



# CLOSEST TO ZERO



**Goal:** Player who ends game with the lowest sum of 4 cards wins

**Skill:** Number Sense, Addition

**Players:** 2 - 4 Players

**Materials:** Ace - 10 and Jack, Queen, King;  
Ace = 1, Jack, Queen, King = 11

## Setup & Gameplay:

1. Deal four cards, face down to each player.
2. Players line up cards in a horizontal row without looking at them. The remainder of the deck becomes the draw pile and is placed face down in the center of the play area.
3. Once cards are dealt and set up, players may look at the two end cards, note their value and replace them in the appropriate position.
4. Play begins with the player to the left of the dealer. Player 1 draws a card from the draw pile, looks at it (without showing it to any other player) and decides whether to replace one of their four cards with the new card.

5. If they decide to keep the card, they switch it out with one of the four cards laid out in front of them. They place the card they have removed face up in the discard pile.
6. If they decide not to keep the drawn card they place the drawn card face up on the discard pile.
7. The next player can choose to pick up a card from the draw pile or to pick up the top card from the discard pile.
8. Play continues in this way, with each player trying to lower the sum total of their four cards.
9. Any player can end the game at any time by announcing "Closest to Zero" when they think they have the lowest sum. Each remaining player is allowed one more turn after this announcement.
10. Players then show their cards, sum them and the player who has the lowest sum is the winner.

