The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY TENNIS PLAYER SHOULD KNOW

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 65. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

SPORTS & FITNESS

In tennis scoring, what does the word "love" mean?

- **A** Zero points
- **B** A tied score
- **C** One point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Zero points

WHY The Rules of Tennis call no points "Love." So 15 to love means the server has one point and the receiver has none.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why should you never date a tennis player?
Because to them, love means nothing.

SESK.INFO #9909

SPORTS & FITNESS

In a standard tennis game, what score comes after 30?

- **A** 45
- **B** 40
- **C** 35

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 40

WHY Points go love, 15, 30, 40, then game. The third point is called 40, not 45, even though the first two jumped by 15.

STRAIGHT FACE
I tried counting my tennis points by fifteens.
Everything was fine until I hit 40 and my math quit.

SESK.INFO #9910

SPORTS & FITNESS

When calling the score in a tennis game, whose score is said first?

- **A** The player who is winning
- **B** The receiver's
- **C** The server's

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The server's

WHY The Rules of Tennis say a game is scored with the server's score called first. So 30 to 15 means the server is ahead.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are waiters so good at tennis? They really know how to serve.

SESK.INFO #9911

SPORTS & FITNESS

In tennis, when is the score called "deuce"?

- **A** When both sides have won three points
- **B** When both sides have won one point
- **C** When a set is tied at six games

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A When both sides have won three points

WHY If each player or team has won three points, the score is deuce instead of 40 all. From there, someone has to pull ahead by two.

STRAIGHT FACE
My tennis game is like a seesaw. Deuce, advantage, deuce, advantage, deuce.

SESK.INFO #9912

SPORTS & FITNESS

In a standard tennis game, a player wins the point after deuce. What is the score called?

- **A** Game
- **B** Advantage
- **C** 40 to 30

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Advantage

WHY In a standard game, the player who wins the point after deuce has the advantage. Winning the following point takes the game.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked my tennis partner for an advantage. She said, win a point first.

SPORTS & FITNESS

You have the advantage, then your opponent wins the next point. What is the score now?

- **A** Your opponent's game
- **B** Your opponent's advantage
- **C** Deuce again

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Deuce again

WHY If the opponent wins the point after an advantage, the score goes back to deuce. To win, you need two points in a row right after deuce.

STRAIGHT FACE
My tennis game keeps going back to deuce. It is the boomerang of scores.

SPORTS & FITNESS

In a normal tennis set, how many games do you need to win?

- **A** Six games, ahead by two
- **B** Seven games, ahead by one
- **C** Ten games, ahead by two

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Six games, ahead by two

WHY The first player or team to win six games wins the set, as long as they are two games ahead. So 6 to 4 wins, but 6 to 5 does not yet.

STRAIGHT FACE
I asked my tennis friend if she was all set. She said, not until I win six games.

SPORTS & FITNESS

In a tie-break set, at what game score is a tie-break played?

- **A** Five games all
- **B** Six games all
- **C** Seven games all

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Six games all

WHY In a tie-break set, if the score reaches six games all, a tie-break game is played. The winner of the tie-break wins the set 7 to 6.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis player bring string to the match? In case she needed to tie a break.

SPORTS & FITNESS

How are points counted during a tie-break game?

A Love, 15, 30, 40

B By games won

C Zero, 1, 2, 3 and so on

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Zero, 1, 2, 3 and so on

WHY During a tie-break, points are scored as plain numbers: zero, 1, 2, 3 and up. It makes it easy to see who is closer to seven.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do tennis players count normally in a tie-break? Fifteen, thirty, forty was getting too confusing under pressure.

SESK.INFO #9918

SPORTS & FITNESS

How do you win a standard tennis tie-break game?

A First to seven points, ahead by two

B First to ten points, ahead by one

C First to five points, ahead by two

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A First to seven points, ahead by two

WHY The first player or team to win seven points wins the tie-break and the set, if they lead by two. At 6 to 6 it keeps going until someone is two ahead.

STRAIGHT FACE
My tie-break went to 14 to 12. It was less of a tie-break and more of a tie-marathon.

SESK.INFO #9917

SPORTS & FITNESS

In a best of three sets match, how many sets do you need to win?

A Three sets

B One set

C Two sets

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Two sets

WHY A match can be best of three, where a player or team needs two sets to win. In best of five, they need three sets.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis player bring three sets of clothes? It was a best of three match.

SESK.INFO #9920

SPORTS & FITNESS

Both players have won two points in a game. How is the score announced?

A 30 to 30 deuce

B 30 all

C Love all

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 30 all

WHY When the score is tied in a game or set, players say all. Two points each is 30 all. The only tied score with its own name is 40 all, which is deuce.

STRAIGHT FACE
My tennis match was so even, the umpire just kept saying all, all, all. It sounded like a cheerleader.

SESK.INFO #9919

SPORTS & FITNESS

At the four Grand Slams, what happens at 6 games all in the final set?

- **A** A 10 point tie-break
- **B** A normal 7 point tie-break
- **C** Play on until someone leads by two games

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **A 10 point tie-break**

WHY Since 2022, all four Grand Slams settle a final set at 6 all with a 10 point tie-break. The winner needs 10 points and a two point lead.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do Grand Slam players count to 10 in the last set? They want to make sure everyone is really calm before it ends.

SESK.INFO #9921

SPORTS & FITNESS

In a tie-break, the first player serves one point. Who serves the next two?

- **A** The same player again
- **B** The opponent
- **C** Whoever won the last point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B **The opponent**

WHY The player due to serve takes only the first point. The opponent then serves two points, and after that each side serves two points in a row until the tie-break ends.

STRAIGHT FACE
A tie-break is the only time tennis players take turns as nicely as kids sharing dessert. One, then two, then two.

SESK.INFO #9922

SPORTS & FITNESS

What happens when a server misses both the first and second serve?

- **A** The server gets a third try
- **B** The point is replayed
- **C** The server loses the point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C **The server loses the point**

WHY You get two tries to put a serve in. If you serve two faults in a row, you lose the point, which is called a double fault.

STRAIGHT FACE
I served two faults in a row and blamed my racket. It said it was not its fault, it was mine. Twice.

SESK.INFO #9923

SPORTS & FITNESS

Under standard ITF rules, a serve clips the net and lands in the correct box. What happens?

- **A** It is a let, serve it again
- **B** It is a fault
- **C** The server wins the point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **It is a let, serve it again**

WHY Under standard Rule 22, a serve that touches the net and is otherwise good is a let. That serve is taken again.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis serve apologize to the net? It knew it had to let it go.

SESK.INFO #9924

SPORTS & FITNESS

You miss your first serve, then your second serve is a let. What serve is next?

- **A** A fresh first serve
- **B** Still your second serve
- **C** No serve, you lose the point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Still your second serve

WHY A service let means only that one serve is taken again. It does not cancel a fault you already served, so you are still on your second serve.

STRAIGHT FACE
My second serve hit the net cord and I got a let. My nerves did not get a let.

SESK.INFO #9925

SPORTS & FITNESS

While serving, your foot touches the baseline before you hit the ball. What is it called?

- **A** A let
- **B** A legal serve
- **C** A foot fault

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C A foot fault

WHY During the service motion, the server must not touch the baseline or the court with either foot. Doing so is a foot fault, which counts as a service fault.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis player get a foot fault? He was putting his best foot forward a little too early.

SESK.INFO #9926

SPORTS & FITNESS

In every standard game, which side of the court does the first serve come from?

- **A** The right half
- **B** The left half
- **C** The server picks

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The right half

WHY In a standard game the server serves from behind alternate halves of the court, starting from the right half every game.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do tennis players start serving on the right? Because it is the right thing to do.

SESK.INFO #9927

SPORTS & FITNESS

Where must a serve land to be good?

- **A** Anywhere on the other side
- **B** In the box straight across
- **C** In the box diagonally opposite

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C In the box diagonally opposite

WHY The serve must pass over the net and hit the service court diagonally opposite before the receiver returns it. Serving from the right means aiming at the receiver's right box, crosscourt.

STRAIGHT FACE
My serve has one rule: go diagonal. My serve has one problem: it never listens.

SESK.INFO #9928

SPORTS & FITNESS

How far from the net is the service line on a tennis court?

- **A** 15 feet
- **B** 21 feet
- **C** 39 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 21 feet

WHY The service lines are drawn 21 feet from each side of the net. The space between that line and the net is split in two by the center service line, making the two service boxes.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis court hire a tape measure? To keep everyone in line.

SESK.INFO #9929

SPORTS & FITNESS

How wide is a tennis court for doubles, counting the alleys?

- **A** 36 feet
- **B** 27 feet
- **C** 42 feet

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A 36 feet

WHY A singles court is 27 feet wide. For doubles, the court is 36 feet wide. The extra strips on each side are called the doubles alleys.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do doubles players get the alleys? Somebody has to take out the extra balls.

SESK.INFO #9930

SPORTS & FITNESS

In singles, may you serve standing behind the doubles alley part of the baseline?

- **A** Yes, anywhere behind the baseline
- **B** Only on the second serve
- **C** No, only in doubles

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C No, only in doubles

WHY In singles the server must stand between the center mark and the singles sideline. Standing behind the alley is allowed only in doubles.

STRAIGHT FACE
I tried to serve from the alley in singles. The umpire said that was a dead end.

SESK.INFO #9931

SPORTS & FITNESS

A ball lands touching the edge of the line. Is it in or out?

- **A** Out
- **B** In
- **C** It is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B In

WHY If a ball touches any part of a line, it is treated as landing in the court that line borders. Even a tiny touch of the line is in.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis ball love the line? Because touching it meant it was in.

SESK.INFO #9932

SPORTS & FITNESS

The ball bounces twice on your side before you hit it. What happens?

- **A** You lose the point
- **B** Play goes on if you return it
- **C** The point is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A You lose the point

WHY You can let the ball bounce once, or hit it in the air, but you lose the point if you do not return it before it bounces twice.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis ball bounce twice? It was trying to make a good second impression.

SESK.INFO #9933

SPORTS & FITNESS

Can the receiver volley the serve, hitting it before it bounces?

- **A** Yes, any time
- **B** Only in doubles
- **C** No, the receiver loses the point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C No, the receiver loses the point

WHY The receiver must let the serve bounce. Returning it before it bounces loses the point. After the serve, players may volley the ball in the air during the rally.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why can't you volley a serve? Even tennis balls deserve one bounce of fame.

SESK.INFO #9934

SPORTS & FITNESS

During a rally, your racket brushes the net. What happens?

- **A** Nothing if it was an accident
- **B** You lose the point
- **C** The point is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B You lose the point

WHY If you, your racket or anything you wear touches the net, net posts or straps while the ball is in play, you lose the point, even by accident.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are fish bad at tennis? They don't like getting close to the net.

SESK.INFO #9935

SPORTS & FITNESS

Can you reach over the net and hit the ball before it crosses to your side?

- **A** No, you lose the point
- **B** Yes, if you do not touch the net
- **C** Yes, but only on a volley

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A No, you lose the point

WHY You must wait for the ball to come over to your side. Hitting it before it has passed the net loses the point.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis player get in trouble for reaching over the net? She was always trying to get ahead of herself.

SESK.INFO #9936

SPORTS & FITNESS

In no-ad scoring, what happens when a game reaches deuce?

- **A** Players need two points in a row
- **B** A tie-break is played
- **C** The next point wins the game

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C The next point wins the game

WHY No-ad scoring skips the advantage. At deuce, one deciding point is played and whoever wins it wins the game.

STRAIGHT FACE
No-ad scoring is like the last cookie in the jar. One point, winner takes all.

SESK.INFO #9940

SPORTS & FITNESS

During a standard tie-break, how often do players change ends?

- **A** After every six points
- **B** After every point
- **C** Only when the tie-break ends

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A After every six points

WHY In a tie-break, players change ends after every six points played. So a score like 4 to 2, 5 to 1 or 3 to 3 means it is time to switch.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis player count to six in the tie-break? So she knew when to make her move. To the other side.

SESK.INFO #9939

SPORTS & FITNESS

When do tennis players switch ends of the court during a set?

- **A** After every game
- **B** After every odd numbered game
- **C** Only at the end of each set

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B After every odd numbered game

WHY Players change ends after game one, game three, game five and every other odd game of each set. That way sun and wind affect both sides fairly.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do tennis players switch sides on odd games? Because switching on even games would be too normal.

SESK.INFO #9938

SPORTS & FITNESS

You hit the ball on your side, and your racket follows through over the net. Is that OK?

- **A** No, you lose the point
- **B** Only on an overhead smash
- **C** Yes, it is a good return

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Yes, it is a good return

WHY A return is good when your racket passes over the net after hitting the ball on your own side and the ball lands in. Just don't touch the net.

STRAIGHT FACE
My racket followed through over the net. It just wanted to say hi to the other side.

SESK.INFO #9937

SPORTS & FITNESS

During a rally, your shot clips the net and drops in. What happens?

- **A** It is a let, replay the point
- **B** It is a good return, play on
- **C** You lose the point

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B It is a good return, play on

WHY During a rally, a ball that touches the net, goes over and lands in the correct court is a good return. Under standard rules, an otherwise good net-touching serve is a service let.

STRAIGHT FACE
My shot clipped the net and dribbled over. My opponent called it lucky. I called it planned.

SESK.INFO #9941

SPORTS & FITNESS

A serve that does not touch the net hits the ready receiver before it bounces. Who wins the point?

- **A** The server
- **B** The receiver
- **C** Nobody, the serve is replayed

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The server

WHY The server wins when a serve hits the ready receiver before touching the ground. A service let would be replayed instead.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the tennis player stand so still when receiving? She did not want to catch the server's attention.

SESK.INFO #9942

SPORTS & FITNESS

Who makes line calls on your side in an unofficiated tennis match?

- **A** Your opponent calls your side
- **B** A roving referee calls your side
- **C** You call your own side

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C You call your own side

WHY The Code for unofficiated matches says each player is responsible for calls on their own side. Making your own calls keeps the match fair.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do tennis players make good witnesses? They always call it as they see it.

SESK.INFO #9943

SPORTS & FITNESS

According to The Code, when should you make your line call?

- **A** After the point ends
- **B** Promptly, right away
- **C** Only at the next changeover

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Promptly, right away

WHY The Code says to make all calls promptly: before your return goes out of play or before your opponent can hit it. Late calls give you two chances to win the point.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a slow line call in tennis? A late-breaking story.

SESK.INFO #9944

SPORTS & FITNESS

What should you call if you are not sure whether a shot was out?

- **A** Out to keep pressure on
- **B** Let and replay the point
- **C** In, because doubt goes to your opponent

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C In, because doubt goes to your opponent

WHY The Code says any doubt is resolved in favor of your opponent. A ball you cannot call out is good, and you may not claim a let because you did not see it.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do tennis players make good detectives? They never call out unless there is clear evidence.

SESK.INFO #9945

SPORTS & FITNESS

In an unofficiated match, can you ask a spectator to help make a line call?

- **A** Yes, any spectator may decide
- **B** No, spectators never make calls
- **C** Only a parent in the stands

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B No, spectators never make calls

WHY The Code says a player shall not enlist a spectator's help with a call. No spectator has a part in the match.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why don't spectators make line calls? They only came for the racket.

SESK.INFO #9946

SPORTS & FITNESS

When is it correct to walk behind a court during a match?

- **A** During a long rally to save time
- **B** Between points after the point ends
- **C** Only after the whole match ends

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Between points after the point ends

WHY Crossing during a point distracts the players. Wait until the point is finished, then pass quickly behind the court.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the walking spectator get a tennis warning? He crossed the line, literally.

SESK.INFO #9947

SPORTS & FITNESS

A ball from the next court rolls over to you while they are mid-point. What do you do?

- **A** Hit it back to them right away
- **B** Keep it until your own match ends
- **C** Wait for their point to end, then return it

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Wait for their point to end, then return it

WHY The Code says to wait until the point is over on that court, then return the ball directly to one of the players, preferably the server.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the stray tennis ball cross the court? To get to the other side, but politely after the point.

SESK.INFO #9948

SPORTS & FITNESS

For a right-handed player, which side of the body is the forehand on?

- **A** The right side
- **B** The left side
- **C** Directly above the head

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A The right side

WHY USTA defines the forehand as the stroke for balls on the right side of a right-handed player, or the left side of a left-handed player.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the forehand go to school? To get ahead in tennis.

SESK.INFO #9949

SPORTS & FITNESS

Can a tennis backhand be hit with two hands?

- **A** No, it must be one-handed
- **B** Yes, one-handed or two-handed
- **C** Only by players under 12

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Yes, one-handed or two-handed

WHY USTA's glossary says backhands are hit either one-handed or two-handed. The backhand is on the left side for a right-hander.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the backhand bring a friend? It needed support on the other side.

SESK.INFO #9950

SPORTS & FITNESS

When do you hit a volley in tennis?

- **A** After two bounces
- **B** Before the ball bounces
- **C** Only after a serve

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Before the ball bounces

WHY A volley is a shot hit before the ball touches the ground. Players usually volley near the net.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why are volleys so polite? They never let the ball drop in.

SESK.INFO #9951

SPORTS & FITNESS

What is an overhead shot in tennis?

- **A** A low ball sliced with backspin
- **B** A short angled shot just over the net
- **C** A high ball hit above your head

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C A high ball hit above your head

WHY USTA defines an overhead as a stroke made with the racquet above the head in a motion like an overhand serve. It often answers a lob.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do overheads always have the high ground? Because they are above the net.

SESK.INFO #9952

SPORTS & FITNESS

What is a drop shot in tennis?

- **A** A deep drive to the corner
- **B** A hard serve into the body
- **C** A soft short shot placed just over the net

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C A soft short shot placed just over the net

WHY A drop shot is a soft shot with lots of backspin that lands near the net. It makes the opponent sprint forward.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the drop shot whisper? It did not want the net to hear it coming.

SESK.INFO #9954

SPORTS & FITNESS

What is a lob in tennis?

- **A** A soft shot that barely clears the net
- **B** A high, arcing shot over an opponent at net
- **C** A hard flat drive down the line

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A high, arcing shot over an opponent at net

WHY A lob lifts the ball high in the air, usually over the head of an opponent who has come to the net.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the lob join the circus? It was great at going over things.

SESK.INFO #9953

SPORTS & FITNESS

What kind of spin does a slice shot use?

- **A** Forward topspin
- **B** Backspin
- **C** No spin at all

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Backspin

WHY USTA defines a slice as a shot that puts backspin on the ball, made with a high-to-low swing.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the slice shot get a job at the deli? It already knew how to cut.

SESK.INFO #9956

SPORTS & FITNESS

What kind of swing puts topspin on a tennis ball?

- **A** High to low
- **B** Low to high
- **C** Perfectly flat, no brushing

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Low to high

WHY Topspin is forward rotation of the ball. You create it by brushing up the back of the ball with a low to high swing.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do topspin shots make great students? They always stay ahead of the bounce.

SESK.INFO #9955

SPORTS & FITNESS

Which four tournaments make up the tennis Grand Slam?

- **A** Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon, US Open
- **B** Sydney, Monte Carlo, London, Los Angeles
- **C** Miami, Paris, Rome, New York

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A **Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon, US Open**

WHY The Grand Slam Rule Book names four championships: Australia, France, Great Britain and the United States. Those are the Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon and the US Open.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why should you never fall in love with a tennis player?
To them, love means nothing.

SESK.INFO #9958

SPORTS & FITNESS

Which grip is commonly used for serves and volleys?

- **A** Western forehand grip
- **B** Full eastern backhand grip
- **C** Continental grip

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C **Continental grip**

WHY USTA says the continental grip is used for volleys, the serve, the slice backhand and the overhead, so it is a key grip to learn.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why do waiters like tennis players? They serve so well.

SESK.INFO #9957

1
AhaBulb POINT

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AhaBulb POINT