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Holiday Card Etiquette Rules You Should Stop Ignoring



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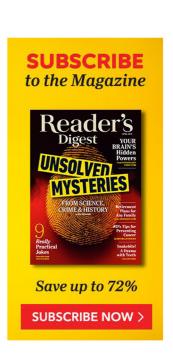


It's that time of year

JESSICA RUSCELLO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Winter is officially upon us, which means that it's time to dust off the pen, paper, and stamps

for a session of good, old-fashioned, hand-written holiday card signing. But whether you've chosen to go with modern photo cards or traditional boxed cards, there are etiquette rules that come along with sending out these joyous, end-of-the-year good wishes. We've turned to <u>**Jodi Smith**</u>, etiquette consultant, and Vikki Gutierrez Isaacson, owner of <u>**Playa Paper**</u>, to learn the holiday-card etiquette rules that will keep the season merry and bright.















No-boasting zone

If you choose to include a few highlights from this past year in your holiday card, it's best to

just stick to the facts—no need to boast or brag or include all of the details about your exotic vacations, awards you won at work, or the exact weight of your daughter's new engagement ring, Smith says. People receiving your holiday letters already like you. No need to impress messages.



The holidays are a time to reflect, look forward to the New Year...and laugh at all of the great moments from the past 12 months. So, don't be afraid to include a funny story or two—just keep it brief, Smith shares. The details, supporting facts or funny stories are what will make

your holiday card truly stand out. Don't just tell your friends and family that your dog is smart. Tell them about the time she hid your car keys behind your rarely used exercise bike to delay a visit to the vet. For a little inspiration, check out these $\underline{\text{\bf memorable holiday greeting card}}$



makes it difficult to read. And please avoid using address labels unless it's absolutely necessary. Those sticky tabs make the cards feel less personal. If you need to brush up on

your punctuation, here's **how to pluralize last names that end in "s."**



money—try one of these ${\color{red} {\it free printable Christmas cards.}}$





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Wish them well This holiday card is for someone else...so avoid making it all about you, you, and you, Smith says. In addition to the updates about your life, be sure to include well wishes to the card's $\,$ recipients and to their families. Offer positive thoughts if you know that someone's grandparent is ill or lots of luck to the son or daughter who has mid-term exams to look forward to in the New Year. After all, the holiday card is part of your season's greeting to others. If you're short on something entertaining to say, look up the person's birthday and tell $% \left\{ \left(1\right) \right\} =\left\{ \left(1\right) \right\}$ them $\underline{\text{\it what 2020 has in store based on their Chinese zodiac sign}}$ or share one of these classic Christmas quotes.