

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 (50 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.

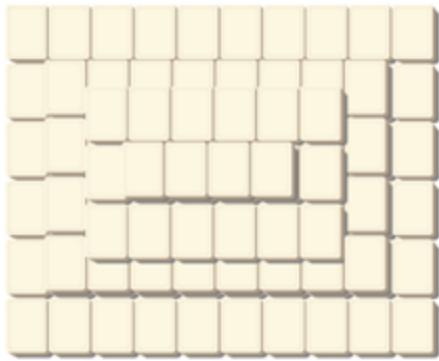
Players continue to pair exposed tiles until they clear the playing area – in which case the game is won – or they run out of legal moves. If a player runs out of moves before the playing area is cleared, they are allowed to "shuffle" the tiles. The player is allowed to shuffle their tiles 5 times per 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 50 tiles, arranged in 3-layer rectangular pattern. First layer consists of 25 tiles, second layer consists of 16 tiles and the last one consists of 9 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 each individual set can be matched with each other in scope of their set (Which means, player cannot match flower tile with season tile).

Flowers

Flower	Sign
Plum	
Orchid	
Chrysanthemum	
Bamboo	

Seasons

Season	Sign
Spring	
Summer	
Autumn	
Winter	