

Hearts

About: The game of Hearts was first played in the United States sometime in the 1880s however it is believed to have originated in Germany and there were some similar card games played in Spain in the 1700's.

Number of players: 3 to 4

Type of Cards: regular deck of 52 (remove the Jokers)

Other supplies needed: playing chips (25 to 50. Make your own out of paper if you do not have enough!)

Object of the game: to avoid having any cards that belong to the Heart Suit.

Instructions (from 1887):

Dealing: a dealer is chosen, and the cards are distributed among the players, going clockwise and starting from the left of the dealer. Each player should have 13 cards. Each player also collects an equal amount of chips.

1. The player to the left begins the game by placing down a **leading suit**. A **leading suit** is any card of any suit that this player chooses. It is called a leading suit because all of the other players must follow by putting down a card of the same suit. This is how you start a **trick**, or a set of cards.
2. Going clockwise the other players take their turn "following suit" if possible (placing down a card that is of the same suit as the leading suit).
3. If a player does not have a card matching the leading suit in his/her hand, they may discard any card of any suit. If they do have a card that matches the leading suit, but they **revoke** by failing to put it down, they lose chips (agree upon a penalty amount of chips before the game begins).
4. The winner of the round is whoever has the highest value card in the suit. The winner leads the second **trick**.
5. If you win a trick, you keep the cards that had been laid out by the other players as well.
6. If a player takes all 13 hearts, he/she must pay 13 chips (about 4 chips to each player and one chip in the middle). Otherwise, the player with the lowest number of hearts wins and the other player pay him/her.
7. If you are not the winner, count how many hearts you have and pay the winner the same amount in chips.
8. If a player **revokes** (does not put down a suit) in order to avoid getting the 13 hearts, he/she must pay 8 chips to each player.

Additional notes:

* If you are playing with less than 4 people, you must draw cards from what had not been originally dealt, after the first trick.

* The game ends when all of the cards have been played or someone has 13 hearts.

* You can have more players, up to six, but less cards will be handed out in the dealing.