

# SHUT THE BOX

This is a simple but compelling game for virtually any number of players. It is frequently played for small stakes in pubs and bars, where the landlord for the entertainment of the customers often keeps a set.

This set consists of a baize-lined tray with nine pivoting wooden tiles; each numbered individually on both sides. When the blocks are lying parallel to the tray they are “open”; when they are tilted back against the edge of the tray they are “closed” or “shut”. The object is to “shut” the numbers by throwing the two dice into the tray and using the score to flip over tiles to the same total value. All the dice score must be used exactly, but it is the player’s choice as to which combination of tiles is flipped over.

## Example:

| <u>Dice Total</u> | <u>Tiles Flipped</u>  |
|-------------------|---|
| 2                 | No. 2   |
| 3                 | Either No.3 or No.1 and No.2                                    |
| 4                 | Either No.4 or No.1 and No.3                                    |
| 5                 | Either No.5 or Nos.1 and 4, or Nos.2 and 3                      |
| 6                 | Either No.6 or Nos.1 and 5, or Nos.2 and 4, or Nos. 1, 2, and 3 |

Both dice are always thrown.

When it is impossible to match the dice throw with any combination of tiles, the turn ends and the remaining “open” tiles are scored against the player. This can be done in two ways.

- (a) by scoring the number as the tiles read from left to right.
- (b) by scoring the total value of the tiles, which remain open.

## Example:

If the remaining open tiles are Nos. 2, 3, and 4, a dice throw of eight cannot be used, and the tiles will be scored against the player.

The score will then be written 2, 3, 4 =234  
or 2 + 3 + 4 =9

Play passes to the next player and continues until each player has taken an agreed number of turns, the winner being the player with the lowest score at the end. However, a player who flips over all nine tiles during his or her turn “Shuts the Box” and wins immediately, whatever the scores are at that time.

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