

Beginner's Guide

Below is a complete beginner's guide to playing Go, [an ancient strategic board game](#). Go has been around for thousands of years—longer than chess. You may have heard about it when [Google DeepMind's AlphaGo](#) beat professional Lee Sedol, or maybe you didn't hear about it at all until recently. That's because Go is not as popular in America as it is in East Asia. In the past few years, however, more and more people across the globe are learning about this complex yet enjoyable game; one of those people happens to be you. You may be wondering what is Go, and how do you even play it? Well, this guide is for you.

How to Get Started

This is the suggested learning sequence for beginners. If you already know some of the basics, feel free to skip around.

Learning Sequence

1. Learn the basic rules:
 - ▶ [How to Play Go: Rules Explained | Beginner Tutorial on Go Game, Baduk, Weiqi](#)
2. Basic patterns to know:
 - ▶ [Ladder, Double Atari, Snapback | Basic Go Techniques: Lesson 1](#)
 - ▶ [The Net | Basic Go Techniques: Lesson 2](#)
3. Basic techniques:
 - ▶ [Cutting and Connecting | Basic Go Techniques: Lesson 4](#)
 - ▶ [Good and Bad Shape | Basic Go Techniques: Lesson 5](#)
4. More necessary rules/knowledge - Life and Death:
 - ▶ ["Eyes" and What They Do](#)
 - ▶ [The Key Point | Basics of Life and Death: Lesson 1](#)
 - ▶ [Stone Sacrifice | Basics of Life and Death: Lesson 2](#)
 - ▶ [Status Determined | Basics of Life and Death: Lesson 3](#)
5. To further understand the basic concepts of Go, complete a few [practice Go problems on goproblems.com](#). Go problems usually show a portion of the board and ask you to play the best move(s). The problem will specify whether you are playing black or white.
 - a. The goal of Go problems is to hone your strategic thinking and intuition. Practicing Go problems habitually is key to becoming a better player.
6. Learn scoring: ▶ [Sample Game of Go and Territory Scoring](#)
7. Playing on a 9x9 Go board:
 - ▶ [A More Complex Go Game on 9×9 with Commentary](#)
 - ▶ [9x9 Example Game for Go Beginners](#)
8. Play a few games on a 9x9 board to familiarize yourself with the game. Scroll to our guide's next section ("Where to Play Online") to start playing Go.

1. Once you have familiarized yourself with the 9x9 Go board, you can take on the 13x13 board.
2. An introduction to playing on a 13x13 board:
 - ▶ [Game of Go on 13×13 with Commentary | Go Basics: Summary](#)
3. General board strategy:
 - ▶ [The Golden Opening Principle | Basics of Go Strategy: Lesson 1](#)
 - ▶ [Three Stages of the Game | Basics of Go Strategy: Lesson 2](#)
 - ▶ [To Attack or to Defend? | Basics of Go Strategy: Lesson 3](#)
4. Review: ▶ [Playing Go on the 13x13 board](#)
5. At this point, if you'd like to review on basic rules and strategy, visit [Sensei's Library's beginner guide](#).
6. Play games on a 13x13 Go board. If you have not done so already, scroll to our guide's next section on how to play on Go online.

1. Here is an introduction to the opening of a Go game:
 - ▶ [Playing on the 19x19 board](#)
2. But wait! In the previous video, you may have seen sequences of moves played in the corners of the board. These commonly played sequences are called "joseki," patterns of moves played in the opening of a Go game. To gain a more concrete understanding of joseki, watch these videos:
 - ▶ [Joseki ABCs or WTH is Happening in the Corner | Course Trailer](#)Here are a few examples of joseki:
 - ▶ [Basic Joseki For The Star Point The tsuke and hane](#)
3. An introduction to the middle game and end game:
 - ▶ [Playing on the 19x19 board Part 2](#)
4. To start playing on a 19x19 board, learn how handicap and the Go ranking system work:
 - ▶ [Nigiri, Go Ranks and Handicap — Kyu Dan Ranking System in the Game of Go](#)
5. Now, you are ready to start playing on a 19x19 board. As you play more games, memorize joseki and do practice Go problems.
 - a. Scroll down to our third section ("Go Tournaments") to learn about tournament opportunities! Tournaments are a great way to improve your game and get acquainted with other players.
6. Enjoy the game!

Resources

Youtube Channels

- [Go Magic](#)
- [Michael Redmond's Go TV](#)
- [The Official AGA Youtube Channel](#)
- [Haylee's World of Go/Baduk](#)

Websites

- [Websites for Go Problems](#)

- [Go Problems](#)
- [Tsumego Hero](#)
- [Black to Play](#)
- [Go Magic Free Problems](#)
- [Sensei's Library](#) for learning joseki
- [Go Terms Dictionary at Sensei's Library](#)

AGHS's Free Introductory Classes

- AGHS and ACGF are hosting free online classes on Zoom
- To sign up, fill out this form.

Where to Play Online

KGS Go Server

- Navigate to this [website](#) to download KGS
- If you are having trouble downloading KGS, watch [this tutorial](#)

Pandanet Go Server

- Visit [this website](#) to download Pandanet
- If you are having trouble downloading Pandanet, watch [this tutorial](#)

Online Go Server (OGS)

- You can visit Online Go Server (OGS) through your browser
- Sign up for an account [here](#)

Go Tournaments

Online Tournaments

- The American Go Honor Society (AGHS) hosts free monthly tournaments online. [Subscribe to our mailing list](#) to stay updated on future tournaments/events!

In-person Tournaments

To play in tournaments, **join the [American Go Association \(AGA\)](#)**, the national Go organization that hosts events, promotes the game, etc. Once you join, you will be able to play in AGA tournaments and get an official ranking.

- [Annual U.S. Go Congress](#) - An event where several hundred Go players gather to play in tournaments, watch professional Go lectures, and much more.
- For upcoming Go tournaments, check out the [American Go Association's event calendar](#).

Find Go Community

- Join a [Go club near you](#)
- Join Reddit's Go forum, [r/baduk](#)

Go History/News

- [Brief History of Go - Britannica](#)
- [AlphaGo Documentary](#)
- [U.S. Go News](#) - for the latest news about Go
- [American Go E-Journal Archive](#)