

Shut the Box

The rules on one page

Players

1 or more, usually 2 to 4

You need

A Shut the Box with tiles numbered 1 to 9, and 2 dice.
Paper and a pencil can stand in for the box.

Goal

Finish your turn with the lowest total of open tiles, or shut every tile

Game ends

When every player has had one turn. The lowest score wins. Shutting all 9 tiles wins at once.

Setup

1. Open every tile so that all the numbers from 1 to 9 show.
2. Put the 2 dice in the box, or in a dice cup if you have one.
3. Choose who goes first, for example by rolling the dice. Turns pass to the left, and each player plays a whole turn before the next player starts.
4. Keep paper and a pencil nearby to write down each player's score.

How to play

1. **Roll both dice.** Throw both dice into the box and add up the spots. That total is the number you have to match.
2. **Shut tiles that add up to the roll.** Shut any open tiles whose numbers add up to your total. You can shut one tile, two or more. For a total of 8 you could shut the 8, or 7 and 1, 6 and 2, 5 and 3, 5, 2 and 1, or 4, 3 and 1. Pick one of the ways.
3. **Keep rolling.** After you shut tiles, roll again and match the new total the same way. If any set of open tiles adds up to your roll, you must shut one. You cannot stop early to keep your score.
4. **Roll one die near the end.** Once the 7, 8 and 9 are all shut, you may roll just one die instead of two. You choose before each roll. While any of those 3 tiles is open, you must roll both.
5. **End your turn.** Your turn ends when no set of open tiles adds up to your roll. Add up the numbers on the tiles still open. That total is your score. Write it down, open every tile again and pass the box and dice to the next player.
6. **Shut the box.** If you shut all 9 tiles, you have shut the box. You win at once and the game is over. Players still waiting for their turn do not play.

7. **Find the winner.** When every player has had one turn, the player with the lowest score wins.

Scoring

Your score when your turn ends

Tiles still open	Score
1, 5 and 9	15
2, 3 and 4	9
7 only	7
None: you shut the box	0, and you win at once

After every player has had one turn, the lowest score wins. A player who shuts all 9 tiles wins at once.

