

# Creating Virtual Escape Rooms: Using Google Slides

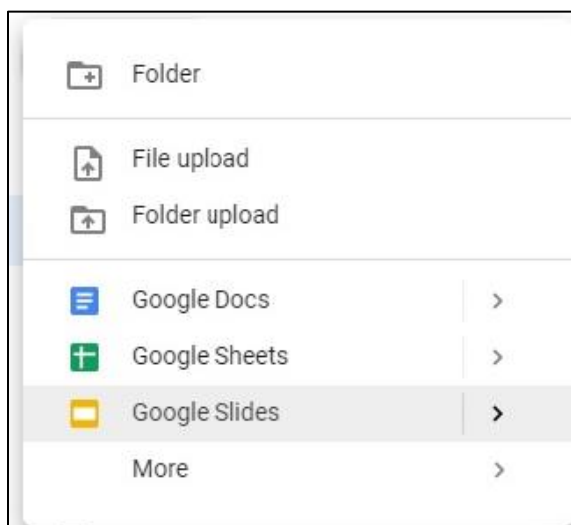
## Introduction

Google Slides is a free to use tool available to all users that have a Google Account. While we are use to the idea of using this program to create presentations it also has the ability to be used to create interactive presentations and Escape Rooms.

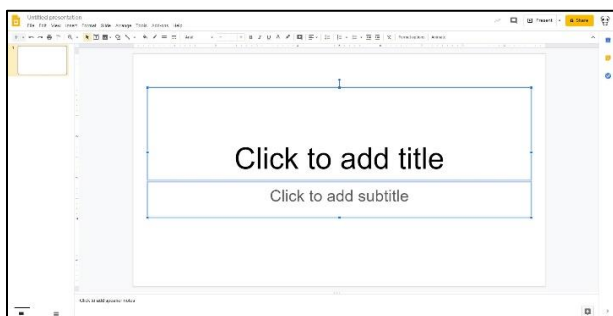
## Starting a Slides Project

To get started on a project the first step is to navigate to your Google Drive Account.

1. There you select **Create New** and choose a **Google Slides** presentation.



In your new slide presentation, you will automatically be given a new title slide.



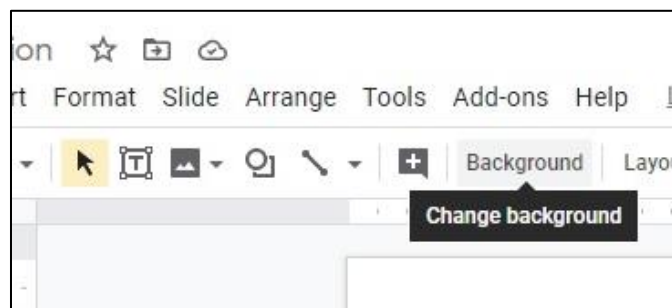
2. Delete the text boxes but keep this first slide.

## Setting a Background Image

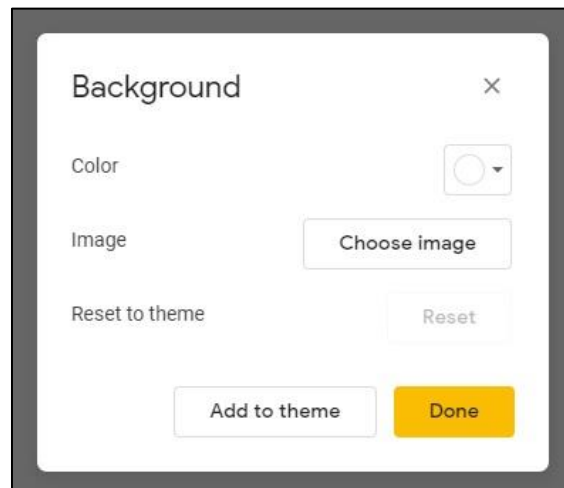
To set an image that is going to serve as you Room for your escape room you are going to want to insert a picture as a background on the ribbon.

To apply a background image:

1. Select the **Background** text on the ribbon.



2. In the Background selection window, select **Choose image**.

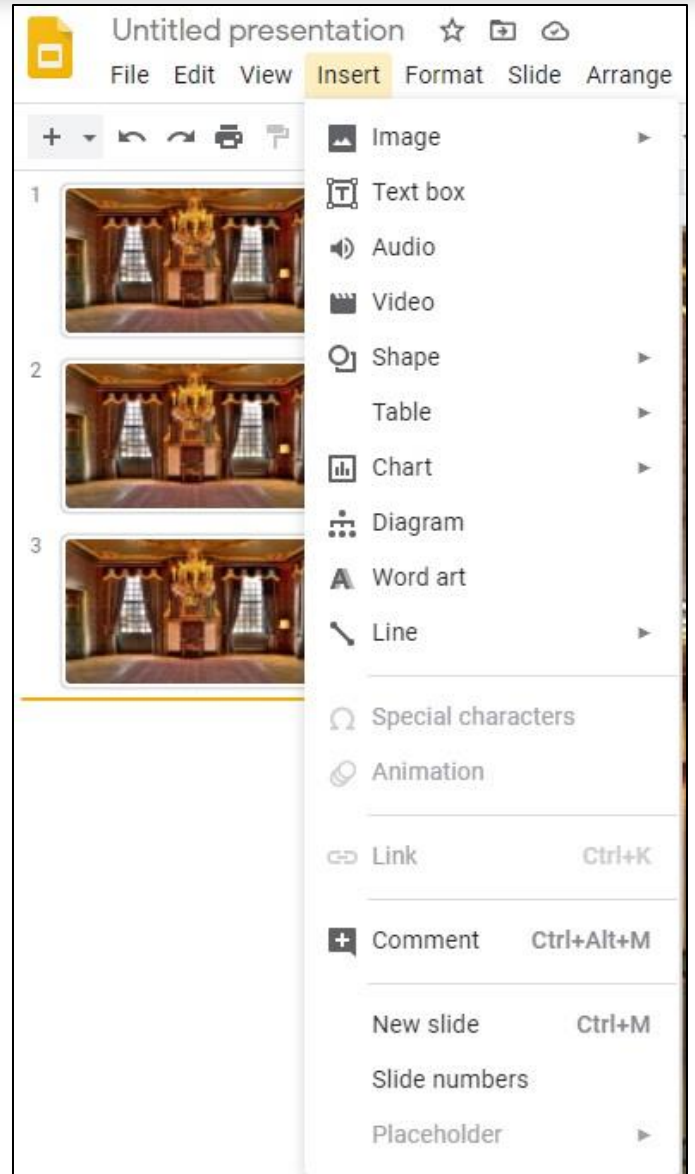
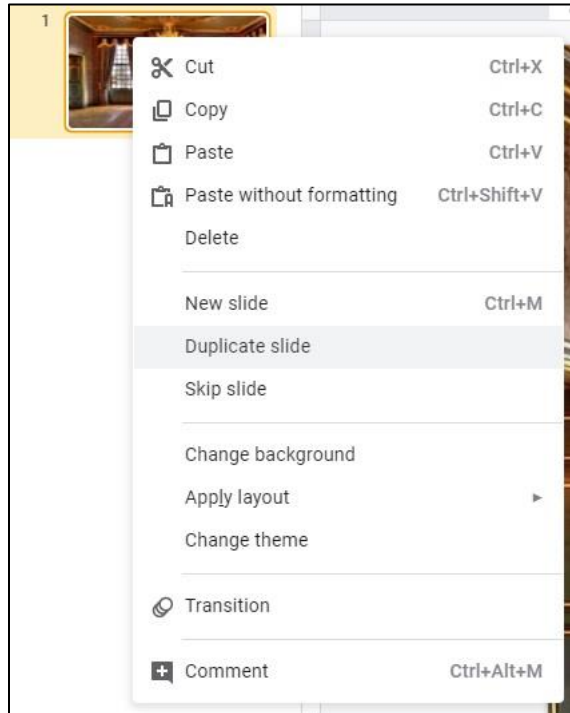


This will allow you to search your computer for the files you have and set your room photo.

# Creating Virtual Escape Rooms: Using Google Slides



This room can be duplicated by right clicking on the slide preview to the left and choosing **Duplicate slide** if you need to use this same room for multiple views.



Once inserted into the slide the ribbon can be used for formatting.

## Inserting Items & Formatting

Google Slides has a variety of items that can be inserted into the presentation or room under the **Insert Tab**. Simple select it to add **Text, Images, Audio** and **Shapes**.

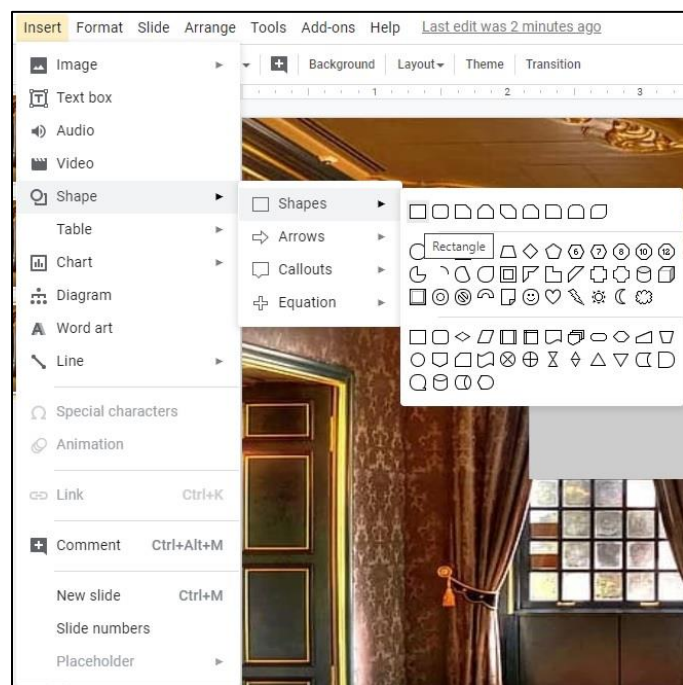


# Creating Virtual Escape Rooms: Using Google Slides


## Turing Shapes into Links

To create an interactive presentation and give users the ability to travel to specific slides or make them stay on their current slide until they select the correct answer or object you are actually going to be adding in some shapes that will be invisible to the user.

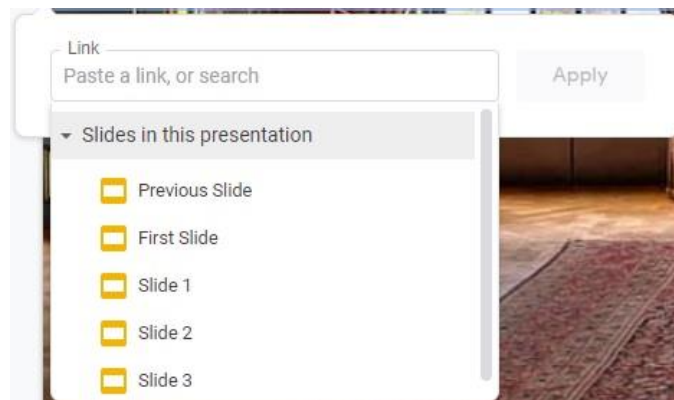
One shape will need to cover the entire slide and be linked to the slide that is currently displayed. This is going to override what slides normally do during presentations which is automatically transition to the next slide no matter where you click.



Creating a link to the current slide:

1. In the **Insert** Tab select a **Rectangle** shape.
2. Trace that shape over the entire slide covering all the edges.
3. In the ribbon go to the **Fill** and **Border** settings and set both to **Transparent**.
4. Then select the link icon  in the ribbon.

5. Under **Slides in this presentation**, select the current slide you are on.



This means that now on this slide if a user clicks anywhere, they will be linked to this slide and therefore will be unable to continue to the next area.

## Creating Links in between slides

Now that just clicking anywhere will not take the user to the next slide you need to put in additional shapes that will. These can be over images or items the user sees on screen or over answers to your riddles and clues used. Whichever you would like your user to interact with.

To create a link to a new slide:

1. Insert another shape this one can be any style or size to fit over the object you want you user to click on.



# Creating Virtual Escape Rooms: Using Google Slides

2. Set the Fill and Border to Transparent.
3. Select the link icon.
4. Under Slides in this presentation select the destination slide for this link.

## Inserting Audio

Inserting Audio can add an immersive element to your interactive presentation. While adding it to your presentation is very similar to adding in all the other elements discussed. There are some settings that are unique to audio.

## Sharing your project

While you can share your slides presentation as you normally would on slides with the large share button the trick, I used to remove the elements that make the presentation look less like a normal slide show.

How I share my presentation:

1. In the slideshow editor view select the first slide in the series.
2. Copy the URL above.
3. When sharing this URL with others towards the end of the URL erase the text that says **edit** and replace it with **preview?rm=minimal**.

`4/preview?rm=minimal&slide=i`

## Resources

Royalty Free Images:

### Pixabay

<https://pixabay.com/>

### Unsplash

<https://unsplash.com/>

Royalty Free Music for Audio:

### Bensound

<https://www.bensound.com>

### Free Music Archive

<https://freemusicarchive.org/>