

Vint

4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Hard

Duration: Long

Fulfill your partnership's trick bid through the auction contract.

SETUP

- Form two partnerships, partners sitting opposite.
- Deal all 52 cards, 13 per player.
- Conduct competitive bidding to set the contract.

SCORING

- Fulfilled contracts earn points per trick above six.
- Failed contracts give penalty points to defenders.

Tip: Bid honestly and trust your partner to read your signals.

ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible, play any card otherwise.
- Highest trump or highest led-suit card wins.
- Winner leads the next trick.

Vint is a Russian trick-taking game that served as a bridge between Whist and modern Contract Bridge. Played by four players in partnerships, it features competitive bidding, trump selection, and nuanced trick play.

Objective

Win the number of tricks specified by your partnership's bid. Accumulate points through successful contracts and bonus combinations across multiple deals.

Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players in two fixed partnerships, sitting across from each other.
2. **Deck:** A standard 52-card deck with Aces ranked highest.
3. **Deal:** Each player receives 13 cards, dealt one at a time or in small batches.

Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** Players bid in turn, stating the number of tricks (above six) their partnership will take and a trump suit (or no trumps). Each bid must be higher than the previous.
2. **Step 2:** The player who won the auction becomes the declarer. The partner of the declarer is the dummy but does not expose their hand (unlike Bridge).
3. **Step 3:** The player to the declarer's left leads the first trick. Players must follow suit if possible.
4. **Step 4:** The highest trump wins the trick, or the highest card of the led suit when no trump is played. Play continues for all 13 tricks.

Scoring

- Points are earned for each trick won beyond six if the contract is fulfilled. Higher-level contracts yield more points per trick.
- If the contract fails, the defending partnership earns penalty points based on the number of undertricks.

Variations

- **Vint with Honors:** Bonus points are awarded for holding honor cards (A, K, Q, J, 10) in the trump suit.
- **Progressive Vint:** The required bid level increases each round, forcing higher and riskier contracts.

Tips and Strategies

- Communicate hand strength through your bidding, as your partner cannot see your cards.
- Lead strong suits early to establish tricks before opponents can coordinate their defense.
- Keep track of which high cards have been played to plan your end-game strategy.

Tips & Strategy

Use your bids to convey information about suit length and strength to your partner. Defensive play requires careful attention to the declarer's likely distribution.

Bidding in Vint is a language. Learning to read your partner's bids and respond accurately is the difference between consistent wins and costly overbids.