 Yahtzee

Instructions
1 or More Players
AGES 8 to ADULT

CONTENTS
Dice-rolling tray with insert, 5 dice, dice cup, 8 bonus tokens, 2 pencils, 50 score cards, label sheet

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**Dice Through the Ages**

Dice are the oldest and most universal game pieces. Developed independently by many early civilizations, dice have been found in Egyptian tombs over 2,000 years old, and were used by the ancient Chinese, Native Americans, and tribes in remote regions of Africa!

The first dice were most likely made of knucklebones. Before the invention of plastic, dice were made of ivory, jade, glass, metal, wood, nutshells, and many other materials.

Nineteenth-century dice were commonly made of bone (the original Parcheesi game, from the mid-1800s, includes 8 tiny bone dice). Because dice were used for gambling, they were called “the devil's tools” during much of the 1800s and were considered taboo. Civil War soldiers buried their dice before going into battle, so that if they were killed in combat the dice would not be sent home to their families with their personal belongings. For this reason, Civil War battlefields are believed to be a treasure trove of bone dice!

The best-known gambling game using dice is craps, which has many variations and is played in casinos and on neighborhood streets worldwide.

In 1956, an exciting new dice game, invented by a Canadian couple, was brought to market by game maker E.S. Lowe. Named YAHTZEE after its birthplace—a yacht—the game became hugely popular. Now proudly owned by Hasbro, Yahtzee remains America's favorite dice game!
OBJECT
Roll dice for scoring combinations, and get the highest total score.

GAME SUMMARY
On each turn, roll the dice up to 3 times to get the highest scoring combination for one of 13 categories. After you finish rolling, you must place a score or a zero in one of the 13 category boxes on your score card.

The game ends when all players have filled in their 13 boxes. Scores are totaled, including any bonus points. The player with the highest total wins.

THE FIRST TIME YOU PLAY
Carefully apply the YAHTZEE label to the front of the tray. Then fit the insert into the tray by gently bending it and sliding the tabs into the tray slots, as shown below.

HOW TO PLAY
Each player takes a score card. To decide who goes first, each player in turn rolls all 5 dice into the tray. The player with the highest total goes first. Play then passes to the left.

TAKING A TURN
On your turn, you may roll the dice up to 3 times, although you may stop and score after your first or second roll. To roll the dice, place them in the dice cup, shake them up, and roll them out into the tray. Reroll any dice that lean, or that land outside the tray.

First roll: Roll all 5 dice. Place any “keepers” aside in the tray’s dice holders. You may stop and score now, or roll again.

Second roll: Reroll ANY or ALL dice you want—even “keepers” from the previous roll. You don’t need to declare which combination you’re rolling for; you may change your mind after any roll.

You may stop and score after your second roll, or set aside any “keepers” and roll a third time.

Third and final roll: Reroll ANY or ALL dice you want.

After your third roll, you must fill in a box on your score card with a score or a zero. After you fill in a box, your turn is over.

SCORING
When you are finished rolling, decide which box to fill in on your score card. For each game, there is a column of 13 boxes. You must fill in a box on each turn; if you can’t (or don’t want to) enter a score, you must enter a zero. Fill in each box only once, in any order, depending on your best scoring option.

The score card is divided into an Upper Section and a Lower Section. Scoring combinations for each section are explained below.

UPPER SECTION WHAT TO SCORE
Aces (Ones) . . . . . Total of Aces only
Twos . . . . . . . . Total of Twos only
Threes . . . . . . . . Total of Threes only
Fours . . . . . . . . Total of Fours only
Fives . . . . . . . . Total of Fives only
Sixes . . . . . . . . Total of Sixes only
To score in the Upper Section, add only the dice with the same number and enter the total in the appropriate box. For example, with the dice shown below you could score 9 in the Threes box, 2 in the Twos box or 4 in the Fours box.

Your goal in the Upper Section is to score a total of at least 63 points, to earn a 35-point bonus. The bonus points are based on scoring three of each number (Aces through Sixes); however, you may earn the bonus with any combination of scores totaling 63 points or more.

LOWER SECTION WHAT TO SCORE
3 of a Kind . . . . . Total of all 5 dice
4 of a Kind . . . . . Total of all 5 dice
Full House . . . . . . . 25 points
Small Straight . . . 30 points
Large Straight . . . . . 40 points
YAHTZEE (5 of a Kind) . . . 50 points
Chance . . . . . . . . . Total of all 5 dice
Each of the Lower Section scoring combinations is explained in detail below.

**3 of a Kind:** Score in this box only if the dice include 3 or more of the same number. For example, with the dice shown below you could score 18 points in the 3 of a Kind box.

![3 of a Kind Example]

**Other Scoring Options:** You could instead score 18 in the Chance box, or you could score in the Upper Section: 15 in the Fives box, 2 in the Twos box or 1 in the Aces box.

**4 of a Kind:** Score in this box only if the dice include 4 or more of the same number. For example, with the dice shown below you could score 14 points in the 4 of a Kind box.

![4 of a Kind Example]

**Other Scoring Options:** You could instead score 14 in the 3 of a Kind box or in the Chance box—or you could score in the Upper Section: 8 in the Twos box, or 6 in the Sixes box.

**Full House:** Score in this box only if the dice show three of one number and two of another. Any Full House is worth 25 points. For example, with the dice shown below you could score 25 points in the Full House box.

![Full House Example]

**Other Scoring Options:** You could instead score 19 in the 3 of a Kind box or in the Chance box—or you could score in the Upper Section: 9 in the Threes box or 10 in the Fives box.

**Small Straight:** Score in this box only if the dice show any sequence of four numbers. Any Small Straight is worth 30 points. You could score 30 points in the Small Straight box with any of the three dice combinations shown below.

![Small Straight Example]

**Other Scoring Options:** You could instead score 30 points in the Small Straight box, the Chance box, or the appropriate Upper Section box.

**YAHTZEE:** Score in this box only if the dice show any sequence of five numbers. Any Large Straight is worth 40 points. You could score 40 points in the Large Straight box with either of the two dice combinations shown below.

![Large Straight Example]

**Other Scoring Options:** You could instead score in the Chance box, or in the appropriate Upper Section box.

**YAHTZEE Bonus:** If you roll a YAHTZEE and have already filled in the YAHTZEE box with a 50, you get a 100-point bonus! Take one bonus token, then place a check mark (✓) in the YAHTZEE BONUS box on your score card. Then fill in one of the 13 boxes on your score card according to the Joker Rules, described on the next page.

As long as you've scored 50 in the YAHTZEE box, you get a YAHTZEE bonus for each additional YAHTZEE you roll—just squeeze in the check marks if necessary!

If you roll a YAHTZEE and have already entered zero in the YAHTZEE box, you do not earn a YAHTZEE bonus; however, you must fill in one of the 13 boxes on your score card, according to the Joker Rules.

You earn 50 points for entering a YAHTZEE in the YAHTZEE box. For each additional YAHTZEE you roll, you earn a bonus (see YAHTZEE Bonus, to the right)!

**Chance:** Score the total of any 5 dice in this box. This catch-all category comes in handy when you can't (or don't want to) score in another category, and don't want to enter a zero.

For example, you could score 22 points in the Chance box with the dice shown below.

![Chance Example]
Joker Rules: Score the total of all 5 dice in the appropriate Upper Section box. If this box has already been filled in, score as follows in any open Lower Section box:

3 of a Kind: Total of all 5 dice
4 of a Kind: Total of all 5 dice
Full House: 25 points
Small Straight: 30 points
Large Straight: 40 points
Chance: Total of all 5 dice.

For example, you roll 5 Fours. You've already entered zero in the YAHTZEE box, and have also scored in the Fours box in the Upper Section. The Joker rules allow you to score in any open box in the Lower Section. You decide to score 40 points in the Large Straight box.

If the appropriate Upper Section box and all Lower Section boxes are filled in, you must enter a zero in any open Upper Section box.

ENDING A GAME
Once each player has filled in all 13 category boxes, the game ends.

Each player now adds up his or her score as follows:

Upper Section: Add up your Upper Section scores and enter the total in the TOTAL SCORE box. Enter the 35-point bonus in the BONUS box if you scored 63 points or more. Then enter the total in the TOTAL box, and in the TOTAL of Upper Section box below.

Lower Section: Add up your Lower Section scores, and enter the total in the TOTAL of Lower Section box. Add 100 points for each check mark in the YAHTZEE BONUS boxes (that is, one for each bonus token).

Grand Total: Add up the Upper Section and Lower Section scores, and enter the total in this box. This is your score for the game.

HOW TO WIN
After the scores are tallied, the player with the highest Grand Total wins the game!

SOLO PLAY
No competition around? Challenge yourself in solitaire play, and try to beat your previous scores!

A TURN EXAMPLE
You're well into a 4-player game. Your dice rolls and scoring strategy are illustrated below.

Second Roll

First Roll

Third and Final Roll

Second Roll

You roll a Two. You could reroll the die again for your Large Straight, or set aside the 2 Twos and roll for Twos or for 3 of a Kind. You decide to keep the twos and reroll 3 dice.

Second Roll

You roll 1 Two and 2 Threes. You could score 6 points for Twos, 12 points for 3 of a Kind, or 25 points for Full House. You decide on the Full House because it can be tough to roll later in the game; also, you're ahead in the Upper Section, so you may not need 3 Twos for your 35-point bonus; and also, you're hoping that later you'll roll a higher-scoring 3 of a Kind!

We will be happy to hear your questions or comments about this game. Write to: Hasbro Games, Consumer Affairs Dept., P.O. Box 200, Pawtucket, RI 02862. Tel: 888-836-7025 (toll-free). Canadian consumers please write to: Hasbro Canada Corporation, 2350 de la Province, Longueuil, QC Canada, J4G 1G2.

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