# Shut the Box rules

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**You need:** a box with tiles 1 to 9 (or 10 or 12), two dice, and a pen for scores. One player or more.

## How a turn works

1. All tiles start open. Roll two dice and add them up.
2. Shut any open tiles that add up to that total exactly: one tile, two, three or more. A roll of 8 can shut 8, 7+1, 6+2, 5+3, 5+2+1 or 4+3+1.
3. Roll again. If you can make the total, you must; you choose which combination.
4. Once every open tile is 6 or lower (the 7, 8 and 9 are shut), you may roll just one die.
5. When no combination of open tiles matches the roll, your turn is over.

## Scoring and winning

Your score is the open tiles added up. Lowest score wins. Shut every tile and you score 0: you have shut the box, and in the traditional pub game you win on the spot. Worst scores: 45 (1-9), 55 (1-10), 78 (1-12). For a longer game, total five rounds, or play "out at 45": anyone whose running total reaches 45 is out.

## Two or more players

Take turns: each player plays a full round on a reset box, then passes it on. On a 2 or 4-sided box, each player plays their own row, and everyone can roll at once.

## Arguments settled

- Doubles mean nothing special: double 4 is just 8.
- You can't split the dice (shut the 5 and the 3 separately for a 5 and 3) in the standard game.
- No passing. If a move exists, make one.

## Every way to make each roll (1-9 box)

| | |
|---|---|
| **2** | 2 |
| **3** | 3, 2+1 |
| **4** | 4, 3+1 |
| **5** | 5, 4+1, 3+2 |
| **6** | 6, 5+1, 4+2, 3+2+1 |
| **7** | 7, 6+1, 5+2, 4+3, 4+2+1 |
| **8** | 8, 7+1, 6+2, 5+3, 5+2+1, 4+3+1 |
| **9** | 9, 8+1, 7+2, 6+3, 6+2+1, 5+4, 5+3+1, 4+3+2 |
| **10** | 9+1, 8+2, 7+3, 7+2+1, 6+4, 6+3+1, 5+4+1, 5+3+2, 4+3+2+1 |
| **11** | 9+2, 8+3, 8+2+1, 7+4, 7+3+1, 6+5, 6+4+1, 6+3+2, 5+4+2, 5+3+2+1 |
| **12** | 9+3, 9+2+1, 8+4, 8+3+1, 7+5, 7+4+1, 7+3+2, 6+5+1, 6+4+2, 6+3+2+1, 5+4+3, 5+4+2+1 |

**Odds:** with best play you shut a 1-9 box about 1 in 10 games. Tip: shut the highest tiles first.

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