



# Old Maid—Card Game

**Object:** Players try to get matches while trying to avoid being the last player to hold the Old Maid card.

## Message For Parents and Teachers

- Adults or older children should help younger or struggling players as necessary.
- Feel free to use variations or modify rules as appropriate.
- Answers are always available during play and it's okay for players to use them. As they play they'll refer to them less and less, and eventually, not at all.
- Remember, *learning* is the goal. When kids are engaged because they're having fun, learning will happen.

## Directions — 2 or More Players

1. Place non-playing cards face up on the table to be referred to as needed. Keeping the "Old Maid" card in the deck, shuffle the deck.
2. The dealer shuffles the deck and deals until all cards are dealt. (It's okay that some players may be dealt one more card than others.)
3. Players place matches in their hands face up in the center of the table. (Players may help one another at this time.) After all matches are removed, players shuffle their remaining cards.
4. The dealer starts play by spreading out his/her cards (face down) to the player to the left, who draws 1 card. If the drawn card makes a match, the player *reads aloud* the word or phrase on the cards and discards the pair face up in the middle of the table. (Other players should be helpful.)
5. This player then offers the hand face down to the player to the left, who then chooses one of the cards, and so on, in a clockwise direction.
6. Players no longer holding any cards are considered "safe."
7. The game continues without them until all cards have been discarded except for the Old Maid.
8. The last player holding the Old Maid card loses.

## Matches

In some games, the same words are a match. In other games, different cards are a match. (Refer to the Word List Card to see all matches for that deck).

### Examples of matches:

- In most games, the same word or phrase on both cards
- In the VCE game, "hop" and "hope"
- In the Compound Words game "cup" and "cake"
- In the Homophones game "beet" and "beat"
- In math games, cards with equal values, e.g., "6x6" and "36" or "12 inches" and "1 foot"