

# Mahjong Rules

## Foreword

Mahjong solitaire (also known as Shanghai solitaire) is a single-player matching game that uses a set of mahjong tiles rather than cards.

Although named after the four-player tile game mahjong, the method of gameplay is unrelated.

## Play process

An even amount of tiles (110 tiles) arranged in a specific 3-layered pattern (Square or a Pyramid in our case, to not make the amount of data too straining on team resources), facing upwards. The goal of the game is to match every pair of each tile.

The aim of Mahjong Solitaire is to clear the playing area by removing paired tiles. However, there are certain rules about which tiles can be paired.

Firstly, tiles must be identical to form a pair – this means they must feature the same suit and number. For example, the two of winds can only be paired with another two of winds tile. The exceptions to this rule are the "seasons" and "flowers" tiles, which can all be paired freely.

A tile can also only be paired if it is "exposed" in the playing area – this means it does not have another tile directly to either its right or left or layered above. Tiles that have one side "free" can be paired with any other exposed tiles in the playing area. Paired tiles are placed to the side of the playing area, but in our case, we will completely get rid of them, for the sake of the saving time on development.

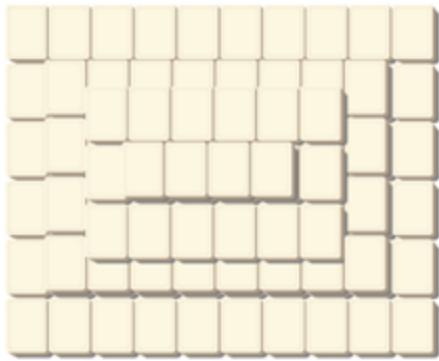
Players continue to pair exposed tiles until they clear the playing area – in which case the game is won – or they run out of legal moves. If a player runs out of moves before the playing area is cleared, they are allowed to "shuffle" the tiles. The player is allowed to shuffle their tiles 5 times per game.

When tiles are shuffled, the current playing layout is taken apart, the tiles are mixed up, and a new playing area is created. This does have to be the same shape as before.

Players then continue pairing identical tiles in the new layout until they clear the playing area.

## Layout

There are 110 tiles, arranged in 3-layer rectangular pattern. First layer consists of 60 tiles, second layer consists of 32 tiles and the last one consists of 18 tiles.



# The Square

## Tile types

### Suits

There are three main suits in mahjong: The bamboo tiles, the character tiles, and the dot, other known as barrel tiles. They do not have any special conditions during matching, and will only match with the same tile as the one that was picked.

| Suit       | Numbers |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|            | 1       | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Bamboos    |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Characters |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Circles    |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

### Honor tiles

In addition to the three suits, there are two special groups of tiles called the 'honor tiles'. The wind honor tiles are written in Chinese. The dragon tiles are among the easiest to recognize: The Chinese word in red ink is the red dragon, the Chinese word in green ink is the green dragon, and the tile with a blue box around nothing is the white dragon. As suits, player must

find an identical pair of each tile.

#### Winds

| Name  | Sign |
|-------|------|
| East  |      |
| South |      |
| West  |      |
| North |      |

#### Dragons

| Name  | Sign |
|-------|------|
| Red   |      |
| Green |      |
| White |      |

## Flowers and Seasons

And the final set of bonus tiles, flowers and seasons. Any tiles of this set can be matched to any other tile of the same set, no need to search for the exact pair.

#### Flowers

| Flower        | Sign |
|---------------|------|
| Plum          |      |
| Orchid        |      |
| Chrysanthemum |      |
| Bamboo        |      |

#### Seasons

| Season | Sign |
|--------|------|
| Spring |      |
| Summer |      |
| Autumn |      |
| Winter |      |