

## DOMINO GAME INSTRUCTIONS

For more domino rules, please visit [www.DominoRules.com](http://www.DominoRules.com)  
The Rules for 5 Dominoes Games that can be played with  
this set are included below.

### MUGGINS (STRAIGHT DOMINOES)

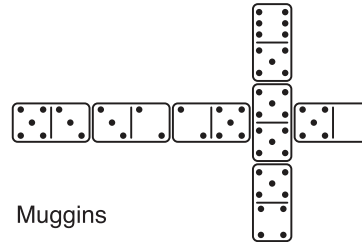
**Muggins** is played with a double-6 set. If you are using a larger set, keep only tiles featuring a 6 or lower, so you are left with 28 tiles.

**Number of players:** 2, 3 or 4. If you are playing with 4 players, players may divide into 2 teams of 2 players (partners sit opposite one another).

**Object of the game:** Be the first to score 250 points.

#### Preparation

Turn the dominoes face down and shuffle them. If there are 2 players, each draws 7 dominoes for his/her first hand. If there are 3 or 4 players, each draws 5 dominoes. Keep your dominoes concealed from the other players. Gather the remaining dominoes into a **bone pile** which will be used for draws during play.



#### Starting

Designate a player to start the game. Thereafter, rotate the starter of each round in a clockwise order.

#### Play

The first player may play any domino he/she wishes from his/her hand and puts it in the center of the table. It does not need to be a double. Play then moves clockwise to the next player.

Players now take turns playing a domino from their hand which has a matching end with one of the open ends on the layout. If a player has a playable tile (end-matching), he/she **must** play it.

However, if a player has no playable tile, he/she must draw a tile from the bone pile and play it, if possible. He/she continues to draw until he/she gets a playable tile or until the bone pile is depleted.

- **Placing the first double:**  
The first double played (called “spinner”) must be placed sideways (at right angles) on the line. This first double may be played off on all four edges: **first** one domino to each side, followed with one domino to each end.
- **Placing subsequent doubles:**  
All subsequent doubles are placed sideways on the lines and the numbers appearing on both ends are added.
- **Scoring with multiples of five during play:**  
At the end of each turn, if the numbers on all the open ends on the layout total any multiple of five, the player is awarded that number of points. In the diagram, the open ends are added as follows:  $6 + 0 + 4 + 5 = 15$ . The player scores 15 points. If a player makes a score but fails to record it, an opponent may call out “Muggins!” and steal the points.
- **Blocking:**  
If, in the course of the game, it is impossible for any of the players to play, the game is “blocked” and the round ends.

#### **Ending a round**

A round ends when the game is blocked or when a player has “dominoed” (played all of his/her tiles). Each player then adds up the numbers appearing on the dominoes in his hand.

#### **Scoring**

- In the case of blocking: The player with the lowest sum adds his opponents’ sums (rounded to the nearest five) to his score. In team play, the team with the combined lowest sum adds the opposing team’s combined sum (rounded to the nearest five) to its score.
- In the case of “dominoing”: The player who has “dominoed” adds his opponent’s sums (rounded to the nearest five) to his/her score. However, in team play, he/she does **not** add his/her partner’s sum.

#### **Final Scoring**

The score of 250 points is usually considered a game. The first player (or team) to score this amount wins the game.

### **CASTLE ROCK**

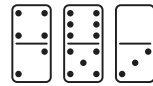
**Castle Rock** can be played with various size domino sets (double-6, double-9, double-12, double-15 and double-18).

**Number of players:** 1

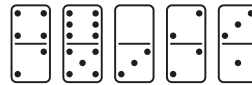
**Object of the game:** Rid yourself of all the dominoes in the set.

#### **Preparation**

Turn the dominoes face down and shuffle them. Gather all the dominoes into a **bone pile** which will be used for draws during play. Draw 3 tiles from this bone pile and place them face up and side by side, vertically, to form a row.



Castle Rock



### Play

For explanatory purposes, we'll call these 3 dominoes, from left to right, "Domino 1", "Domino 2", and "Domino 3".

#### There are 2 removal options:

- Option 1 - Removal of the middle domino  
If the number on one end of Domino 1 matches the number on one end of Domino 3, then Domino 2 is removed from the row. Continue to draw dominoes from the bone pile, one at a time, always adding them to the right side, or end, of the row. When a match occurs between the ends of any 2 dominoes separated by 1 domino, the domino in the middle of the matching dominoes is removed.
- Option 2 - Removal of 3 adjacent dominoes  
When a match occurs between the ends of 3 dominoes in a row, all 3 dominoes can be removed from the row. You may decide it is not the best strategy to remove all 3 dominoes, depending on what the situation will be like after either move. However, you must **always** remove at least 1 domino when the opportunity arises.

#### Discarding all the dominoes during play

Should you discard all the dominoes from the array during play, while the bone pile is not depleted yet, simply draw 3 tiles and start a new array.

#### End of play

Play ends when the bone pile is depleted and you cannot discard any more dominoes from the array.

#### Variations

- For an added challenge, use a timer and try to rid yourself of the most dominoes in record time.
- At the end of a first round, add the numbers on the remaining tiles and try to beat this score with a lower sum on subsequent rounds.

### **FORTY-TWO (Double 6 Set)**

In this game, a team of 2 players attempts to win all 7 of the tricks played (1 point per trick) and each of the 5-count dominoes (2 tiles worth 10 points each and 3 tiles worth 5 points each, for a total of 35 points) in the course of one hand, giving the team a total of 42 points ( $7 + 35 = 42$ ). Thus, the name of the game.

**Number of players:** 4 players play as 2 teams of 2 players per team. Draw lots at the beginning of the game to determine which player shuffles first. Reshuffle the tiles.

**Object of the game:** To be the first team to reach 250 points or win 7 hands.

**Number of dominoes drawn:** Each player draws 7 tiles. All players, except for the shuffler, simultaneously draw 7 tiles from the deck. The shuffler then draws the 7 remaining tiles. The person to the shuffler's left has the first option to bid. Your bid is a prediction of how many of the 42 points you will win in that hand. Your bid should be based almost entirely on your own hand. However, if you win the bid, any points won by your partner during that hand will also count towards your bid. If you hold at least 3 tiles from the same suit in your hand, that is considered a potential bidding hand. That suit will be your trump suit if you win the bid. If you hold 1 or 2 doubles in addition to 3 tiles from the same suit, this is considered a strong hand. The word "trump" comes from the word "triumph". A domino from the trump suit automatically "triumphs" over other played dominoes. Once trumps for the hand have been declared, all 7 dominoes of that trump rank higher than all 21 of the other dominoes. Regardless of who plays it, the highest trump played wins any trick. A trump domino only belongs to the trump suit and not also to the other suit represented on its face. The other number on the trump domino only serves to rank trumps among themselves. **For Example:** If fours are trumps, the 4-4 is the strongest domino of the hand; the 4-6 beats the 4-5; the 4-5 beats the 4-3; and so on, the 4-0 being the lowest trump. The 4-0 for that hand would beat any tile that is not from the 4 suit. The double is the highest domino of each suit, followed in order by the 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and blank. A domino whose ends add up to five or a multiple of five is a "count" domino. There are two count tiles worth 10 points each: 5-5 and 6-4. There are three count tiles worth 5 points each: 5-0, 4-1 and 3-2. All 5-count tiles add up to a total of 35 points. A count scores extra points for the team that wins it in a trick. Bidding continues clockwise around the table, with the shuffler always having the last option to bid. Each player has only one opportunity to bid.

**The minimum bid is 30:** A player must pass if he/she is unable to bid at least 30 or raise a previous bid. If all 4 players pass, all tiles are returned to the deck and then reshuffled by the player to the left of the last player to shuffle. Optional rules force the last person to involuntarily bid 30 and then play the hand. The player making the highest bid is the first player and the player to declare which suit is trump for that hand. (A player never reveals the trump suit until he/she has won the bid and is ready to play the first tile.) The first player plays a tile from his/her hand. Play continues to his/her left. The next three plays made by the other players at the table must "follow suit." This means those three players must play a tile that is of the same suit as the highest end of the first tile played in that trick, unless the first player plays a tile with at least one end from the same suit as what was declared "trump" for that hand. In that case, the next three plays made must follow suit and be a trump tile with an end from the trump suit. **For Example,** if the 6-4 were played first, the other players would have to follow suit with a 6 from

their own hand. But if either end of the first tile played is of the trump suit, then the trump overrides the other number and everyone must follow suit with a trump. If a player holds more than one playable tile in his/her hand, he/she may play any one of them. If a player is unable to follow suit because he/she does not hold that suit in his/her hand, he/she may play any tile from his/her hand, even a trump. The player who plays the highest tile of the lead suit of the highest trump wins the trick. The winner of each trick plays the first tile for the next trick, at which time he/she may play any tile in his/her hand. When all four players have each played one tile, these four tiles are collectively a trick. There are seven tricks in each hand. Each trick is worth one point. One player from each team should collect all the tricks for that team, regardless of which players won the trick. After each trick has been won, the tiles should be moved to one side or corner of the table, the 4 tiles side by side and face-up. This simplifies scoring. Once all 7 tricks have been played, each team should total their number of tricks (1 point per trick) and their total number of points on count dominoes collected (5 and multiples of 5), respectively. If the bidding team makes or exceeds their bid, then that team receives credit for all the points they won during that hand. In that case, the opponents also receive credit for any points won during that hand.

**For Example:** If a team bids 30 and then takes 35 points in the hand, then it has successfully reached its bid and scores 35 points. The opponents receive credit for its 7 points. If a team fails to reach their bid, then that team scores nothing, and the opposing team receives credit for the original bid they defeated, plus the actual points they won during the hand. **For Example:** If your team wins the bid at the beginning of the game with a bid of 37, but took only 35 points in the hand, your team would score 0, and the opponents would score 44 points (their 7 points plus your bid of 37 points). After each hand, the player to shuffle the tiles rotates to the left (clockwise). Play continues in the same manner.

**The first team to reach 250 points wins:** If both teams reach 250 points on the same hand, the team that made the bid on the final hand is the winner of the game, regardless of the score.

**Variation:** A simplified scoring system can be used with one "mark," or point, awarded for the victory of a hand. The first team to win 7 marks wins the match. The instructions given here are probably sufficient for the beginner, but only serve as the basics of the game of Forty-Two. To learn more about the strategy of the game and for a more in-depth description of how the game is played, refer to *Winning 42: Strategy & Lore of the National Game of Texas* by Dennis Roberson and published by Texas Tech University Press in Lubbock, TX.

### **MOON (Double 6 Set)**

**What's unique:** 3 players and plays like 42, but without count dominoes or partners. In this game, bidding starts at 4 tricks and goes as high as 7, called "shooting the moon." There are only 3 players, and each bids or passes once. They can bid 7 or 21: **21 being the game.** Failing costs the bidder the points/tricks he/she bid. The opponents get points for the tricks they captured. Tricks are 1 point. All tiles with blanks, excepting only the double blank, are removed from a double-6 set, leaving 22 tiles.

**Players each draw 7 tiles.** The extra is the "widow" for the bidder's hand. If the tile is used, the bidder discards another tile. Pips are used as suits, with the double being highest.

## **EIGHTY-FOUR (2 Double 6 Sets)**

**Number of players:** 8 players play as two teams of 4 players per team or 6 players play as two teams of 3 players per team.

**Number of dominoes drawn:** When 8 play, each player draws 7 tiles, and there are no tiles remaining in the boneyard. When 6 play, each player draws 9 tiles with 2 tiles remaining in the boneyard.

**Use the rules to Forty-Two**, with the following variations. If two identical dominoes are played, the one played first takes precedence. The minimum bid is 60. With 8 players, there are 7 tricks and each trick is worth 2 points. With 6 players, there are 9 tricks and each trick is worth 2 points. There are a total of 84 points to be won in each hand. 8 Players:  $70$  (35 points in a double 6 set  $\times 2$ ) + 14 (7 tricks at 2 points each) = 84. With 6 Players:  $70$  (35 points in a double 6 set  $\times 2$ ) + 0 (tricks are worth nothing when playing this game with 6 players) + 14 (each double is worth one point when playing this game with 6 players) = 84.

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