



RULEBOOK

TWO CARDS, TWO THOUGHTS, ONE MIND.

In the game of **Medium**, you and your friends will harness your powerful extrasensory abilities to send psychic messages across the table! Together, you and a partner will think of the Medium: the one word connecting the two words on your cards — and say that same word out loud, at the same time. You will *act as a medium*, to *find the medium*, *through the medium* of cards! It's called **Medium**. And when it happens, it feels amazing. Because it is.

COMPONENTS



270 Medium Cards
15 sets of 18 cards each



3 Crystal Ball Cards



16 Extra Special Power (ESP) Cards
8 *Psychic Link*, 8 *Clear Mind*



16 Divider Cards
1 for each numbered set,
1 for other cards



54 Mind Meld Tokens

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18 First Attempt, 18 Second Attempt, 18 Third Attempt

SETUP

Step One: Select sets of cards

Medium contains 18 sets of cards, each set distinguished by the small numbers in the bottom right corner of the card face. These sets are carefully crafted to help facilitate better psychic connections during the game.

When setting up a **Medium** deck, use one set fewer than the number of players (3 sets for a 4-player game, 4 sets for a 5-player game, and so on). *For example: In a 4-player game players would need 3 sets of cards. So they choose set 8, set 13, and set 14.* Sets can be chosen at random.

Step Two: Add Crystal Ball cards

Shuffle the sets together into one deck. Separate the deck into thirds. Shuffle the three Crystal Ball cards into the bottom third, then place the remaining two-thirds of the deck on top of it.

Step Three: Deal six cards face-down to each player.

Step Four: Place Mind Meld tokens point-side-down in the middle of the table. Make three piles: a pile of First Attempt tokens, one of Second Attempt tokens, and one of Third Attempt tokens.

Step Five: Randomly select a player to go first.



GAMEPLAY

PHASE ONE: FIND THE MEDIUM

Step 1: One player plays a card, then their partner does.

On your turn, you will partner with the player on your left, who will choose and play one card from their hand face-up in front of you. Then you will pick a card from your own hand and play it face-up next to your partner's card. Say the word out loud as you play the card. Using this set of two words, you and your partner will attempt to find the Medium.

***The Medium:** It's the word that connects the two words on your cards: the word that the two words suggest, the word that's defined by them, or the word that acts as a compromise between them.*

Step 2: The partners attempt to match.

Mentally connect with your partner to lock in a word. Take a deep breath (optional), relax (not required), confirm that your partner is ready, then count down, out loud, in unison with your partner, saying:

THREE... TWO... ONE... and then say whatever word you think is the Medium.

For example, if the words were:

TACO and **BEACH:** Maybe it's **SHELL?**

SNOW and **SIDEWALK:** Probably **SHOVEL.**

LARGE and **SMALL:** The Medium is literally **MEDIUM.**

If you match, that's a Mind Meld! Take one Mind Meld token from the First Attempt pile (worth 5 or 6 points), and place it between you and your partner to create a shared pile of tokens to be scored at the end of the game. Your turn is now over.

If you and your partner don't match on your first attempt, you now have a second attempt to match, using the words you **just said** rather than the words on the cards.

*For example: The cards were **TIGER** and **BLACK**. You said **PANTHER**, but your partner said **STRIPE** on your first attempt. **PANTHER** and **STRIPE** now become the words you'll use to find the Medium on your second attempt. But you can't use any words on the original cards so you couldn't say **TIGER** here.*

If you match on your second attempt, take a Mind Meld token (worth 3 or 4 points) from the Second Attempt pile and place it in a pile between you and your partner.

If you don't match on your second attempt, you have one last chance. Use the two words you guessed on your second attempt. Remember, you can't say **any** previous words as the Medium. If you Mind Meld, take a Third Attempt token (worth 1 or 2 points), place it in a shared pile of tokens with your partner, and your turn is over.

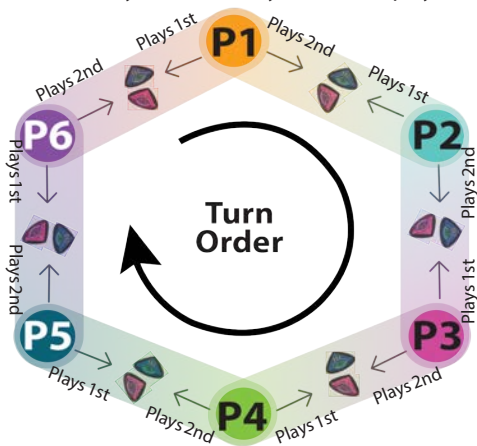
If you don't match on your third attempt, your turn is over and you don't get any points. Don't feel bad — this happens to **Medium** players all the time.

PHASE TWO: REFILL YOUR HAND

At the end of your turn, place the used word cards into the discard pile. Then, you and your partner both draw a card, so you each have a full hand of six cards.

PLAY PROGRESSES

Now it's time for play to progress around the table. This time, you get to watch as your former partner turns to the player on their left and they take a turn! Soon enough, the player to your right will be looking for a mind meld with you when it is your turn to play a card...



The diagram above shows a 6-player game. Play progresses in clockwise order. The arrows show who each player is partnered with throughout the game. In a 6-player game, there are 6 teams.

END GAME

PLAY UNTIL THE CRYSTAL BALL SHATTERS

When you draw the first Crystal Ball card, place it face-up in the middle of the table. As your group's combined psychic energies grow, cracks begin to form in your crystal ball! Draw another card, ensuring that you have six cards. Do the same when the second Crystal Ball card is drawn. Your crystal ball continues to fracture as it is overcome by raw mental power! When you draw the third and final Crystal Ball card, it shatters your crystal ball, breaking the psychic connection in the room.



Finish the round you're playing, ensuring that each team has an equal number of turns by the end of the game. Play ends with the team of the starting player and the player to their right.

SCORING

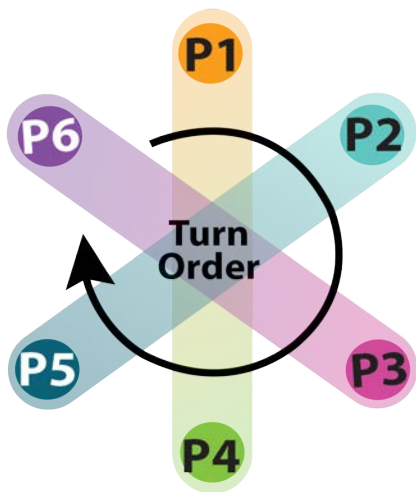
COUNT UP THE SCORES AND SEE WHO WON

Since you're on two teams, you have two scores: one each with the player on your left and on your right. Count up the points in your shared pile of Mind Meld tokens and unused ESP cards, if you're using them. See **Extra Special Power Cards** on page 8 for details. The pair with the most points wins, if you're into points and scoring and winning. If there's a tie, how about it's just a tie? Would that be so bad?

ALTERNATE RULES

PLAYING IN TEAMS

If you have an even number of people, you can choose to play on a team with a specific partner rather than playing with the person to your left and right. Partner with the person sitting across from you for the entire game. Alternate who plays the first card each turn. Points are scored as a team. All points earned from ESP cards are added to the team score.



The diagram above shows a 6-player game. In a 6-player game of this style, there are only 3 teams.

TWO-PLAYER GAMES

For two players, use three sets, shuffle in the Crystal Ball cards, don't use ESP cards, play as one team, and count your shared points. Just play for fun!

EXTRA SPECIAL POWER (ESP) CARDS

Once you've played a couple of games, add in the **Extra Special Power (ESP) cards**, which grant each player one-time-use-only powers. There are two ESP cards in Medium: *Psychic Link* and *Clear Mind*.

Give each player one of each ESP card face-up on the table in front of them (the full-color side with the points and card text). Players will flip cards face-down (the black and white side) when they use these powers. Each unused ESP card is worth 2 points, shared with your partner(s), at the end of the game.



Only one player can play an ESP card on any turn. If multiple players attempt to play one, whoever flipped their card first gets to use it.

Remember to add the points from unused ESP cards to your totals — with your partners on both sides, or with your teammate if you're playing in teams — at the end of the game.

PSYCHIC LINK: *Predict what your opponents will say.*

Play at the beginning of another team's turn, once they've revealed their cards. You'll play along with them on their first attempt. Count down and say your word with them. This will have one of four outcomes:

- 1. You all three match on the first attempt.** You take a First Attempt Mind Meld token, and so does the team you played with.
- 2. You match with only one of the players on the other team.** You take a First Attempt Mind Meld token and they proceed with their second attempt.
- 3. No one matches.** You're out and the other team keeps playing.
- 4. The other team matches and you don't.** They take a token like normal and you do not.

Points earned from Psychic Link are shared with your teammates.

CLEAR MIND: *Refresh your hand.*

Play at the beginning of your turn to discard cards from your hand. Get rid of as many as you like and draw back up to six cards. If you draw a Crystal Ball card, place it face-up in the middle of the table as per usual, and continuing drawing cards until you have six.



MEDIUM THINGS TO KNOW

Yes, you can use proper nouns.

No, it doesn't have to be one word - just one idea. Something like *GARLIC BREAD* or *WASHING MACHINE* or *LADY BIRD JOHNSON* is totally fine.

But you do have to say a word. If you count down, "3... 2... 1..." and you don't say anything, your turn is immediately over. So make sure your partner is ready before starting the countdown.

It's up to the rest of the table to determine whether two words are a match or not, and here's the official rule:

BE COOL ABOUT THIS.

Just a hint: You'll tend to have more matches if your guesses are more general rather than super specific. You're more likely to match on *WIZARD* than on *MERLIN* or on *FLOWER* rather than *HYDRANGEA*.

But the most important thing we can tell you is: *keep the game moving*. Go with the first thing you think of. Maybe you'll get it, or maybe you'll get it on the second attempt. Just have fun with it.

The best way to play **Medium** is whatever way you and your friends play it. The only way to match is to say whatever word your friend is thinking. And the best way to connect with your partner is to look directly into their eyes and use your psychic link to mentally send your word to their brain. Feel the psychic energy in the room.

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Storm Chaser
GAMES

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