Jane Street Puzzle: Dogs Playing Poker, Aug 2025

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1 The Puzzle

You won't find poker faces here–these poor pups can't hide their emotions or the cards that cause them! What they're feeling is practically spelled out for everyone to see. It should be enough for you to figure out which cards my pet doodle is holding.

Submit your answer as an abbreviation of the cards using letters or numbers with the card then suit. For example, the Ace of Spades and Ten of Hearts would be abbreviated as **AS,10H**.

Figure 1: Dogs Playing Poker

2 Extracting Information

From the picture provided we can extract the following information: Cards, number of chips invested next to that card, emotions, holding paws on the table.

2.1 Emotions Represent Emoji Faces

We notice that each dog can be represented with an emoji face. For example, the first dog in the bottom left of the puzzle picture, labeled with ID = 1, has the *Flushed Face* emoji. If we go in the clockwise direction from that dog we can extract the following information:

ID	Emoji	Card 1	N^1_{chips}	Card 2	N^2_{chips}	Paw on Table
1	Flushed Face	4C	1	5H	0	Yes
2	Drooling Face	6D	22	9S	23	Yes
3	Cowboy Hat Face	9H	7	4H	12	Yes
4	Woozy Face	5D	10	8D	11	No
5	?	?	0/?	?	0/?	No
6	Anguished Face	7c	23	5S	6	No
7	Pouting Cat	AH	16	8H	0	Yes
8	Confounded Face	5C	23	6C	0	No
9	Squinting Face with Tongue	8C	14	6H	25	No

Table 1: Information

2.2 First Piece of the Puzzle

If we take the card number and assosciate it with a character of the emoji, without considering empty space as a character we can extract from each emoji two letters:

$$flushedface \to sh \tag{1}$$
$$droolingface \to if \tag{2}$$
$$cowboyhatface \to tb \tag{3}$$
$$woozyface \to yc \tag{4}$$
$$anguishedface \to hi \tag{5}$$
$$putingcat \to pc \tag{6}$$
$$confundedface \to ou \tag{7}$$
$$squintingfacewithtongue \to nt \tag{8}$$
$$\tag{9}$$

Putting these two letters together we get: *Shift by count.*

2.2.1 Finding the First Card

First we associate a cypher for the english alphabet:

A = 1	B = 2	C = 3	D = 4	E = 5	F = 6	G = 7	H = 8	I = 9
J = 10	K = 11	L = 12	M = 13	N = 14	O = 15	P = 16	Q = 17	R = 18
S = 19	T = 20	U = 21	V = 22	W = 23	X = 24	Y = 25	Z = 26	

If we now shift by chip count each letter in the phrase 'shiftbychipcount' with the corresponding number of chips (example: $s + 1 = 19 + 1 = 20 \to t$) we will get the following phrase:

$$shiftbychipcount \to thecanineofclubs \tag{10}$$

Which would imply that the first card is 9C? BLOCKED HERE.