

Old Maid

About: This card game became popular in the 1800s and is still played today. Cards are paired off except for the “Old Maid” who does not get a match. The name of the game refers to the historical term for women who did not match with someone to marry.

Number of Players: 2 or more

Type of Cards: deck of 52

Object of the game: to form/discard pairs of cards and avoid being stuck with the “odd” card (it will be a Queen)

Instructions

Dealing: Anyone can be the dealer. Make sure that the Jokers and one Queen are removed from the 52-card deck. The dealers will hand out cards until the deck is spent. The players DO NOT need to have an equal number of cards.

Playing:

1. Players can look at their cards and will remove all pairs. These pairs will be placed face down in front of each player. ONLY pairs can be discarded from the players’ hands. If you have 3 of a kind, you can only put down 2 of the matching cards.
2. The dealer will then offer their hand, faced down, to the player on his/her left side. This player will draw one card and see if it matches any in their hand. If it does, they can put down the pair. If not, they must keep their new card.
3. Repeat step 2 going clockwise until all of the cards have been paired except 1.
4. This card will be the odd card or the “old maid”. Whoever has the old maid card loses the game.