

Vocabulary To play cards, a game of cards, deck (US), suit (Spades ♠, Hearts, ♥, Diamond ♦, Clubs ♣), rank (Ace, King, Queen, Jack, 10-2), two of Hearts, Jack of Spades, joker, to shuffle, to deal, hand, dealer, to draw, draw pile.

The object of the game is to be the most four of a kind. Setup : _____ a standard _____ of playing cards, and deal 5 cards to each player. Players look at their cards but do not show them to others. Pick a player to go first, then play proceeds _____.

On your turn you ask for one other player for any card rank¹. For example : “Bob, do you have any threes?”. The asked player must give you all the cards _____ the rank from their hand, then you get to take another turn. If the asked player doesn’t have any of the asked cards in their hand they say: “Go Fish.” You then must _____ 1 card from the top of the deck. If you draw the card you had just asked for, show it and take another turn, otherwise end your turn.

Whenever a player gets all four of cards of the same rank, a “4 of a kind”², they immediately remove those cards from their hand and place them grouped together face up in front of themselves. Whenever a player runs out of cards in their hand they immediately draw 5 new cards from the deck. When the deck runs out of cards, play continues until every card in every player’s hand is gone.

The game is now over. Each player receives 1 point for each 4 of a kind match they have in front of them. The player with the most points wins.

Exercise 2 — Variations of Go Fish. Go Fish is a variant of the traditional *Happy Families* card game played in the UK with a set of 44 picture cards featuring families of four (mother, father, son, daughter), based on occupation types (the Vet, the Postman, the Baker etc.).

What is this game called in France? Explain the rules of the French game.

¹The player who is “fishing” must have at least one card of the rank that was asked for in their hand.

²This is called a book

Exercise 3 — How to win at Go Fish.

1. Imagine you are dealt 5 cards at the start of the game and you have 3 Jacks and 3 Aces, What rank would you ask on your first turn and why?

2. Write down 3 tips you could give to win. Share your ideas with the rest of the class.

Exercise 4 — Probability and cards.

1. A card is selected at random from a pack of 52 cards. Find the probability that the card will be the King of Clubs.

2. What is the probability that the chosen card is either a Queen or a 7?

3. What is the probability that the card will be a face card or a Heart?