



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

Monopoly is the best-selling patented board game of all time.



Have fun with board games

Get ready to enjoy some friendly competition!

Playing a board game with family members or friends is a great way to enjoy time together and sharpen your problem-solving skills. Before you roll the dice, check out these ideas for having the most fun with board games.

Choose a game

Many people enjoy traditional board games, like Clue, Life, and Monopoly, which have been around for generations. You may also like modern classics, like Catan and Ticket to Ride, or newer board games such as Cascadia or Hues and Clues. Choose from the games you or your friends already have at home, or check with your local library to find out whether you can borrow a board game. If your family or friends are undecided about which game to play, you can take a vote.

Set up your space

Pick a spot to play that has enough room for the game and will also be comfy for the players. For most board games, you will need a table and chairs. The dining or kitchen table works, or you could put pillows on the floor around a coffee table and have everyone sit on them for a festive feel.

Prepare to play

First, look inside the box to make sure no game pieces or dice are missing. If you're playing a game that requires people to write down answers or draw, gather enough paper and pens ahead of time—and test the pens first to make sure they work.

Serve snacks

If you want to add food, bite-size snacks or desserts that don't require utensils are easy to enjoy while playing a game. Bonus points if you match the food's theme to your game. For example, you could pass out chocolate gold coins if you're playing Monopoly.

Give prizes

Prizes can make friendly competition more fun. One idea is to make a silly trophy ahead of time for the winner. They get to keep it in their room until a new winner is crowned the next time you play together. To make one, flip over a plastic cup and glue an old toy or figurine on top. Then paint the whole thing gold. Or make certificates and hand them out as awards for achievements other than winning, such as best game face, funniest joke, or best sportsmanship. The more prizes, the better!



All you need are a little luck and skill.

Word game tips



If you enjoy word games like crosswords or word searches, try these tips to ace your game.

Read! The more you read, the more words you'll know, which will help when you want to use or find them in any game.

Practice Playing helps you improve. Find out if your game has a "difficulty curve." (Many crossword puzzles do.) If so, start at an easier level and work up to the most challenging.

Use hints If you get stuck, it's OK to check an online game's "hints" or to ask a friend for help. Even pro crossword players admit to looking up a clue now and then! The goal is to keep practicing.