

Eight Off

A fascinating game for an idle quarter of an hour, with an estimated chance of winning one in two games.

How to play

Deal the pack face up in six rows of eight cards each (see illustration). Play the Aces, as they occur, to a foundation row. The object of the game is to build suit sequences up to the Kings on the Aces.

The bottom card of any column is exposed so once it has been played the card above it becomes available. The player may take up to eight exposed cards into the hand. These cards are collectively known as the reserve and are retained until they are required for building on a foundation or for packing onto an exposed card in a column.

Exposed cards at the foot of columns may be built on a foundation, or packed on another exposed card in descending suit sequence. Only one card may be

moved at a time. A vacancy caused by all the cards of a column being played may only be filled by a King.

In the layout illustrated, the ♠Q is packed on the ♠K, the ♠8 on the ♠9 and the ♣5 taken into the reserve. The ♠7 is packed on the ♠8 and the ♣2 built on the ♣A. The ♥5 is taken into the reserve, the ♠J packed on the ♠Q and the ♣3 built on the ♣2. The ♠7 and ♠8 are taken into the reserve, the ♠7 packed on the ♠8 and the ♠2 built on the ♠A.

Tactics

Aim to release low cards and build them on the foundations. Retain as many openings as possible in the reserve, as these are more valuable than creating vacancies in the layout.

