



# Open Doors

Advent calendars hold secrets. It is exciting to open each little door and see what's behind it!

Here is a design and make idea for an advent-style calendar for a special event.

## Equipment

1. Two sheets of thin cardboard. They can be any size, but will be the size of your final calendar. About 40cm by 30cm is a good size for each sheet.
2. Some stickers or stamps. Don't worry if you haven't any: you can draw instead.
3. A dark-coloured pencil.
4. A pair of scissors and some paper glue.



## Safety Stuff

Making calendars can be fun, but please check with an adult before you begin as you might need their help. Working with items such as scissors can be dangerous, so be very careful when you use them, and make sure that you never leave them open or lying around where smaller children can reach them.

Before starting to make your calendar, cover the work surface you're going to use with some newspaper or an old cloth and make sure that you are wearing an apron or some old clothes. Gather together all the items you'll need before you begin. Most of the things you'll need can probably be found by hunting around your house, but remember to check with an adult before you take anything!

And don't forget to tidy up afterwards!

## Steps

### Step One

Draw a big shape on one of the sheets of card and cut it out. If you're making a Christmas advent calendar, you could draw a Christmas tree. What other shapes can you think of?

Then draw 25 small "doors" across the whole tree, starting with number 1 at the bottom and ending with number 25 at the top. Make sure that they're not too big and that they all fit on the tree. Why not make the last door for Christmas day a little larger?

Use a dark-coloured pencil to number your doors.

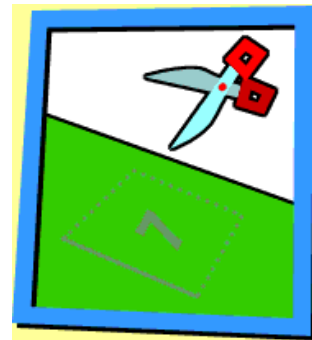


### Step Two

To make the doors open, cut across the top, bottom and one side of each door (i.e. three of the sides) and then bend it along the fourth side so it opens to form a small door.

Place your 'doors' card on the sheet of backing card. Cut around it so the backing card is the same shape.

Carefully trace on the backing card where each of the doors appears.



### Step Three

Now you can add what's behind the door. What about a small sticker or stamp in each space, or some little pictures cut out of a magazine?

Alternatively you could draw some small pictures to do with the special event, like a birthday, that you are counting down to.

Don't tell anyone else what you are putting behind your doors. Then it will be more of a surprise when the doors are opened!



### Step Four

Glue the card with the doors on it on to the backing card, making sure the doors fit over the pictures.

Then carefully close the doors and your advent calendar is ready.

Can you think of some other ways of making interesting things appear behind the doors? Perhaps you can create some little '3D' pictures behind each door, for example. Or you should include some secret messages to create a secret messages calendar.