

Pitty Pat

2-4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

Be the first to get rid of all your cards by matching ranks.

SETUP

- Deal 5 cards to each player.
- Place the deck face down as the draw pile.
- Flip the top card to start the discard pile.

SCORING

- Winner scores 0; others score 1 point per remaining card.
- Lowest total score after all rounds wins.

Tip: Always play every matching card you have before ending your turn.

ON YOUR TURN

- Match a card by rank to the top of the discard pile.
- Draw one card if you cannot match.
- Play multiple matches in one turn if possible.

Pitty Pat is a fast and easy matching card game hugely popular in Belize and other parts of Central America. Players race to empty their hand by matching cards to the top of a discard pile by rank.

Objective

Be the first player to get rid of all your cards by matching them by rank to the top card of the discard pile.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 4 players.
2. **Deck:** A standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Deal 5 cards to each player. Place the remaining deck face down as the draw pile and flip the top card to start the discard pile.

Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** On your turn, check if you have a card that matches the rank of the top discard pile card.
2. **Step 2:** If you have a match, play it on the discard pile. You may play multiple matching cards in one turn.
3. **Step 3:** If you do not have a match, draw from the draw pile. If the drawn card matches, play it immediately. Otherwise, add it to your hand.
4. **Step 4:** Play passes to the next player. The first player to empty their hand wins the round.

Scoring

- The winner of each round scores 0 points.
- Other players score 1 point for each card remaining in their hand.
- Play multiple rounds, and the player with the lowest total score at the end wins.

Variations

- **Belizean Pitty Pat:** Includes a betting or wagering element common in Belizean social play.
- **Speed Pitty Pat:** All players play simultaneously without taking turns, grabbing at the discard pile in real time.

Tips and Strategies

- Play matching cards as soon as possible to reduce your hand size quickly.
- Pay attention to which ranks have been heavily played, as fewer matches will be available for those.
- If you draw and do not match, keep track of useful cards that may come around again.

Tips & Strategy

Play all matching cards immediately when you can. Since the game is largely luck-based, your best strategic choice is to minimize draws by paying attention to frequently appearing ranks.

While largely a game of chance, experienced players note that tracking which ranks are depleted helps them gauge their odds of drawing useful cards. Playing multiple matches in one turn is always the right move.