

American Mahjong

Winning a Hand Cheat Sheet



Think you have mahjong? Don't rush the declaration.

Use this quick checklist to confirm your hand, call "mahjong" clearly, and avoid common mistakes.

Is My Hand Complete?

BEFORE YOU DECLARE MAHJONG, CHECK:

- ✓ My hand matches one complete hand on the NMJL card.
- ✓ I have the required number of tiles.
- ✓ I have all the required pairs, pungs, kongs, quints, etc.
- ✓ My exposures match the hand exactly.
- ✓ I have not used a Joker where one is not allowed.
- ✓ I have not accidentally exposed a concealed-only hand.
- ✓ The tile I just received completes the hand.

How A Hand Can Go Wrong

CHECK BEFORE DECLARING:

- ✗ You're making the wrong hand.
- ✗ A concealed-only hand has been exposed.
- ✗ You have the wrong number of tiles.
- ✗ A Joker is being used where it isn't allowed.
- ✗ A required pair is missing.
- ✗ An exposed group doesn't match the card.
- ✗ You're using an outdated card.

The 30-Second Mahjong Check

- 1 FIND IT**
Which exact hand on the card am I making?
- 2 COUNT IT**
Do my tiles match the pattern and required groups?
- 3 CHECK IT**
Are all Jokers, exposures, and concealed requirements allowed?
- 4 CALL IT**
Say "mahjong" clearly.
- 5 SHOW IT**
Reveal your hand and show the matching hand on the card.

MAHJONG OR NOT?

- ?** Does your hand exactly match a hand on the current card?

✓ **YES** → Declare mahjong!

✗ **NO** → Keep playing.



Don't declare because your hand looks complete.
Declare only when it matches a valid hand on the card.

What Happens After You Call Mahjong?

WINNING PROCEDURE

- 1 Declare "mahjong" clearly.
- 2 Reveal your complete hand.
- 3 Identify the matching hand on the NMJL card.
- 4 Confirm the hand's value.
- 5 Confirm any concealed/exposed requirements.
- 6 Collect payment according to the applicable rules/house rules.



MAHJONG
PLAYBOOK