

TWENTY-ONE

Twenty-One is a card game very similar to Blackjack or Pontoon, but simpler (and does not include any gambling!)

The aim is to get as close as possible to 21 without going over (or 'bust').

Usually you might play a set of 10 rounds and count how many wins each player gets.

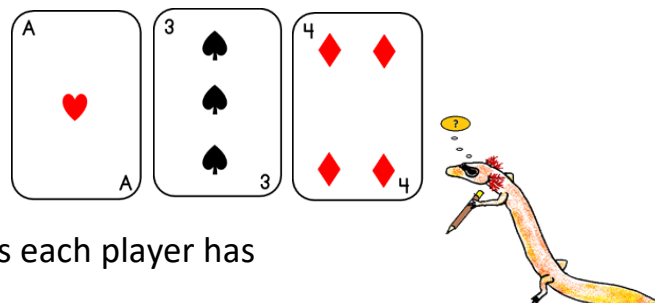
Age range: 2nd Grade+

Number of players: 2-5

Learning: Adding several digits within 21, strategy

You will need

- A pack of playing cards
- Some paper to keep a tally of how many wins each player has



Instructions

- Each player is dealt two cards at the start of the game.
- The player on the dealer's left starts first.
- When it is the players turn, they have 2 choices:
 - o Stick – they choose to keep the hand they have and not get any more cards. The total the cards add up to is their final total.
 - o Twist – they choose to add another card to their hand. The card is added to their current total.
 - o This is repeated until they go bust or decide to stick then their turn is over.
- If any player has a total over 21 then they are 'bust' and no longer in the game.
- When all the players have finished their turn, each player shows their cards and the player with the highest total which is 21 or under is the winner.
- If two or more players have the same highest total, then it is a draw.
- Record the winner(s) on your piece of paper.
- *Special card: Ace.* The ace can either represent a 1 or an 11 in the game – it the choice of the player which one they choose. So an Ace and a 5 can either be worth 6 or 16.
- If all the players are 'bust' then the dealer (who always plays last) is the automatic winner.
- The dealer is changed each turn and moves one place along (as they have an automatic advantage in each game by playing last).

Card Values

Card	A	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	J	Q	K
Value	1 or 11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	10	10

TWENTY-ONE EXTRA INFORMATION

Special Hands

- **5 Card Trick.** If any player manages to get a hand with 5 cards and a total of 21 or under then it is called a 5 Card Trick. This will beat any other hand in the game. If two players both get a 5 Card Trick then the player with the highest total is the winner.
- ***Ace plus 10 or Ace plus face card.*** If any player starts with an Ace and a 10 or an Ace and a face card (court card) then they have already got a top score of 21. This is called a natural 21 and is an **automatic win**. If two (or more) players both have this hand, then the result is a tie and both players are winners. This hand is called out at the very start of the game (once the two cards have been dealt to each player) before any player gets their turn.

Example 1: (4 PLAYER GAME)

Player 1 is dealt a 7 and a 6. They choose to twist and get a Jack. Their total is now $6 + 7 + 10 = 23$. They are bust and out of this game.

Player 2 is dealt a 4 and a Queen. They decide to twist and get a 6. Their total is now $4 + 10 + 6 = 20$. They decide to stick.

Player 3 is dealt an Ace and an 8. They decide to have the Ace as an 11 and stick. Their total is $11 + 8 = 19$.

Player 4 is dealt a 7 and a 3. They choose to twist and get a 4. They choose to twist again and get an Ace. They choose to twist again and get a King. Their total is now $7 + 3 + 4 + 1$ (Ace) $+ 10 = 25$. They are bust and out of this game.

The two players show their hands and Player 2 who has the highest total is the winner.

Example 2:

Player 1 is dealt a Queen and a 7. They decide to stick. Their total is $10 + 7 = 17$.

Player 2 is dealt a 4 and a 3. They twist and get a 5. They twist again and get a 2. They twist again and get another 5. They stick with a 5 Card Trick with a total of 19.

Player 3 is dealt a 6 and an Jack. They twist and get a 5. They choose to stick. Their total is $6 + 10 + 5 = 21$.

Player 4 is dealt a 8 and a 4. They twist and get a King. They are now bust with a total of $8 + 4 + 10 = 22$.

The 3 players show their hands and Player 2 who has a 5 Card Trick is the winner (even though they do not have the highest total).