

Mahjong (Chinese) for Beginners

Study Group Leader: Tony Kuyper

Mahjong

- Originated in China in the 1800s
- Originally a gambling game
- It is similar to gin rummy, but is played with **144** tiles instead of 52 cards.
- Many different variations
- We will be playing a “simplified” version of Chinese mahjong

MAH • jong

Mahjong is like learning a new language

- Letters—the different tiles
- Words—the different combinations of tiles that have meaning that others can understand
- Sentences—assembling the appropriate tile combinations (the “words”) to create a winning hand, known as a MAHJONG

Suits

		Numbers								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Suits	Circles 筒									
	Bamboos 索									
	Characters 萬									

4 of each = 108 tiles

Honors

Winds				Dragons		
East	South	West	North	Red	Green	White
東	南	西	北	中	發	白

4 of each = 28 tiles

Pop Quiz

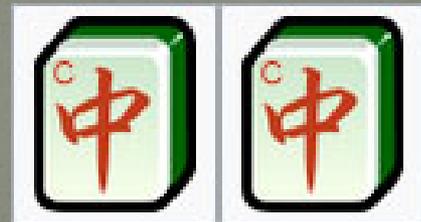
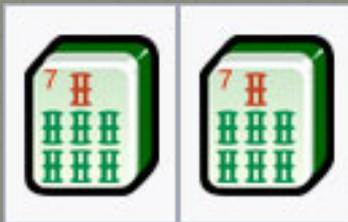
1. How many tiles in a Chinese mahjong set?
2. How many different suits?
3. Name the different suits?
4. How many different tiles in each suit?
5. What are the two types of Honor tiles?
6. Name the three dragons?

There are only 4 "words" in mahjong

- Eyes
- Pung
- Kong
- Chee

Eyes

Two of a kind, a pair
(suits, winds or dragons)



Pung

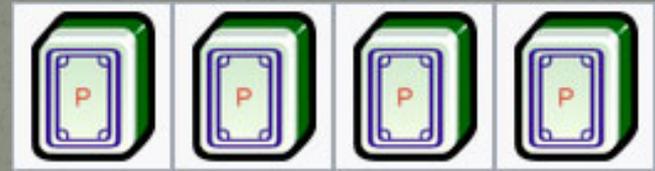
Three of a kind
(suits, winds or dragons)



Kong

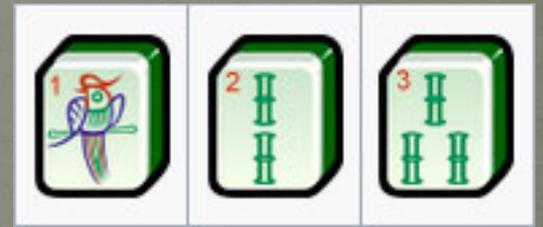
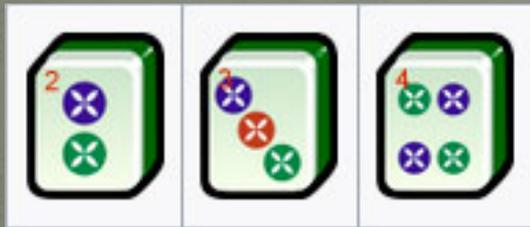
Four of a kind

(suits, winds or dragons)



Chee

A consecutive numerical sequence
of 3 tiles in a single suit
(no dragons or winds)



Pop Quiz

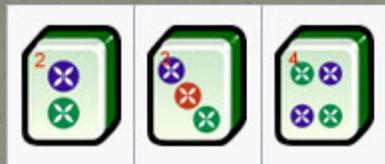
- What is four-of-a-kind called?
- What is a consecutive sequence in one suit called?
- What is three-of-a-kind called?
- How many tiles in eyes?

The MAHJONG

- A MAHJONG is essentially a complete sentence using the available types of “words” (eyes, pungs, kongs, and chees).
- The first player to complete a MAHJONG wins the game and announces “Mahjong!”

But, what constitutes a MAHJONG?

- A MAHJONG has five parts: 4 sets + 1 pair of eyes
- The 4 sets can be ANY combination of pungs, kongs, or chees



Pop Quiz

1. How many pairs of eyes in a mahjong?
2. How many sets in a mahjong?
3. What is the minimum number of tiles in a mahjong?

Mahjong fluency

- Letters—circles, bamboos, characters, winds, and dragons
- Words—Just 4 types of meaningful tile combinations (eyes, pungs, kongs, and chees)
- Sentence (Mahjong)—4 sets (pungs/kongs/chees) + 1 pair of eyes

Bit of a problem

- Suits – $3 \times 9 \times 4 = 108$ tiles
- Honors – $7 \times 4 = 28$ tiles
- $108 + 28 = 136$

Flowers

- Composed of FLOWERS and SEASONS, but they are both referred to as “flowers”

Flowers					Seasons				
No	Image	Name	Character	Direction	No	Image	Name	Character	Direction
1		Plum blossom	梅	East	1		Spring	春	East
2		Orchid	蘭	South	2		Summer	夏	South
3		Chrysanthemum	菊	West	3		Autumn	秋	West
4		Bamboo	竹	North	4		Winter	冬	North

Flowers (continued)

- Flowers CANNOT be used to form eyes, pungs, kongs, or chees.
- They are immediately melded and replaced with a new tile from the flower wall.
- Presence or absence of specific flowers will eventually be used when scoring the winning hand.

Points

All Chees	1	All chees and eyes in varying suits
Dragon	1	Pung or kong of any dragon (red, white, green)
Prevailing Wind	1	Pung or kong of the prevailing wind
Seat Position Wind	1	Pung or kong of the wind of your seat position
No Flower	1	Winning hand has no flower
Your Flower	1	Winning hand has a flower corresponding to their seat number
Self-Drawn Tile	1	Drawing the final tile to complete a mahjong
Robbing the Kong	1	Mahjong by taking a tile from a player making an exposed kong
Single Wait for Eye	1	Holding a single tile waiting for its mate to form eyes
Middle Tile (Closed Wait)	1	Waiting for the missing inside tile to form a chee
End Tile (Edge Wait)	1	Waiting for a missing 3 or 7 tile of a terminal chee
Two Suits (Missing one suit)	1	A hand with tiles from only 2 suits and no honors
Twins	1	Two identical chees, same numerical sequence of the same suit
Consecutive/ Short Sequence	1	Two sequential chees in the same suit (2-3-4-5-6-7) including 7-8-9 + 1-2-3
No Terminals/ No Honors	1	A hand with no dragons, winds, 1's, or 9's
Concealed Kong	1	A kong all self-drawn, melded face down is optional
All Concealed	1	All elements concealed & winning on discard of others (2 pts if self-drawn)
All Exposed	1	All elements exposed & mahjong on other's discard
Bottom of the Sea	1+1	Winning on last tile from the live wall (1 for self-drawn + 1 for last)
Flower Wall Mahjong	1+1	Mahjong when drawing a replacement tile from the flower wall
Bouquet	2	Mahjong hand has all 4 flowers or seasons

Mixed Dragon	2	1 thru 9 of three sequential chees in 3 suits
Terminals w/Honors	2	All sets and eyes contain a 1, a 9, or an honor tile
All Pungs (Triplet Hand)	3	4 sets of pungs/kongs + eyes (any suit or honors)
Hybrid	3	A hand containing only one suit and honors
Pure Dragon	3	1 through 9 in one suit plus one set and eyes
Triple Chees	3	3 chees of same numerical sequence in all 3 suits
All Five Suits	3	A hand containing sets/eyes of a wind, a dragon, and all 3 suits
Terminals	3	All sets and eyes having a 1 or 9 within
Big Terminals	6	All sets and eyes contain only 1's and 9's
All Honors	6	All sets and eyes are honor tiles, points for dragons & winds can be added
Seven Sisters	6	7 pairs of any tiles
All One Suit	6	Chee/pungs/kongs/eyes all in one suit
Little Three Dragons	6	Pungs/kongs of 2 dragons + the other dragon for eyes + 2 sets
Little Four Winds	6	Pungs/kongs of 3 winds & eyes of other wind + any set
Pure One Suit/Triplets	9	Pungs, kongs, and eyes of the same suit
Big Three Dragons	9	Pungs/kongs of all 3 dragons + 1 set & eyes
Big Four Winds	9	Pungs/kongs of all 4 winds and eyes in any variety
13 Orphans	9	1 & 9 of 3 suits, 1 of each honor & 1 tile to match for eyes
Big 7 Pairs	9	7 pairs consisting of 1's & 9's and honors only
Hand from Heaven	9	Dealer's hand opens as a mahjong
Hand from Earth	9	Getting mahjong on dealer's first discard or first drawn tile
18 Monkeys/4 Kongs	9	4 sets of kongs + eyes in any suits or honors (18 tiles)

Questions?