



How to Play the Game of Jacks

What You Need to Play Jacks:

Set of jacks and ball. Smooth surface to play on.

Object of Jacks: Be the first to go from "onesies" to "tensies."

Set up the game: Begin by throwing your jacks onto the ground in front of you. Try and make the jacks land not too far apart or too close together.

Rules for Playing Jacks:

The basic way to play the game of Jacks. You then throw the ball into the air ... pick up one jack ... then catch the ball after it bounces one more time. Continue picking up the jacks one at a time. When you have collected all the jacks, throw them again and starting picking the jacks up two at a time ("twosies"). When you get to threesies you have to pick up the three sets of three first, then pick up the left over jack. Continue on until you are at tensies. You can then declare the winner as the first one to tens, or go back down again to onesies.

Your turn continues until you either: miss the ball, fail to pick up the jacks, move a jack, or drop a jack that you have picked up. Your turn is then over and the next person goes.



continued on other side



Kissies: If after you throw the jacks and two (or more) jacks are touching you can either leave them, or pick up the jacks and drop them to spread them out.

Who goes first: Throw the jacks up in the air and try to catch as many as possible with both hands together (your palms have to be face down - thumb to thumb). Whoever catches the most jacks goes first.

Variations for the game of Jacks

No bouncies: Go from one to tens without letting the ball bounce before you pick up the jacks.

Double bouncies: Pick up the jacks and then catch the ball after it bounces twice.

Cherries in a basket: Cup your hand and throw the ball with the opposite hand. You have to then place the jacks in your cupped hand - one through tens.

Pigs in a pen: Place your hand slightly cupped on the ground with the side of your hand resting on the ground. Then throw the ball with the opposite hand and slide the jacks into the "pig pen" one through tens.

Over the fence: Place your hand on the ground straight and you have to place the jacks on the other side of the "fence" - ones through tens.

Around the world: After you throw the ball you have to make a circle in the air around the ball before it bounces - ones to tens.

Left handed: Switch the hand you normally throw the ball with.

