

Linger Longer

3-6 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Medium

Be the last player with cards remaining by winning tricks and drawing from the stock.

SETUP

- 3-6 players with a standard 52-card deck.
- Deal cards equal to the number of players. Remaining cards form the stock.
- Dealer's last card determines the trump suit.

SCORING

- No points. Last player with cards in hand wins.

Tip: Win tricks early to stockpile cards, then play conservatively as the stock dwindles.

ON YOUR TURN

- Lead a card; others must follow suit if able.
- Highest trump wins, or highest card of led suit if no trump played.
- Trick winner draws from the stock and leads next.

Linger Longer is a trick-taking game where players try to remain in the game as long as possible. Each time you win a trick, you draw a new card from the stock. When you run out of cards, you are eliminated. The last player with cards in hand wins.

Objective

Be the last player remaining with cards in hand. Win tricks to draw replacement cards from the stock, while other players run out and are eliminated.

Setup

1. **Players:** 3 to 6 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Deal each player the same number of cards as there are players (e.g., 4 players = 4 cards each). The remaining cards form the stock pile.
4. **Trump:** The last card dealt to the dealer determines the trump suit.

Gameplay

1. **Lead:** The player to the dealer's left leads any card to start.
2. **Follow suit:** Players must follow suit if able. If not, they may play a trump or discard any card.
3. **Win trick:** The highest trump played wins the trick. If no trump is played, the highest card of the led suit wins.
4. **Draw:** The trick winner draws one card from the stock pile for each card in the trick (one card per player who contributed).
5. **Elimination:** When a player has no cards and the stock is empty, they are out of the game.
6. **Continue:** The trick winner leads the next trick.

Winning

- **Last standing:** The last player who still has cards in hand wins the game.
- **Stock depletion:** Once the stock runs out, players can no longer replenish and will eventually run out of cards.

Variations

- **Fixed draw:** Instead of drawing one card per trick card, the winner draws only one card total from the stock.
- **No trump:** Play without a trump suit for a simpler version.

Tips and Strategies

- Win tricks early when the stock is still large to build up your hand.
- Use trump cards strategically to steal tricks when the stock is running low.
- Conserve your trump cards for critical moments rather than playing them early.

Tips & Strategy

Focus on winning tricks while the stock is full. Save your trumps for the endgame when every trick matters for survival.

The key tension is between winning tricks to replenish your hand and conserving strong cards for later. Overcommitting trumps early can leave you defenseless.