

Games of the 1920s: Jacks



Jacks can be played indoors or outside with two or more players.

Did you know?

Children have played variations of the game of Jacks for centuries using whatever small items were handy. Some used stones while others used the knucklebones of animals - giving the game its other common name "Knucklebones."

How to Play

- To decide who starts, players throw five jacks into the air with one hand and try to catch as many as possible on the back of the same hand. The player that catches the most goes first.
- The first player throws five jacks on the ground and picks up the ball.
- The player throws the ball up, picks up one jack and catches the ball before it hits the ground, all with the same hand.
 - To make the game a little easier, you can allow the ball to bounce once before catching it.
- Put the jack in the other hand and repeat until all the jacks have been picked up.
- The player then throws the jacks back on the floor and repeats the process, picking up two jacks at a time.
- Each time the player successfully picks up all the jacks, he or she starts again, picking up three jacks at a time, then four, then all five jacks at once before catching the ball.
- If the player misses the ball or does not manage to pick up the right number of jacks, his or her turn ends and the next player tries.
- The player who progresses furthest in the sequence wins!