and relatives. On the back of each envelope, I wrote a notice in big



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capital letters: 'DO NOT OPEN. BRING TO HARRISON'S CHRISTMAS EVE PARTY!'

Then I stuck a stamp on each of my sealed envelopes, posted them and went home to write this very blog post.

I have not told you exactly how I had thought I would to sort out my big Christmas card muddle. I want to see if my plan works before I write about it on my blog. I promise that all will be revealed right here on my blog after my Christmas Eve party.

I know that many of my readers will think that the moral of this blog post should be something about carefully addressing the envelopes of your Christmas cards before you seal them. It could be, but I think there might be a better moral. We'll see after my Christmas Eve party.

Bye for now, and merry Christmas to all my readers!

Harrison Hamster I
20th December 2011

