

# Ninety-Eight

2-5 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

**Be the last player standing by not exceeding 98.**

## SETUP

- Deal 4 cards to each player.
- Set running total to 0.
- Place remaining cards as draw pile.

## SCORING

- Last player standing wins.
- Eliminated players get a strike in multi-round play.

*Tip: Save Kings and subtract-10 cards for when the total gets dangerously high.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Play a card and add its value to the total.
- Draw a card from the pile.
- Special cards: King sets total to 98, 10 adds or subtracts 10.

*Ninety-Eight is a simple adding card game where players take turns playing cards that add to a running total. The goal is to avoid pushing the total over 98, as the player who does so is eliminated.*

## Objective

Avoid being the player who pushes the running card total over 98. Be the last player remaining after all others are eliminated.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 5 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Deal 4 cards to each player. Place the remaining cards face down as the draw pile. The running total starts at 0.

## Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** On your turn, play one card from your hand to the discard pile and add its value to the running total.
2. **Step 2:** Number cards (2-9) add their face value. 10s add or subtract 10. Jacks and Queens add 10. Kings set the total to 98. Aces add 1 or 11 (player's choice).
3. **Step 3:** After playing, draw one card from the draw pile to maintain a hand of 4.
4. **Step 4:** If a player cannot play a card without exceeding 98, that player is eliminated. Play continues until one player remains.

## Scoring

- The last player remaining wins the round.
- In a multi-round game, each elimination earns a strike. Three strikes and a player is permanently out.

## Variations

- **Ninety-Nine:** The target number is 99 instead of 98, with slightly different special card rules.
- **Team Ninety-Eight:** Players form pairs and work together to eliminate the opposing team.

## Tips and Strategies

- Save your Kings and 10-subtract cards for emergencies when the total is high.
- Use Aces strategically, choosing 1 when the total is high and 11 when it is low.
- Pay attention to the draw pile size and plan for when cards run out.

## Tips & Strategy

Hold onto Kings and 10-subtract cards as lifelines for when the total climbs high. Use low-value cards to stall while opponents burn their safe cards.

Resource management is the core of Ninety-Eight. The player who holds the right special cards at the right time will outlast opponents in the end game.