

# Brag

2 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

Win the pot by having the highest-ranking 3-card hand or bluffing others to fold.

## SETUP

- 3-6 players with a standard 52-card deck.
- Each player starts with an agreed number of chips.
- Deal 3 cards face-down to each player.

## SCORING

- Prial (three of a kind) is highest; three 3s beats three Aces.
- Running Flush > Run > Flush > Pair > High Card.
- A-2-3 is the highest running flush.

*Tip: Play blind early to apply pressure at half cost, then look when the pot is large.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Bet, raise, or fold in a single continuous betting round.
- Playing blind (not looking at cards) lets you bet at half the normal amount.
- No checking allowed; you must bet to stay in.

Brag is a classic British card game known for its simple rules and emphasis on bluffing and betting. It is typically played with three to six players using a standard 52-card deck. The game consists of several betting rounds where players attempt to create the highest-ranking hand or bluff their opponents into folding.

## Objective

The objective of Brag is to win chips from other players by either having the highest-ranking hand at the showdown or convincing opponents to fold through strategic betting and bluffing.

## Setup

1. **Players:** Brag can be played with three to six players.
2. **Deck:** Use a standard 52-card deck with no jokers.
3. **Chips:** Each player starts with an agreed-upon number of chips, used for betting during the game.
4. **Dealer:** Determine the first dealer either by mutual agreement or by drawing cards. The dealer rotates clockwise after each hand.

## Gameplay Basics

1. **Dealing:** The dealer shuffles the deck and deals three cards face-down to each player, starting with the player to their left and proceeding clockwise. Players may look at their cards but should keep them hidden from their opponents.
2. **Betting Rounds:** After dealing, there is a single continuous betting round. Players do not exchange or draw new cards. The player to the left of the dealer starts the betting, and betting proceeds clockwise around the table. Players can fold (discard their hand and forfeit any chips bet) or bet/raise (place chips into the pot at least matching the current bet). There is no checking in Brag — you must bet to stay in. **Blind play:** A player may choose to play blind (without looking at their cards), in which case they only need to bet half the normal amount.
3. **Showdown:** If more than one player remains after the final betting round, those players reveal their hands, and the player with the highest-ranking hand wins the pot. If all but one player folds during a betting round, the remaining player wins the pot without revealing their hand.
4. **Bluffing:** Bluffing is a key element of Brag. Players may bet or raise to convince opponents that they have a strong hand when, in fact, they do not. Successful bluffing can lead opponents to fold stronger hands, allowing the bluffer to win the pot with a weaker hand.

## Hand Rankings

---

1. **Prial (Three of a Kind):** Three cards of the same rank.  
Note: three 3s is the highest prial, beating three Aces.
2. **Running Flush:** Three consecutive cards of the same suit. Note: A-2-3 is the highest running flush.
3. **Run:** Three consecutive cards not necessarily of the same suit.
4. **Flush:** Three cards of the same suit but not in consecutive order.
5. **Pair:** Two cards of the same rank.
6. **High Card:** If none of the above combinations are present, the hand's ranking is determined by its highest card.

## Special Rules and Variations

---

1. **Ante:** Some variations of Brag require players to contribute a small ante before each hand begins.
2. **Wild Cards:** In some versions of Brag, certain cards may be designated as wild cards, allowing them to substitute for any other card to form a winning hand.
3. **Betting Limits:** Brag can be played with fixed betting limits or no limits at all, depending on the preferences of the players.
4. **Blind Bets:** In some variations, players may be required to make blind bets before receiving their cards, adding an element of risk and uncertainty to the game.
5. **Community Cards:** Similar to poker, some versions of Brag may include community cards that are shared among all players and used to form the best possible hand.

## Tips for Success

---

- Observe opponents' betting patterns and reactions to determine when they may be bluffing.
- Use strategic betting to control the pace of the game and extract maximum value from strong hands.
- Be aware of the hand rankings and adjust your strategy accordingly based on the strength of your hand relative to opponents.

## Variations

---

- **Five-Card Brag:** A variation of the game where players are dealt five cards instead of three, increasing the complexity of hand rankings and strategies.

### Tips & Strategy

---

To succeed in Brag, observe opponents' betting patterns, use strategic betting, and be aware of hand rankings. Bluffing is a key element, but use it judiciously to maximize its effectiveness.

In Brag, strategic betting, hand reading, and bluffing are essential skills. Use observation and psychology to gain insights into opponents' hands and tendencies.