

Femkort

3-6 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Correctly predict the exact number of tricks you will win out of five.

SETUP

- Use a standard 52-card deck for 3-6 players.
- Deal exactly 5 cards to each player.
- Turn the next card face-up to determine trump.

SCORING

- Exact bid: 10 points plus 2 per trick taken.
- Missed bid: 0 points for the round.

Tip: Bidding zero with a weak hand is underrated; the 10-point bonus for a correct bid is very valuable.

ON YOUR TURN

- Bid how many of the 5 tricks you expect to win.
- Dealer bids last and cannot make total bids equal five.
- Follow suit if possible; highest trump or led suit wins.

Femkort, meaning 'five cards' in Swedish, is a quick and accessible trick-taking game where each player receives exactly five cards. Players bid on how many tricks they expect to win, making it an excellent introduction to the trick-taking genre.

Objective

Correctly predict and win the exact number of tricks you bid. Winning more or fewer tricks than your bid results in penalty points.

Setup

1. **Players:** 3 to 6 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Deal exactly 5 cards to each player. Turn the next card face-up to determine the trump suit.

Gameplay

1. **Bidding:** Starting with the player left of the dealer, each player declares how many of the five tricks they expect to win. The dealer bids last and cannot bid a number that would make the total bids equal five.
2. **Trick play:** The player left of the dealer leads the first trick. Players must follow suit if possible; otherwise, they may play any card including trump.
3. **Winning tricks:** The highest trump wins the trick, or the highest card of the led suit if no trump is played.

Scoring

- **Exact bid:** Score 10 points plus 2 points per trick taken.
- **Missed bid:** Score 0 points for the round, regardless of tricks taken.

Variations

- **Ascending Femkort:** Play multiple rounds, starting with 1 card in the first round and increasing to 5, then back down.
- **Blind Femkort:** The trump card remains hidden until the first trump is played.

Tips and Strategies

- With only five tricks available, even one miscalculation costs you the entire round's score.
- Pay close attention to the trump suit and count how many trump cards might be in play.
- Bidding zero can be a smart play with a weak hand, as the 10-point bonus for an exact bid is valuable.

Tips & Strategy

Bidding zero with a weak hand is often underrated. The 10-point bonus for a correct bid makes conservative play highly rewarding in Femkort.

The dealer position is both an advantage and a constraint. While you see all other bids before making yours, the restriction prevents you from making a safe bid, requiring creative hand evaluation.