

Quadrille

4 players

40 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Medium

As declarer, win the majority of tricks with or without a secret ally.

SETUP

- 4 players use a 40-card deck (8s, 9s, 10s removed).
- Deal 10 cards to each player.
- Players bid for the right to name trumps.

SCORING

- Successful bid: declarer collects from each opponent.
- Failed bid: declarer pays each opponent.
- Vole (all 10 tricks) earns a substantial bonus.

Tip: When calling a king, choose a suit where you hold supporting cards to assist your secret ally.

ON YOUR TURN

- Declarer names trumps and may call a king to gain a secret ally.
- Follow the led suit when possible.
- Declarer wins if their side takes enough tricks.

Quadrille is an elegant four-player trick-taking game that evolved from the Spanish game *Ombre*. It became the dominant card game in fashionable European society during the mid-eighteenth century, prized for its refined bidding system and partnership dynamics.

Objective

As the declarer, win at least a majority of the tricks. The remaining players cooperate to prevent this, though alliances shift based on bidding each round.

Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players.
2. **Deck:** A 40-card deck with 8s, 9s, and 10s removed from a standard deck.
3. **Deal:** Each player receives 10 cards.
4. **Bidding:** Players bid for the right to name trumps and play as the declarer.

Gameplay

1. **Trump selection:** The winning bidder names the trump suit for the round.
2. **Calling a king:** The declarer may call a specific king, and whoever holds it becomes a secret ally for that hand.
3. **Trick play:** Standard trick-taking rules apply. Players must follow the led suit when possible.
4. **Resolution:** The declarer succeeds if they and their ally (if any) win enough tricks.

Scoring

- **Successful bid:** The declarer collects a payment from each opponent.
- **Failed bid:** The declarer pays each opponent.
- **Vole:** Winning all ten tricks earns a substantial bonus.

Variations

- **Mediateur:** A variant that introduced additional bid levels and more complex scoring.
- **Quintille:** An adaptation for five players with modified dealing and bidding.

Tips and Strategies

- When calling a king, choose a suit where you hold several supporting cards so you can assist your secret ally.
- Pay close attention to which player seems to be helping the declarer to identify the hidden partnership.

Tips & Strategy

Mastering the art of calling the right king is essential. Choose a suit where your holdings complement the potential ally's king, and watch opponents' play patterns to unmask hidden partnerships.

Identifying the secret ally quickly gives defenders a huge advantage. Watch for subtle cues like which suits a player leads and which tricks they seem eager to win.