

Playing Gogo

Go is a classic turn based strategy game for two players. Your goal is to surround your opponent, claiming territory and taking prisoners.

Controls

Black Player

- Move your cursor around the board to select a point using the W, A, S, D keys to move Up, Left, Down and Right.
- Press Space to place your stone.

White Player

- Move your cursor around the board to select a point using the arrow keys to move Up, Left, Down and Right.
- Press Backspace to place your stone.

Placing Stones

Players take it in turns to place stones on the points made by intersecting lines on the board. When two or more of your stones immediately connect vertically or horizontally, they become part of a group. Groups behave in the same way as single stones and so must be completely surrounded to be captured. Stones of the same colour diagonal to each other are not part of a group.

Liberties

The lines on the board are called liberties. Think of liberties as the life lines to each group of stones. When a group of your stones is surrounded by your opponent, that group no longer has liberties and they are taken as prisoners.

Winning GoGo

- **Timeout**

If you run out of time, you can no longer play and you pass to your opponent. Your opponent can capture all your stones or pass to end the game.

- **Pass**

Players can pass. Consecutive passes from each player ends the game and the game is scored. The winner is the player with the most prisoners and territory.

- **Resign**

You can resign, handing the win to your opponent.

Scoring

Your score is your territory plus any prisoners you have taken. Territory is the total of the empty points your stones surround.

Suicide

You can't play a stone on a point that would leave your group with no liberties. That would be SUICIDE!!! Although....you can play this move if it would immediately take all the liberties of your opponent's group.

Ko

You can't play a move that would return the board to its previous state. This is called Ko. You risk getting into an endless loop. If the move is Ko, you could attack somewhere else breaking the Ko and allowing you to move forwards with play.

Strategy

Despite its relatively simple rules and game board, strategy in Go can be incredibly complex. Go famously has more possible board configurations than atoms in the known universe.

Learn more about Go strategy online from the [British Go Association](http://www.britgo.org/teaching/index.html) (<http://www.britgo.org/teaching/index.html>) and [American Go Association](http://www.usgo.org/learn-overview) (<http://www.usgo.org/learn-overview>).