

Queen of Hearts Card Game

This game is simple to play but hard to devise a strategy for. Of course, relying on luck might be as strategic as anything else! Gather people to the activity by playing the infectious song [“Playing with the Queen of Hearts”](#) by Juice Newton.

Object of the game: Points are awarded for each queen a player collects during game play. The first person to score enough queens to reach 100 points wins.

Note: This is not the same as the card game “Hearts.” You can play a fun version of the traditional game [Hearts](#) for free over the internet.

Number of players: 4–6

Supplies:

- Regular deck of cards with the jokers removed
- Whiteboard or pen and paper for scorekeeping
- (Optional) Cardholders



Playing Queen of Hearts:

1. Deal the entire deck to players, facedown. Players hold their cards so they can see them but their opponents can't.
2. The first player places a card faceup in the center. It can be any number and any suit. The suit they put down becomes the lead suit.
3. The play continues clockwise. When it's a player's turn and they a card that's the same suit as the initial suit set down, they **MUST** play it.
4. If the player doesn't have a single card in that suit, they can play any card they want. The next players still need to play the lead suit put down by the first player if they can.
5. The player who puts down the highest card in the same suit as the first player, which may be the first player, takes all the cards from the round and puts them in a pile in front of them on the table, separate from the cards in their hand. Aces are the high card in this game, followed by kings, queens, jacks, 10, 9, 8, etc.

Example #1:

- Player 1: 4 of clubs
- Player 2: 10 of hearts
- Player 3: 2 of clubs
- Player 4: 7 of clubs

Player 4 would take the cards.

Example #2:

- Player 1: Ace of hearts
- Player 2: King of hearts
- Player 3: 5 of hearts
- Player 4: Queen of hearts

Player 1 would take the cards, including the valuable queen of hearts. Aces are high in this game, so they trump the king.

6. Whoever takes the cards goes next and puts a card faceup in the center of the table. Play continues until all players have used all the cards in their hand.
7. When everyone is out of cards, award players 10 points for any queen they have in their pile and 20 points to the player with the queen of hearts. Jot down the scores, shuffle the deck, and begin again.

Luck and Strategy

- Any game where cards are dealt has a strong element of luck. But as you play Queen of Hearts, look out for strategies that might work. Maybe you'll find you have better luck leading with low cards or trying to use all the cards of one suit at a time. Perhaps paying attention to what cards your opponents lay down will prove helpful.
 - If you already have a queen in your hand, you will still have to play it at some point, so you'll want to think of ways to "win" that hand and get the queen back, if possible.
 - Remember, it doesn't matter how many cards you have in the end, just how many queens.
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