

# Twenty-Eight

4 players

32 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

As the bidding team, capture enough point cards to meet your bid.

## SETUP

- Use a 32-card deck with 4 players in two partnerships.
- Deal 4 cards each, bid, then deal 4 more cards each.
- The bid winner places a trump card face-down (hidden trump).

## SCORING

- Jacks: 3 points, Nines: 2, Aces: 1, Tens: 1 (28 total per round).
- Meeting the bid scores the bid value; failing subtracts it.
- Kings, Queens, 8s, and 7s are worth 0 points.

*Tip: Bid aggressively when holding multiple jacks and nines since they are worth the most and rank highest.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Follow the led suit if possible; otherwise play any card.
- Request trump reveal when you cannot follow suit.
- The highest trump or highest card of the led suit wins the trick.

*Twenty-Eight is a South Asian trick-taking game where jacks and nines are the highest-ranking cards, creating a distinctive card hierarchy that surprises newcomers. Popular in India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, it features a bidding phase and hidden trump suit for added intrigue.*

## Objective

As the bidding team, capture enough point cards through tricks to meet your bid. As the defending team, prevent the bidders from reaching their target by winning key tricks.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players in two partnerships.
2. **Deck:** 32-card deck (Jack, 9, Ace, 10, King, Queen, 8, 7 in each suit).
3. **Deal:** Each player receives 4 cards initially, then 4 more after bidding.
4. **Bidding:** Players bid on how many of the 28 available points their team will capture. The minimum bid is 14.

## Card Ranking and Values

1. **Jack:** Highest rank, worth 3 points.
2. **Nine:** Second highest, worth 2 points.
3. **Ace:** Third highest, worth 1 point.
4. **Ten:** Fourth highest, worth 1 point.
5. **King, Queen, 8, 7:** Ranked in descending order, worth 0 points.

## Gameplay

1. **Hidden trump:** The bid winner selects a trump card from their hand and places it face-down. The trump suit is revealed only when a player cannot follow suit and requests the reveal.
2. **Following suit:** Players must follow the led suit. If unable, they may play any card or request trump to be revealed.
3. **Winning tricks:** The highest card of the led suit wins, unless a trump card is played, in which case the highest trump wins.

## Scoring

- **Bid success:** If the bidding team reaches their bid, they score the bid value.
- **Bid failure:** If they fall short, the bid value is subtracted from their score.
- **Total points per round:** 28 points (four jacks at 3 each = 12, four nines at 2 each = 8, four aces at 1 each = 4, four tens at 1 each = 4).

## Tips and Strategies

- Bid aggressively when you hold multiple jacks and nines, as these are worth the most points and control tricks.
- The hidden trump adds a layer of bluffing; opponents must guess the trump suit based on your play patterns.
- As a defender, force the trump reveal early to limit the bidding team's strategic advantage.

## Tips & Strategy

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Jacks are both the highest-ranking and highest-scoring cards. Building your bidding strategy around your jack holdings is fundamental to success.

The hidden trump is your greatest weapon. Play your off-suit cards in a way that disguises which suit is trump for as long as possible, maximizing the uncertainty for defenders.