

Happy Families

2-6 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Collect the most complete sets of four matching cards.

SETUP

- Deal 5-7 cards to each player.
- Place remaining cards as a draw pile.
- Decide who goes first.

SCORING

- One point per completed family of four.
- Most families wins.

Tip: Track what others ask for to deduce their hands.

ON YOUR TURN

- Ask a player for a rank you hold.
- Receive their cards of that rank or draw from the pile.
- Place completed families face up.

Happy Families is a classic British card game where players collect complete sets of four cards by asking opponents for specific cards. It is closely related to Go Fish and is a great game for all ages.

Objective

Collect the most complete families (sets of four cards of the same rank) by asking opponents for cards you need.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 6 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck (each rank represents a 'family' of four suits).
3. **Deal:** Deal 5 to 7 cards to each player depending on player count. Place the remaining cards face down as the draw pile.

Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** On your turn, ask any specific player for a specific card rank that you already hold at least one of (for example, 'Do you have any Kings?').
2. **Step 2:** If the asked player has cards of that rank, they must hand them all over to you, and you get another turn.
3. **Step 3:** If the asked player has no cards of that rank, they say 'Not at home' (or 'Go Fish'), and you draw one card from the draw pile.
4. **Step 4:** When you complete a family of four, place it face up on the table. Play continues until all families are collected.

Scoring

- Each completed family of four cards is worth 1 point.
- The player with the most completed families at the end of the game wins.

Variations

- **Specific Card Requests:** Players must ask for a specific card (such as 'King of Hearts') rather than a general rank.
- **Memory Happy Families:** Cards are also spread face-down on the table, and players can flip cards to find matches instead of drawing.

Tips and Strategies

- Keep track of which players have which ranks based on their questions.
- Ask for ranks where you already hold 2 or 3 cards to complete families faster.
- Spread your requests among different opponents to gather information about many hands.

Tips & Strategy

Pay attention to what other players ask for, as it reveals what they hold. Prioritize completing families where you already have three cards.

Observation is your strongest tool. By tracking every request made around the table, you can deduce which players hold specific cards.