

The Game

This is a game whose rules are on cards.

To add a rule, write a card.

Follow every rule on the cards on the table.



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The Facilitator

This game has no Facilitator (GM, MC, referee).

Resolve player disputes collectively.



Flip to become the Facilitator

The Facilitator

The game has a Facilitator (GM, MC, referee).

Facilitators have final authority over rules questions.

Whoever laid this card face up is the facilitator.



Flip to play cooperatively

Challenges

If any player thinks the outcome of your narration is uncertain, you've been challenged.

Meet the challenge by getting a hit via some other rule.

If you don't, whoever posed the challenge narrates the outcome instead.



Flip to resolve via narration

Challenges

Resolve challenges strictly via narration.



Flip to rely on hits

Simple Dice

The Simple Dice rule is not used in this game



Flip to use Simple Dice

Simple Dice

If you need to meet a challenge and have no other way to do so,
or if the outcome ought to be random,
you can roll 1d6.

- On 1-3, you don't meet the challenge
- On 4-6, you get 1 hit



Flip to not use dice

X-Card

Start the game by reading this text aloud:

"I'd like your help. Your help to make this game fun for everyone. If anything makes anyone uncomfortable in any way, just lift this card up, or simply tap it. You don't have to explain why. It doesn't matter why. When we lift or tap this card, we simply edit out anything X-Carded."

"And if there is ever an issue, anyone can call for a break and we can talk privately. I know it sounds funny but it will help us play amazing games together and usually I'm the one who uses the X card to protect myself from all of you! Please help make this game fun for everyone. Thank you!"



*Lay this card at the center of the
play area*

X-Card

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*Lay this card at the center of the
play area*



Courage

"It doesn't matter if I win. It matters if I don't try" -- Emory

Courage is strength in the face of grief or pain. It's not just a willingness to do something, but to do it when there's every reason to hold back.

Courage lets you fight when afraid, speak when being shouted down, stand up when you're injured, or take an unpopular stand.

- Honor or pride must be upheld
- Someone or something near you has already suffered harm
- Nobody else can or will take the risk



Flip to get a hit.

Courage

"Emory! Fall back! We need you alive!" -- Tana

Not every risk has to be taken, nor is every reward worthwhile. Sometimes, you do things it would have been better not to do.

- Expose yourself to unnecessary danger
- Seek glory or self-aggrandizement
- Take chances for the thrill of it



*Flip when a prompt is narrated
by anyone.*

Charm

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Flip to get a hit.

Charm

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



*Flip when a prompt is narrated
by anyone.*

Chi

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Chi

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Instinct

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Instinct

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Magic

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Magic

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Secrets

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Secrets

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Tech

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Tech

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Wits

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Wits

TBD

- TBD
- TBD
- TBD



Northerner

Snow-swept peaks and narrow valleys are your home.

- Deal with or take advantage of cold
- Survive sudden misfortune
- Bury your emotions and move forward



Northerner

They say your heart is frozen.

- Eschew material comfort
- Act disinterested or distant
- Distrust an outsider
- Subvert the stereotype



Southerner

Fiery deserts and glittering oases are your home.

- Deal with or take advantage of heat
- Keep going when all seems lost
- Inspire in the face of hardship



Southerner

They say the desert has burned weakness out of you.

- Uphold a complex code of honor
- Make an expedient but cruel choice
- Stand by your group, right or wrong
- Subvert the stereotype



Easterner

Mysterious mountains and river-lands are your home.

- Work with earth and metal
- Share the wisdom of past generations
- Understand unspoken things



Easterner

They say you are distant and arrogant.

- Mask your emotions behind politeness
- Follow your own ways in strange lands
- Extol the virtues of your own culture
- Subvert the stereotype



Westerner

Islands, archipelagos, and boats are your home.

- Deal with or take advantage of water
- Quickly adapt to shifting circumstances
- Speed away from trouble



Westerner

They say you're unreliable or untrustworthy.

- Fail to uphold an obligation
- Disappoint someone important
- Disappear when needed
- Subvert the stereotype



City Folk

Big cities, centers of knowledge and trade, are your home.

- Get around in crowded or complex areas
- Use a lesson the city taught you
- Find a guy who knows a guy



City Folk

They say you've sold your soul to the city.

- Establish dominance through aggression
- Overvalue the material
- Take advantage of a relationship
- Subvert the stereotype



Country Folk

Villages, farms, and manors are your home.

- Work with the land and animals
- Do what common sense tells you
- Show hospitality to everyone



Country Folk

They look down on you as rustic bumpkins.

- Distrust the sophisticated
- Ask something everyone else knows
- Rigidly uphold tradition
- Subvert the stereotype



Forest Folk

Trappers' camps and green silences are your home.

- Live and thrive in the wilderness
- Notice something hidden
- Find a path to your goal



Forest Folk

They say you're creepy and aloof.

- Refuse offers of aid or comfort
- Bluntly say a hard truth
- Keep an outsider distant from you
- Subvert the stereotype



Scraplander

Haunted wastelands and blasted heaths are your home.

- Survive through attentiveness and preparation
- Deal with or take advantage of remnants of old wars and lost magic
- Reveal a useful item or experience



Scraplander

They say you're no better than the trash you gather.

- Rush into risk
- Defy civilization's customs
- Express a dangerous or weird quirk
- Subvert the stereotype



Dreamer

Tomorrow beckons, if you can fix today.
You can't change the world alone. But
you aren't, are you?

- Remind someone of their best self
- Light a candle to spite the darkness
- Defy what's possible with what's necessary



Dreamer

When the gulf between is and ought becomes too much, which will you choose?

- Reject the real, denounce the realist
- Forget that you have friends
- Lose sight of your dream for a time



Guardian

You feel responsible for something or someone else. Their need propels you.

- Keep your charge safe from something
- Identify and monitor a threat
- Endure the unimaginable



Guardian

You control that which depends on you, and sometimes the weight grows too much.

- Assert your authority
- Cast suspicion too widely
- Shut down your feelings or shut out your charge



Monster

Your looks, reputation, or nature cause common folk to fear or reject you.

- Take advantage of others' fears
- Exploit the source of your monstrosity
- Make common cause with other monsters



Monster

To be the thing they say you are. How easy to do it accidentally. How tempting to choose it.

- Make everything worse for yourself or an ally
- Fall prey to your darkness
- Spark conflict or dissent



Opportunist

Life is unpredictable. When an opening comes, seize it. When a chance comes, take it.

- Exploit or create a weakness
- Employ misdirection or deception
- Take a risk nobody else would



Opportunist

There's only so much good luck to go around. Will you run out of yours, or take someone else's away?

- Kick someone when they're down
- Betray a trust
- Let someone else pay the price



Performer

Through actions and words, you entertain, persuade, or transform people around you.

- Embody grace, confidence, or poise
- Influence people to action
- Spark or manipulate emotion



Performer

When anything you say matters, will you say the wrong thing, or for the wrong reasons?

- Show up or embarrass someone important
- Draw unwanted attention
- Provoke an unintended reaction



Quester

A vow, an ideal, a promise, a vision, a mission. Something drives you unstoppably onward.

- Live the life your resolve demands
- Rally others to your cause
- Find a way forward despite everything



Quester

That which is greater than you can also crush you beneath it.

- Waver in your dedication to your quest
- Shut others out of assisting you
- Put your quest before more mundane matters



Soldier

Life is struggle. Everyone has to fight, all the time. What do you fight for?

- Test your fate against an opponent
- Make a sacrifice to support a hope
- Stand up when everything says to stay down



Soldier

Life is pain. There's no reward for this, only the next battle. When will you fall?

- Lash out at an easy target
- Use your power selfishly
- Dismiss the peaceful alternative



Synthesist

You create, fix, and remix.

- Make something new out of what's available
- Repair or recreate something
- Bring creativity to bear against a problem



Synthesist

What or who will you unmake, in your goal of making something new?

- Tear down something valuable or important
- Keep something going at great cost
- Overuse the same solution



Character Cards

Cards with this icon are character cards.

To create a new PC, pick three cards from three different categories, e.g. Focus, Role, and Upbringing. You can choose cards at random, or select them yourself.

These cards describe a PC's most important traits, or the traits that you want to see in the spotlight during the game. Just because someone else has the Courage card doesn't mean your character isn't courageous, only that it's not going to be the quality we see most often or most plainly.

- Topside: get a hit by flipping the card
- Flipside: flip when a prompt is narrated by anyone



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Condition Cards

You've been affected by a temporary problem. Injury, delirium, debts, magical curses, and so on are all conditions.

You can choose to take a condition to get a hit. Describe how. Players who challenge you can suggest conditions to meet it.

The condition is fictionally true and limits your actions. If you narrate an action the condition would interfere with, you must meet the challenge of the condition in addition to any other challenges.

You can flip a topside condition to worsen it and get a hit. Describe how.

Clearing conditions takes time. Use this time to drive drama, build the world, or explore how you clear the condition.

Discard any conditions that no longer apply in the fiction.



Flip to see examples

Condition Examples

Conditions are a way to achieve success at a cost. You can use conditions in many ways.

- You choose to take Disarmed to score a telling blow on the enemy.
- The facilitator or another player thinks touching the idol will leave you Magicked.
- A poisonous cloud envelops you. If you want to stay in it, meet the challenge by taking Weakened, otherwise you must leave the cloud.
- You're already Hurt, but you can worsen it to Wounded to get a hit. You attack, blood gushing from reopened wounds, and strike down your enemy before falling in a faint yourself.
- You spend a scene being healed by a priestess to discard Hurt. You wanted to talk to her anyway, about...
- You spend a week of downtime doing odd jobs to pay off Indebted. During that time, you listen for new adventure opportunities.



Flip to see rules

Hurt

"Ow! Watch who you carve up with that thing!" -- Basler

You've been bloodied, bruised, stunned, or otherwise physically harmed.

You can't exert yourself too much without making it worse. Enemies can target existing sites of injury as well.

You can spend a scene getting bandaged, magical healing, and so on.

- An enemy successfully attacked you
- An animal or monster mauled you
- You were in the path of something heavy and damaging
- You were in the middle of a natural disaster or large-scale magical attack



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Wounded

"It's...just a scratch..." -- Emory

You've been seriously injured. You might pass out if you aren't helped soon.

Every step is painful, and it's hard to concentrate.

You can't move very fast or fight effectively. Someone might also exploit your condition.

You can spend downtime recuperating under a healer's care.

- You suffered significant blood loss
- You have broken or twisted limbs
- You were pierced by arrows, spears, or claws
- You reopened your wounds while fighting



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Weakened

"This forest goes on forever, Woody. Can we just stop a moment?" -- Tana

Your body is trying to keep itself going, but is under attack or is being deprived.

You can't push yourself too hard, and it's hard to concentrate.

You can spend a scene getting food, medicine, shelter, or rest, as appropriate.

- Fatigue or forced marches
- Sleep deprivation or nightmares
- Hunger and thirst
- Poison, disease, or infection
- Exposure to the elements
- Fever or chills



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Exhausted

"The leaf dragon's toxin got me... Sorry..." -- Woody

Your body is out of resources. You pushed yourself to a breaking point.

You can't fight effectively. Each new step is an effort. Focusing on anything other than survival is difficult.

You can spend downtime getting both treatment and rest, if it's available.

- Extended lack of sleep
- Starvation or dehydration
- Serious illness or poison
- Delerium or hallucinations
- Burns or frostbite



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Obligated

"We will deal with the brigands, your highness." -- Emory

You took on or were given an important responsibility.

Someone or something will be watching you to see you uphold your end of the bargain. There will be consequences if you delay or decline.

Your patron might grow impatient or asks for more. Rivals or enemies might interfere. The task might need to be kept secret, lest someone be hurt.

You can spend a scene taking care of it. This scene might involve combat, negotiation, or investigation.

- Deliver an item or message to someone
- Deal with a troublesome individual or group
- Promise a favor later for a purchase now
- Swear a magically binding oath



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Indebted

*"I kinda told the thieves' guild I'd take care of something" --
Basler*

You have significant debts that demand your time or attention. The stakes may be higher, or just more immediate. You may risk notoriety or condemnation.

Your patron is watching closely and may try to threaten or coerce you further. Other interested parties or powerful forces may interfere, perhaps to stop your task or hurt your patron.

You can spend downtime attending to the duty, laying low, or taking the heat.

- Get something to someone right now
- Deal with several complex problems
- Obtain something illegal or dangerous
- Work with a person or group that is hated or feared



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Wanted

"I think they saw us." -- Tana

Someone or something powerful or dangerous is seeking you out, and you'd rather not be found.

You risk discovery if you present yourself to guards, spies, or allies. There might be a bounty on you, or hunters after you.

You can spend a scene getting out of the area, or resolving the reason you're wanted.

- You broke the law or offended someone
- You're in a heavily guarded area and people are suspicious
- You've done something to attract official attention
- You're in a dangerous animal's territory



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Pursued

"They definitely saw us!" -- Basler

You are being actively hunted, by someone or something that wishes you ill.

You must stay hidden from searchers, conceal or disguise yourself when in the open, or take other steps to avoid attention.

Your pursuers might have some idea about your immediate goals, and work to thwart them as well.

You can spend downtime to leave the area or throw the searchers off your trail.

- Wanted posters or official notices
- Guards raised an alarm
- You're in enemy territory or surrounded



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Magicked

"Be careful. If anything in the forest looks edible, it's a faerie trap" -- Woody

A spell or other supernatural power is affecting you.

It might cause discomfort, distraction, or inconvenience. Your perceptions might be twisted somehow.

You must be careful when doing things that would set off the spell.

You can spend a scene in ritual or contrite behavior to free yourself of the magic.

- Charms, illusions, delusions, and deceptions
- Magical prohibitions against entering or leaving a place
- Vexing problems, minor bad luck, or other trickery



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Cursed

*"That berry was delicious. Hey, who are all of you?" --
Emory*

A powerful and baneful magic has you in its grip.

You might be under a geas or other powerful compulsion, to act or not act in a certain way.

The rules of the curse may be a mystery. You may suffer pain or great misfortune violating them.

You may need to carry protective items, or perform ritual actions, to keep the effect at bay, until you find a way to lift the curse.

- Ill fortune or calamity follows you
- A taboo against doing some common thing
- Love potions, gibberish speech, or other maledictions



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Altered

"A leg brace of tree bark and vines? Well, at least I can walk."

-- Woody

Powerful magic has physically changed your appearance or abilities.

Your new features might be helpful in limited ways, but mostly they're a hindrance.

You'll have trouble doing things you took for granted, or draw attention to yourself if seen.

You can spend a scene to dispel the magic, if you find a way to do it.

- Animal ears or tails
- Monstrous modifications like claws, fangs, or scales
- Partial petrification or zombification



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Transformed

"Aww, the doggie is barking!... Basler?!" -- Tana

You've been physically remade into something new by powerful magic.

You can still function, but it's a big adjustment. Your new form's abilities don't match your old one's.

People may flee or attack at the sight of you. You may be unable to speak or explain yourself to them.

You can spend downtime by finding a way to break the magic and turn back to normal.

- Polymorphed into an animal
- Changed into a monster
- Zombified



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Undergeared

"This is the last of our fresh water." -- Woody

Vital gear has been damaged, or resources are running low.

You might have lost something and been forced to make do. You can't overuse what you have, lest things get worse. You might need to ration what you have.

You can spend a scene recovering proper equipment, if it's available.

- Blunted or broken weapons, low on arrows
- Damaged or partial armor
- Malfunctioning magical tools
- Lacking food, water, or medicine



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Ungeared

*"The flood washed away our campsite! Now what?" --
Basler*

Your gear has been broken, lost, or taken, or you are out of some important resource.

You must scavenge for substitutes, or make do with barely-adequate improvisations. If you lack basic necessities like food, you must hunt for them soon.

You can spend downtime searching for or replacing your missing stuff.

- Equipment lost in floods or other calamity
- Stripped of weapons by enemies
- Magical tools disenchanting
- Completely without rations or shelter



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Hindered

"This arm is useless for drawing a bow right now." -- Woody

Your body, mind, or senses are in temporary disorder.

You might have overtaxed yourself, or suffered from injury or stress. You may be in the grip of a powerful or magically-caused emotion.

You will have trouble using affected abilities, making rational decisions, or spotting important clues or danger signs.

You can spend a scene recovering from the hindrance in some appropriate way.

- Injured limbs or impaired mobility
- Blurred vision, ringing ears, or dizziness
- Serious shock or mental disturbance
- Powerful anger, grief, sadness, or anxiety



Flip to worsen the condition and get a hit. Discard by spending a scene attending to the condition.

Impeded

"I can't feel the grimoire! I can't feel ANY magic!" -- Tana

A sense or faculty you normally depend on has been temporarily lost.

You might have pushed yourself past a limit, or been affected by a disease or magical effect.

You are unable to use the affected abilities. If your mind or senses are affected, you may make important mistakes in judgement.

- Temporarily blind, deaf, or mute
- Unable to cast spells or use other special abilities
- Suffering a breakdown or phobia
- Driven by unstoppable fury or sorrow



*Discard by spending downtime
attending to the condition.*

Bandit

A thief, thug, outlaw, or other miscreant.

- Handles stolen goods
- Willing to work for coin
- Cunning and clever



Bandit

A thief, thug, outlaw, or other miscreant.

- Armed with stolen or crude weapons
- Greedy, desperate, or afraid
- Dirty tricks and quick escapes



Kobold

An invisible sprite that can manifest as an animal, rough-hewn humanoid, or flame.

- TBD



Kobold

An invisible sprite that can manifest as an animal, rough-hewn humanoid, or flame.

- TBD



Ogre

TBD

- TBD



Ogre

TBD

- TBD



Armored

Not all armor helps the wearer all the time. How does it work for you?

- Protection is heavy or cumbersome
- You're inside the walls with them



Armored

Significant physical protection which you must bypass to get through. What kind?

- Solidly-built armor or natural hide
- Walls, barriers, cover
- Magical force fields



Camp

A temporary encampment, outpost, home base, den, etc.

- Lose pursuers in the chaos
- Obtain something the camp has



Camp

A temporary encampment, outpost, home base, den, etc.

- PCs probably outnumbered
- Shifting or complicated layout
- Traps, surprises, reinforcements



Diabolical

TBD

- TBD



Diabolical

TBD

- TBD



Elemental

TBD

- TBD



Elemental

TBD

- TBD



Flying

TBD

- TBD



Flying

TBD

- TBD



Gang

Size doesn't always matter.

- Disagreement among members
- The leader is toppled or embarrassed
- Individuals singled out for something



Gang

The challenge is a group of individuals.

- Strength in numbers
- Surrounded or cut off
- Shouted down by the crowd



Hybrid

TBD

- TBD



Hybrid

TBD

- TBD



Large

The bigger they are, the harder they fall.

- Lumbering and clumsy
- Can't get into small spaces
- Easier to hit



Large

The challenge is enormous in size!

- Resistant to normal scale effects
- Can reach or hit whole areas at once
- Stronger or more durable



Monstrous

TBD

- TBD



Monstrous

TBD

- TBD



Notorious

TBD

- TBD



Notorious

TBD

- TBD



Ominous

TBD

- TBD



Ominous

TBD

- TBD



Poisonous

TBD

- TBD



Poisonous

TBD

- TBD



Quick

TBD

- TBD



Quick

TBD

- TBD



Resilient

TBD

- TBD



Resilient

TBD

- TBD



Spectral

TBD

- TBD



Spectral

TBD

- TBD



Tense

Sometimes tension can work to your advantage.

- They're willing to cooperate to make this go away
- Someone learns an important truth
- A deceit or secret is exposed



Tense

The situation is risky or unstable but they're willing to talk.

- Fear, anger, or mistrust
- Misunderstanding or confusion
- Deceit from one side or a third party



Vicious

TBD

- TBD



Vicious

TBD

- TBD



Weird

The challenge's nature may work against it after all.

- Find limitations of the curse or change
- Challenge over-relies on its powers
- Learn a vital lesson about magic



Weird

The challenge is strange or magical in some fashion.

- Magically enhanced, changed, or cursed
- Can wield mystic power or spells
- Confusing or seemingly impossible abilities



Zombie

TBD

- TBD



Zombie

TBD

- TBD



Emotion

Oracle cards can answer questions. Draw one card for a simple answer, or two cards for a complex one.

Use these cards to answer what someone is feeling, or what emotion a thing or event would spark.

Each emotion has two neighbors. You can use the emotion itself, or choose to mix it with a neighbor.



Flip to reveal an answer

Ecstasy

Ecstasy, Joy, or Serenity.

With Vigilance: yields Optimism.

With Admiration: yields Love.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*

Emotion

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Flip to reveal an answer

Admiration

Admiration, Trust, or Acceptance.

With Ecstasy: yields Love.

With Terror: yields Submission.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*

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Flip to reveal an answer

Terror

Terror, Fear, or Apprehension.

With Admiration: yields Submission.

With Amazement: yields Awe.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*

Emotion

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Use these cards to answer what someone is feeling, or what emotion a thing or event would spark.

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Flip to reveal an answer

Amazement

Amazement, Surprise, or Distraction.

With Terror: yields Awe.

With Grief: yields Disapproval.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*

Emotion

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Use these cards to answer what someone is feeling, or what emotion a thing or event would spark.

Each emotion has two neighbors. You can use the emotion itself, or choose to mix it with a neighbor.



Flip to reveal an answer

Grief

Grief, Sadness, or Pensiveness.

With Amazement: yields Disapproval.

With Loathing: yields Remorse.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*

Emotion

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Use these cards to answer what someone is feeling, or what emotion a thing or event would spark.

Each emotion has two neighbors. You can use the emotion itself, or choose to mix it with a neighbor.



Flip to reveal an answer

Loathing

Loathing, Disgust, or Boredom.

With Loathing: yields Remorse.

With Rage: yields Contempt.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*

Emotion

Oracle cards can answer questions. Draw one card for a simple answer, or two cards for a complex one.

Use these cards to answer what someone is feeling, or what emotion a thing or event would spark.

Each emotion has two neighbors. You can use the emotion itself, or choose to mix it with a neighbor.



Flip to reveal an answer

Rage

Rage, Anger, or Annoyance.

With Loathing: yields Contempt.

With Vigilance: yields Aggressiveness.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*

Emotion

Oracle cards can answer questions. Draw one card for a simple answer, or two cards for a complex one.

Use these cards to answer what someone is feeling, or what emotion a thing or event would spark.

Each emotion has two neighbors. You can use the emotion itself, or choose to mix it with a neighbor.



Flip to reveal an answer

Vigilance

Vigilance, Anticipation, or Interest.

With Rage: yields Aggressiveness.

With Ecstasy: yields Optimism.



*Discard and shuffle into related
cards*