

# Cruel Help Index

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The Index lists all Cruel Help topics.

To learn how to use Help, choose Using Help from the Help menu, or press F1.

## How to Play

[Overview](#)

[Playing the Game](#)

[Rules of the Game](#)

[Scoring](#)

[Strategy and Hints](#)

## Commands

[Game Menu Commands](#)

[Options Menu Commands](#)

## Overview

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Cruel is a solitaire card game. The playing area is divided into three regions: four suit stacks located at the top of the playing area, twelve stacks of cards below, and the Deal button located in the upper-right corner of the playing area. The object of Cruel is to move all the cards from the lower stacks up to the suit stacks.

At the beginning of each game, there are four Aces in the suit stacks, and the remaining 48 cards are randomly distributed in the twelve stacks below, with each stack containing exactly four cards.

You can move the top card in a stack up to the corresponding suit stack, provided it is one higher in rank. For example, you can move the 5 of Spades from one of the twelve lower stacks onto the 4 of Spades in a suit stack.

You can move the top card in a stack to another stack provided it follows the same suit, and is one lower in rank. For example, you can move the Jack of Hearts from one stack onto the Queen of Hearts in another.

When you are unable figure out any more moves, you can click the Deal button and re-deal. Re-dealing simply rearranges the cards in the twelve lower stacks, keeping four cards in each stack without changing the consecutive order of any cards. For example, if you moved cards from one stack to another so that the 3, 4, and 5 of Diamonds were together, a re-deal would keep this order intact. If you have not moved any cards since the last deal, clicking the Deal button does nothing.

The game is over when all the cards have been moved up to the suit stacks or when no cards can be moved from the stacks after a re-deal.

## Related Topics

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- ◆ [Playing the Game](#)
- ◆ [Rules of the Game](#)
- ◆ [Scoring](#)

## Playing the Game

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The object of Cruel is to move all the cards in order, from Ace to King, to the corresponding four suit stacks. The following section explains how to play the game.

### To Start a New Game:

- From the Game menu, choose New, or press F2.

### To Move a Card:

- 1 Point to a card.
- 2 Drag the card to its new location.

**Note:** You can also move a card from one of the stacks below up to a suit stack by double-clicking the card.

### To Re-deal the Cards:

- Click the Deal button.

### To Back Up a Move:

- From the Game menu, choose Backup, or press the BACKSPACE key.

### Related Topics

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- ◆ [Rules of the Game](#)
- ◆ [Overview](#)

## Rules of the Game

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### Cruel Rules:

- Cruel has two game areas:
- Four suit stacks at the top of the playing area.
- Twelve stacks of four cards each in the playing area below.
- The game begins with four Aces faceup in the suit stacks.
- You can move a card from the top of a stack to the corresponding suit stack if it is one higher in rank than the top card in the suit stack. For example, you can move the 2 of Spades onto the Ace of Spades.
- You can move a card from one stack to another if the card is the same suit and one lower in rank than the top card of the other stack. For example, you can move the 10 of Hearts from one stack onto the Jack of Hearts in another.
- When you are unable to figure out any more moves, you can click the Deal button and re-deal. Re-dealing simply rearranges the twelve lower stacks, keeping four cards in each stack without changing the consecutive order of any cards. For example, if you moved cards from one stack to another so that the 3, 4, and 5 of Diamonds were together, a re-deal would keep this order intact.
- If you have not moved any cards since the last deal, re-dealing does not change the stacks.
- The game is over when all the cards have been moved up to the suit stacks or when no cards can be moved from the lower stacks after a re-deal.

### Related Topics

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- ◆ [Playing the Game](#)
- ◆ [Strategy and Hints](#)

## Scoring

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Cruel scoring is simple. Your score is the number of cards remaining in the stacks at the end of the game.

Cruel keeps a record of all previous game scores. To display the record, choose Record from the Game menu.

## Game Menu Commands

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### New

Starts a new game of Cruel.

You can start a new game at any time, even in the middle of a game.

### Backup

Backs up one move.

**Note:** You can back up only until you reach the last re-deal.

### Record

Displays the scores from previous games.

### Exit

Exits Cruel.

You can exit at any time, even in the middle of a game.

## Options Menu Commands

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### Deck

Changes the design on your pack of cards.

- ✦ To change the card design, select one of the cards in the Deck dialog box, and then choose OK.

### Messages

Displays an error message when you attempt an invalid move. A check mark beside the command name indicates the command is active.

## How to Play

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This section contains information about how to play Cruel.

[Overview](#)

[Playing the Game](#)

[Rules of the Game](#)

[Scoring](#)

[Strategy and Hints](#)



## Commands

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This section contains information about the menu commands in Cruel.

[Game Menu Commands](#)

[Options Menu Commands](#)

## Strategy and Hints

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This section contains helpful hints for playing Cruel successfully.

- Move cards to the suit stacks as soon as possible.
- When moving cards between stacks, try to move the higher-ranking cards first and work your way down to the lower-ranking cards.
- Clicking the Deal button rearranges the twelve stacks, keeping four cards in each stack, but does not change the consecutive order of any cards. For example, if you moved cards from one stack to another so that the 3, 4, and 5 of Diamonds were together, a re-deal would keep this order intact and make it easier to move these cards up to the suit stacks.

### Related Topics

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- ◆ [Playing the Game](#)
- ◆ [Rules of the Game](#)

## Rank

The **rank** of a card is its listed value. The rank of the 2 of Spades is two, the rank of the King of Hearts is King. Here is the order of rank: Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King.