

Authors

Lively, interactive and demanding, Authors is the perfect game with which to start the card playing at a children's party or family gathering.

Number of players

This game is for three to nine players.

Cards

Each player draws a card from a shuffled deck. Whoever draws the highest-ranking card is appointed dealer; thereafter the job of dealer moves around the table in a clockwise fashion.

The whole pack is dealt one at a time to each player, starting with the person seated to the left of the dealer. Some players may end up with more cards than others, but this inequity will even itself out providing the deal rotates. Players should keep their cards concealed.

How to play

The player to the left of the dealer (let's call her Maya) starts the game by asking any other player (in this case Liam) to give her a particular card, say, for example, the Ace of diamonds. If Liam has the Ace of diamonds, he must give it to Maya.

Players can only ask for a card if they already hold another card of the same rank. So, back to our example, for Maya to ask for the Ace of diamonds, she must already hold an Ace from one of the other three suits.

If Maya's bid is successful, her turn continues until she asks for a card from a player who doesn't hold the card she seeks. When this happens, the turn passes to the player asked.

When a player has collected all four cards of a particular rank, he or she must place the cards face down in front of them.

If a player runs out of cards, he or she can take no further part in the current deal. If their hand is emptied by the completion of a set of cards (rather than by another player successfully bidding for his or her final card), the turn passes to the player from whom they collected their last card.

When all the cards have been played, the players count up the number of completed sets of cards they have collected. The player with the most is the winner of that hand and is given a bonus of ten points. Each player is also awarded a point for every set of cards gathered during the deal. Scores are recorded and the player with the highest aggregate total over a set number of deals is the winner. Alternatively, the game can be played in a 'first past the post' style, with the first to exceed 25 points crowned champion.