

# Napoleon

2-7 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Win the number of tricks you bid; the highest bidder sets trump by their first lead.

## SETUP

- Use a standard 52-card deck.
- Deal 5 cards each.
- Bid from 1 to 5 (Napoleon = all 5); each bid must exceed the previous or pass.

## SCORING

- Meet your bid and all players pay you the bid amount.
- Fail and you pay each player the bid amount.
- Napoleon (5) pays/costs double; Wellington triples, Blücher quadruples.

*Tip: Bid based on guaranteed tricks, not hopeful ones; choose your lead suit carefully.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Highest bidder leads first; the suit of that card becomes trump.
- Follow suit if possible; otherwise play any card.
- Highest trump or highest led-suit card wins the trick.

*Napoleon (commonly called Nap) is a British trick-taking game where players bid on how many of the five tricks they will win, then play to fulfill their bid. Its quick hands and simple bidding make it a favorite at pubs and social gatherings.*

## Objective

Win your bid by taking the exact number of tricks you declared. The highest bidder leads and chooses trump by the suit of their first card played.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 7 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** 5 cards each.
4. **Bidding:** Players bid from 1 to 5 (Napoleon = all 5). Each bid must be higher than the previous, or the player passes.

## Gameplay

1. **Trump:** The bid winner leads the first trick. The suit of their first card becomes trump.
2. **Following Suit:** Players must follow suit if possible. Otherwise, they may play any card.
3. **Winning Tricks:** Highest trump wins, or highest card of the led suit.
4. **Scoring:** If the bidder wins their bid, all players pay them the bid amount. If they fail, they pay each player the bid amount.
5. **Napoleon Bonus:** A bid of 5 (Napoleon) pays double if won and costs double if lost.

## Special Bids

- **Wellington:** A bid that outranks Napoleon, paying triple.
- **Blücher:** Outranks Wellington, paying quadruple. Only available after a Wellington bid.

## Tips and Strategies

- Bid based on your guaranteed tricks, not hopeful ones.
- Choose your lead card carefully — it sets the trump suit for the entire hand.
- With only 5 tricks, every card decision is critical.

## Tips & Strategy

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A bid of 3 is safe with three high trumps. A bid of 5 requires near-perfect cards. Know the difference between a likely trick and a certain one.

Since trump is set by your lead card, choose the suit where you are strongest. Having the Ace and King of a suit makes it an excellent trump choice.