

Play. Smart

THE GO-TO SOURCE FOR FACTS, TOOLS AND ADVICE ABOUT GAMBLING FOR ALL PLAYERS.



To learn more about your favourite game, take a break from playing or get support should you need it, visit our on-site PlaySmart centres, PlaySmart.ca or call the Virtual PlaySmart Centre at 1-833-888-2306.

PlaySmart Centres are managed by the Responsible Gambling Council an independent non-profit organization dedicated to problem gambling prevention.

> Scan the QR code to learn more about how Bingo games work and what keeps it fun.

WHEN'S THE RIGHT TIME TO

READ TO FIND THAT OUT + MORE!

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BREAKING DOWN BINGO

THE OBJECT OF THE GAME

Bingo! A game of pure chance, Bingo is a universal favourite that's fun and easy to play. It may not require strategy, but it does call for quick thinking and fast action.

The object of the game is to match combinations of letters and numbers on a gridded card to the combinations drawn - and to be the first to fill in a specific pattern on the card.

PARTS OF THE GAME

Before you play, it's good to know the elements of the game and what they're called:



BALL BLOWER

The Bingo ball blower is an air-blowing machine that mixes 75 numbered balls, which are removed and called out one



BINGO CARDS

Each Bingo card has 24 numbered squares, plus one free space. It's divided into a grid with the letters B. I. N. G. and O as separate columns. Under each letter are numbers that correspond with a series of numbers from 1 to 75. The FREE space in the centre of the grid is considered automatically filled.



Bingo cards come in "strips". A strip is a vertical column of 3 bingo cards.



containing strips of Bingo cards. Books range from 1 to 6 strips, with 3 to 18 cards per page that can only be played for that day's session. Strip/book must be played on the session program for which it was purchased.

Whenever you play Bingo, you buy a book



SESSION PROGRAM

This is the agenda, shown on a paper handed out at the Centre. It's designed to present the order of the games, the prize for each game, and the line or pattern required to win.



The person who calls out the numbers to the players, and stops the action when BINGO! is called.



MARKER OR DAUBER

This is a special ink marker used to mark or "dab" the numbers on your cards as they are called.



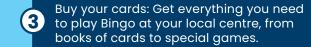
FLASHBOARD

A flashboard displays each number

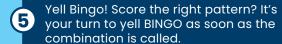
STEPS TO PLAY

Plan your play: Choose your Centre, arrive early, and pick up a Session Program to see when specific games are played. Payment methods may vary, with some centres accepting credit or debit cards and others cash-only.





Dab and Play Bingo: Get ready, get set, go! Watch and listen to the caller for every number-letter combination; dab and play to win.



BINGO PATTERNS

To win the game, get all of the number-letter combinations needed to form the game's required pattern. Possible patterns are:









CORNERS





CROSS

CARD

WINNING BINGO

Got the winning pattern? It's time to yell out BINGO! Whether you yell it out or simply let the caller know, here are some dos and don'ts:

- Yell BINGO! as soon as the winning number
- Yell BINGO! before the announcer moves on to the next number - otherwise it won't count.

DON'T:

- Yell BINGO! before the announcer calls your last number, even if it's up on the flashboard.
- Worry if you yell BINGO! by mistake it's not a problem!

JACKPOTS

There are two types of Bingo jackpot prizes:

FIXED JACKPOTS

These prizes are completely fixed – unaffected by the number of players or any other factors. A winner is guaranteed for each game.

PROGRESSIVE JACKPOTS

Progressive jackpots start with a base prize and increase over time. Not every progressive game will have a winner, so the prize pot will continue to increase until a player wins.

Some progressive jackpot games feature an ordinal number. That means to win the jackpot, Bingo must be called before a maximum number of balls are drawn.

GAME VARIATIONS

Bingo is so popular, it's evolved into many variations of the game:



eBingo is an electronic version of Bingo. Played on a touchscreen, the computer follows the same session as paper bingo and automatically "dabs" the numbers for you as they're called. All you have to do is follow along and yell BINGO! if you win.



PLAYSMART TIP

1. The number of cards in play

2. The number of balls drawn

PLAYSMART TIP

unpredictable fun!

Remember to take frequent breaks to stay refreshed. Consider grabbing a bite to eat!

The odds of winning Bingo are based on two factors:

For Bingo games with fixed jackpots, the odds are

calculated by taking the number of cards you're

So, if 100 cards are in play and you have 1 card,

Buying more cards will improve your odds, but at

an additional cost with no guarantee of winning.

All cards in any given game offer the

same odds. Whether you win or lose is

...

your chances of winning are 1 in 100.

playing divided by the total number of cards in play.



BINGO EVENT TICKETS

Bingo Event Tickets are a variation of Break Open Tickets that offer the chance to win instant prizes during Bingo sessions. These tickets feature perforated covers that players tear open to reveal different series of numbers. The first player to match all their numbers to those called during the Bingo session, wins! Winning tickets can then be turned in for cash prizes.



TURBO CHALLENGE BINGO

Time to take it up a notch! Played on eBingo terminals in between sessions, Turbo Challenge Bingo calls numbers every few seconds. Players are challenged to quickly follow along in an effort to match the winning pattern.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL BINGO VARIATIONS AT PLAYSMART.CA

ETIQUETTE

Ready to play? Although they don't increase your odds of winning, good manners make for a good game:

- Remember to be respectful to the caller and your fellow players.
- Many Charitable Bingo and Gaming Centres feature two rooms: one that's more lively and another reserved for quieter play. If you're in the quieter room, remember to keep your voice down - unless you're yelling BINGO!
- Sharing cards is not allowed.
- If there is an issue, such as calls that are too fast or not loud enough to hear, you can politely talk to the caller or another attendant.

has lower odds of winning, but higher prizes to be won. The opposite is true of playing during off-peak hours: higher odds of winning but

lower prizes to be won.

depends on your budget.

MY CHANCES?

DO CERTAIN PATTERNS HELP MY CHANCES?

Different patterns are simply designed to create fun and variety. No matter what patterns you play for, the odds that your card has the winning numbers are always the same.

STRATEGIES

Bingo is a game of pure chance. But here

Bingo strategies:

are some frequently asked questions about

Playing multiple cards increases your odds

multiple cards is worth it is up to you, and

Yes, but there's a catch. Playing during peak

hours (from Thursday to Sunday evenings)

DOES AVOIDING CROWDS HELP

to win, but also increases the cost to play and

the risk of missing a number. Whether playing

DOES IT HELP TO PLAY MULTIPLE CARDS?



FOR MORE FACTS, TOOLS & ADVICE ON BINGO **GO TO PLAYSMART.CA**