

# Bid Whist

4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

**Win at least the number of tricks your team bid.**

## SETUP

- 4 players in partnerships, 54 cards.
- Deal 12 each, 6 to the kitty.
- Bid 3-7 tricks with uptown, downtown, or no trump.

## SCORING

- Make bid: +1 per trick won.
- Fail bid: lose bid amount.

*Tip: Use the kitty to void a suit and strengthen your trumps.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible.
- Highest trump or highest led-suit card wins.
- Winner leads the next trick.

*Bid Whist is a popular partnership trick-taking game in the African-American community. Players bid for the right to name trumps and must win the number of tricks they bid, with the option to go 'uptown' (high-to-low) or 'downtown' (low-to-high).*

## Objective

Win at least the number of tricks your partnership bid. The first team to reach a target score wins.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players in two partnerships.
2. **Deck:** 54 cards (standard 52 plus 2 jokers).
3. **Deal:** Deal 12 cards to each player. The remaining 6 cards form the kitty.

## Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** Players bid 3-7 tricks, specifying uptown (Ace high), downtown (Ace low), or no trump. Highest bidder wins.
2. **Step 2:** The winning bidder picks up the kitty, adds it to their hand, and discards 6 cards face down.
3. **Step 3:** The bidder names the trump suit (or confirms no trump) and leads the first trick.
4. **Step 4:** Players must follow suit. Highest trump or highest card of the led suit wins each trick.

## Scoring

- If the bidding team makes their bid, they score 1 point per trick won.
- If they fail, they lose the number of points they bid.

## Variations

- **Rise and Fly:** A variant where the bidding team must win all 13 tricks for a massive bonus.
- **No Kitty:** Some groups deal all cards evenly without a kitty.

## Tips and Strategies

- Bid based on your trump length and high cards.
- Use the kitty to strengthen your hand and void a suit.
- Communicate with your partner through your leads.

## Tips & Strategy

Bid aggressively when you hold long trump suits. Use the kitty to create voids for trumping and strengthen your best suit.

The kitty is your biggest advantage as the bidder. Use it to shore up weaknesses and create a hand that can dominate the trick play.