

# Twenty-Nine

4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

Win tricks containing enough point cards to meet your team's bid.

## SETUP

- Four players in two partnerships, using 32 cards (7 through Ace).
- Deal 4 cards each, bid, then deal 4 more cards each.
- Winning bidder secretly declares the trump suit.

## SCORING

- Jacks = 3, Nines = 2, Aces = 1, Tens = 1 (28 total points).
- Bidding team scores the difference from 14 if successful, or opponents score the bid if they fail.

*Tip: Keep the trump hidden until a critical moment when revealing it will save your partner's trick.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Lead any card; others must follow suit if possible.
- Highest card of the led suit wins, unless trumped.
- Winner of each trick leads the next.

*Twenty-Nine is a popular South Asian trick-taking card game played with 32 cards from a standard deck. It features a unique bidding system and a non-standard card ranking where Jacks and Nines are the highest cards.*

## Objective

Win tricks containing enough point cards to meet or exceed your team's bid. The game is played in partnerships, with partners sitting opposite each other.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players in two partnerships.
2. **Deck:** 32 cards from a standard deck (7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King, Ace of each suit).
3. **Card Ranking:** Jack (highest), 9, Ace, 10, King, Queen, 8, 7 (lowest).
4. **Deal:** Deal 4 cards to each player initially. After bidding, deal 4 more cards to each player.

## Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** After receiving the first 4 cards, bidding begins. The minimum bid is 15 and the maximum is 28. Players bid clockwise, and the highest bidder's team must achieve that many points.
2. **Step 2:** The winning bidder declares the trump suit (which may be kept secret until revealed during play).
3. **Step 3:** The remaining 4 cards are dealt to each player, giving everyone 8 cards total.
4. **Step 4:** The player to the left of the dealer leads the first trick. Players must follow suit if possible. If unable to follow suit, they may play any card including a trump.
5. **Step 5:** The highest card of the led suit wins unless a trump is played, in which case the highest trump wins. The winner of each trick leads the next.

## Scoring

- Jack = 3 points, Nine = 2 points, Ace = 1 point, Ten = 1 point. Total of 28 points available.
- If the bidding team meets or exceeds their bid, they score the difference between points won and 14.
- If the bidding team fails, the opposing team scores the bid value.
- The game is typically played to a target score of 6 or 7 points.

## Variations

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- **Twenty-Eight:** A closely related game played widely in India, using the same 32 cards but with slightly different bidding rules.
- **Forty-Five Points:** A variant where all 52 cards are used and the point total is higher.
- **Open Trump:** A simpler variant where the trump suit is always declared openly at the start rather than kept secret.

## Tips and Strategies

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- Bid aggressively when you hold Jacks and Nines, as they are worth the most points and win tricks.
- Keep the trump suit hidden as long as possible to create uncertainty for opponents.
- Communicate with your partner through your card play. Leading a suit signals strength in that suit.

## Tips & Strategy

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Bid strongly when holding multiple Jacks and Nines, and keep the trump suit secret as long as possible to maximize your tactical advantage.

The hidden trump is the defining strategic element. Revealing it at the right moment, typically when your partner is about to lose a critical trick, can swing an entire hand in your favor.