

How to Play Clock Patience

Explore this Article ■ [Setting Up the Tableau](#) ■ [Playing Through the Deck](#) ■ [Winning the Game](#)
■ [Questions & Answers](#) ■ [Tips and Warnings](#) ■ [References](#)

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Last Updated: December 1, 2021

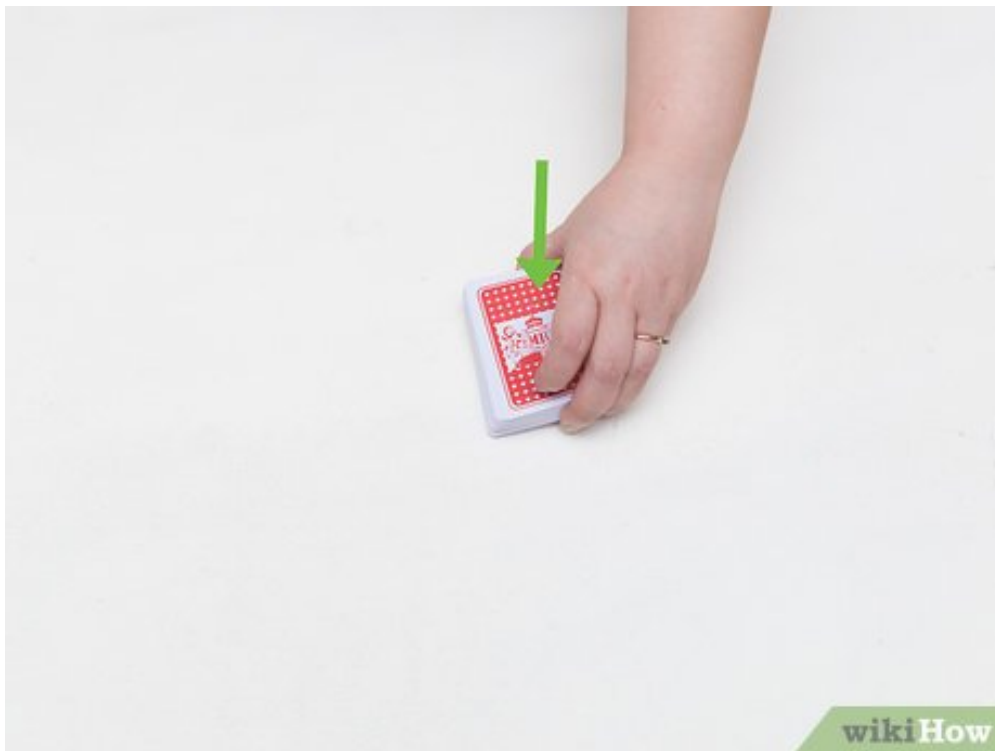
Clock Patience is a simple, fun variant of Solitaire. Like other versions of Solitaire, Clock Patience is played by one player with only one deck of cards. Unlike other games, however, it requires almost no strategy, and winning comes down to complete chance. To play Clock Patience, deal your cards, play through the deck, and learn how to win the game.

Part 1

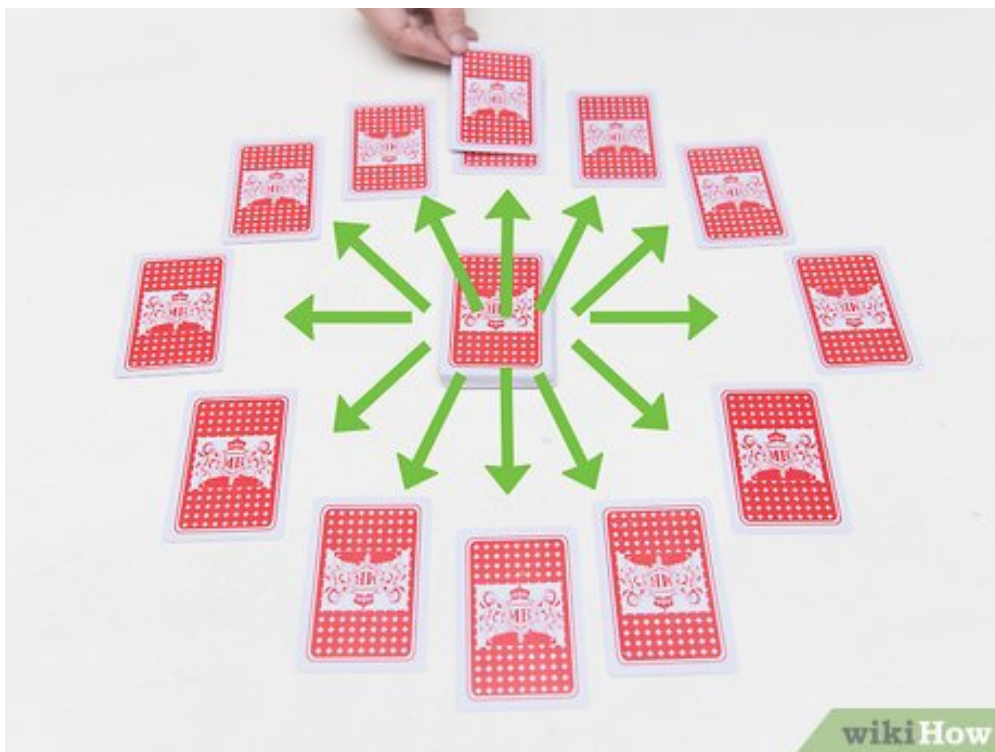
Part 1 of 3: Setting Up the Tableau



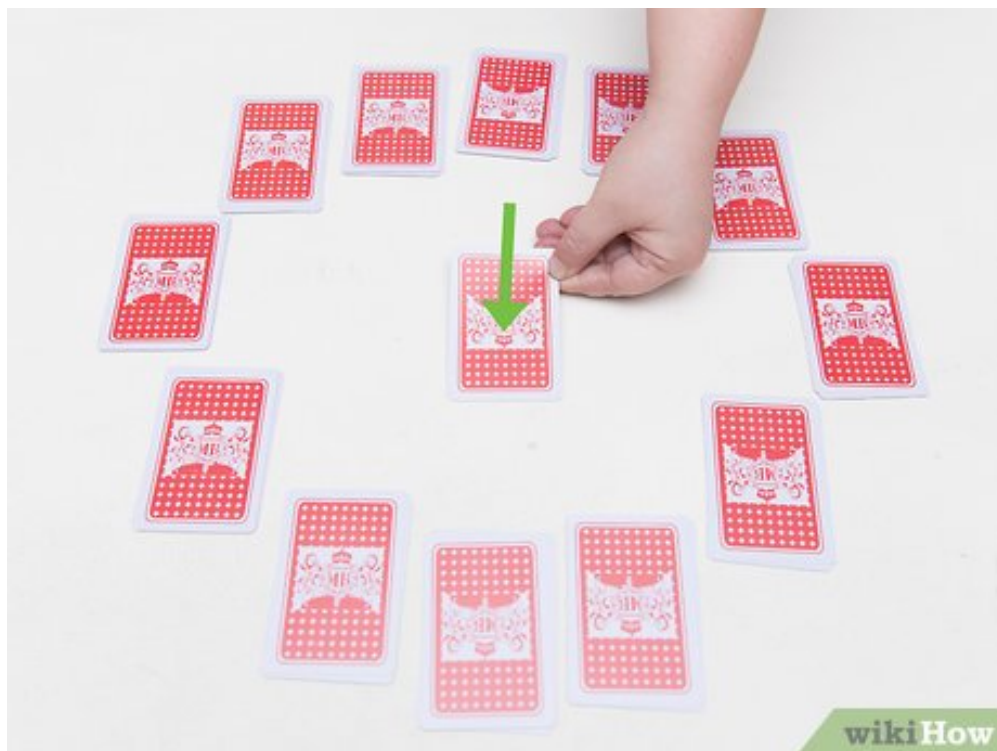
1 Shuffle your pack of cards. Any standard set of cards will work for this game, so get a deck at the store or find one around the house. Count out your cards to make sure that you have all 52, otherwise you won't be able to win. Shuffle the deck and get ready to deal. Also consider playing online if you have a computer and an internet connection.^[1]



2 Find a large, flat surface. Clock Patience requires a little more space than a traditional game of Solitaire. Find a large flat surface like a desk or a tabletop to play on. You can also play clock patience on the floor if you need more space.



3 Begin dealing the cards. Clock Patience takes its name from the setup: the cards are arranged in 12 piles of four, positioned in a circle. Each of these 12 piles takes the position of a number on a clock: one pile for 12 o'clock, one pile for 1 o'clock, one pile for 2 o'clock, and so on. Deal the cards face down into their 12 piles around the circle until each pile has four cards.^[2]



4 Place the remaining stack in the middle. Once you deal four cards into their 12 piles, you will have four cards remaining. These become their own 13th stack, placed facedown in the middle of the circle.^[3]

Part
2

Part 2 of 3: Playing Through the Deck



1 Play the first card. The middle, or 13th pile has four cards: turn one of them over and place it on top of its stack. Look at the number or face-value of the card. The number or face will determine where the card goes.^[4]



2 Move the card to its pile. Starting with the 1 o'clock position, cards belong in the stack associated with their number: Aces go to the 1 o'clock pile, twos go to the 2 o'clock pile, threes go to the 3 o'clock pile, fours go to the 4 o'clock pile, fives go to the 5 o'clock pile, sixes go to the 6 o'clock pile, sevens go to the 7 o'clock pile, eights go to the 8 o'clock pile, nines go to the 9 o'clock pile, tens go to the 10 o'clock pile. For face cards, place the Jacks in the 11 o'clock pile and Queens in the 12 o'clock pile. Kings will be placed in the middle, or 13th pile. When you find the correct pile, slide the card face up, under the stack it belongs in.



3 Turn over the next card. Turn over the top card of the pile you just played into. This becomes your next card in play. Place that card into the pile in which it belongs. For example, a 7 of diamonds would go facedown into the bottom of the 7 o'clock pile. A Queen of spades would go facedown at the bottom of the 12 o'clock pile.



4 Continue playing cards. For each card that you turn over and place in the correct pile, flip over the next card from that pile and play it. Clock patience is a fun game to play quickly, so try to place the cards as quickly as you determine where they belong. Continue playing until there are no cards to flip over.^[5]

Part
3

Part 3 of 3: Winning the Game



1 Win by turning over all of the cards. If you flip over and play your last card, then find that all of the cards have successfully been placed into their piles, you win. All four Kings will be in the middle pile, all Jacks will be in the 11 o'clock pile, all sixes will be in the 6 o'clock and so on. Reshuffle your cards and play another hand.^[6]



2 Lose by failing to turn over all the cards. If you get to the end of the game and you've exposed all four kings but other cards are still facedown, you lose the game. Clock Patience is entirely a game of chance, so don't be too frustrated. Shuffle your cards well and try again.^[7]



3 Don't worry about strategy. Unlike other Solitaire variations, strategy doesn't factor into Clock Patience. The order and stacking of the cards is left entirely up to chance, affected only by the order in which they're dealt. In fact, you have a 1 in 13 chance of winning: the exact number of piles that you dealt.^[8]



Community Q&A

Question

How many people can play this game?



Community Answer

Clock Patience is a game for one player.

Helpful 22 Not Helpful 6

Question

What happens if one of the piles runs out of cards, but you don't have all the kings yet? You don't have any cards to draw from at that point.



Community Answer

If you run out of cards in a stack to turn over, turn over another card from the 13th (King pile), then continue playing as normal.

Helpful 26 Not Helpful 9

Question

Can you put more than one of the card on top of the same one?



Community Answer

You're on the right track by matching like-cards, but you should put your same-numbered cards below the stack, not on top of it.

Helpful 16 Not Helpful 4

Question

What do I do with the aces?



Community Answer

Aces are 1 o'clock in this game, so they function like all the other numbers.

Helpful 11 Not Helpful 2

Question

Do I put the cards in the pile or next to it?



Community Answer

You put them underneath the pile for an ace to a queen. If it's a king, you put it next to the thirteenth pile. The piles are like hours of a clock.

Helpful 7 Not Helpful 0

Question

If I turn over four cards (all the same number) and there are cards left on the table, where do I pick my next card from?



Community Answer

If that happens, you take a card from the King pile (the 13th pile) and continue playing as normal.

Helpful 8 Not Helpful 3

Question

Where are cards drawn from if the cards run out in the King pile?



Community Answer

From my experience, you take from the Queen pile, and if that's done too, then keep going clockwise. When all the piles have run out of cards, you have a winner.

Helpful 7 Not Helpful 3

Question

What should I do when I get a double card?



Community Answer

You put it on the same pile and pick another one up from the pile. If there are no cards left on the pile, you pick one up from the four cards in the middle.

Helpful 6 Not Helpful 1

VideoRead Video Transcript

<https://www.wikihow.com/video/6/64/Play+Clock+Patience+Step+0.1080p.mp4>



Tips

- Due to the simplicity of this game, it can be used to teach children about numbers and card games.
- Make sure you keep space between your piles. If they're too close together, they could become mixed up, which can ruin your game.
- There aren't any other variations of Clock Patience, but Patience/Solitaire is a large genre of card games. When you get bored of Clock Patience, learn another Patience version like Klondike or Aces Up.

References

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Co-authors: **15**

Updated: **December 1, 2021**

Views: **183,814**

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