Lençóis Dominoes Rules

How To Play Lençóis Dominoes

Number Of Players: 2 to 4

It plays much like Draw Dominoes, except that the goal of the game is not just to go out, but to make the open ends of the layout add up to 5 (or a multiple of five). Lençóis Dominoes is one of a family of games known as "point games".

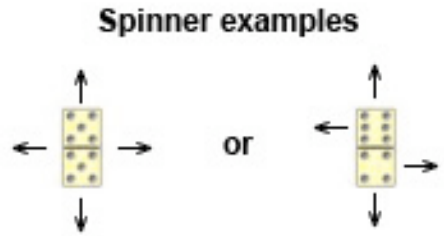
Setup
After shuffling the dominoes, each player draws tiles to make up their hand. The number of tiles drawn depends on the number of players:

- 2 players draw 7 tiles each
- 3-4 players draw 5 tiles each

The remainder of the tiles make up the boneyard (or "stock"), and are held in or reserve to be drawn upon at need.

Gameplay
The lead goes to the heaviest scoring tile. 5-5 should be led first (scoring 10), but if no player has this in their initial hand then (in order of 'weight') 6-4 (scoring 10), 5-0, 4-1, 3-2 (scoring 5 each), then 6-6, 4-4, 3-3, 2-2, 1-1 (not scoring).

The first tile played can be played off from all four edges. This initial tile is known as the *spinner*. If the spinner is not a double, only 2 edges (one at the end, one at the side) from each half of the tile can be played off (e.g. if the spinner is 6-4, four subsequent tiles can be played from this, but only two tiles on the 6 and two tiles on 4).



All subsequent tiles connect on their ends, except doubles which only connect on their sides (long edges).

Play proceeds to the left (clockwise). Each player adds a domino to an open end of the layout, if he can. If a player is unable to make a move, he must draw dominoes from the boneyard until he can make a move. If there are no dominoes left, then the player must pass.

The object of the game is to make the open ends of the layout add up to 5 or a multiple of five (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.). The player who makes such a score receives that number of points.

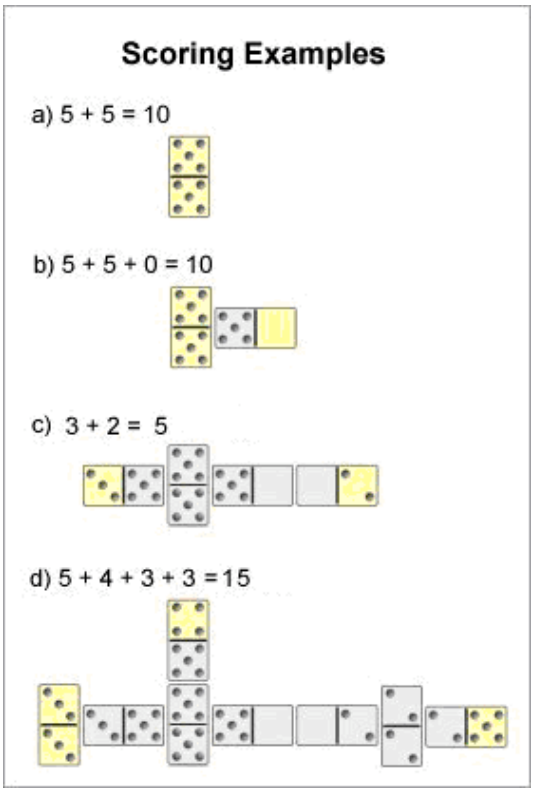
At any time there are 4 open ends. When a double is played, all af its dots count toward the total (this includes the spinner, if it is a double, all its dots count while either side (long edge) is open).

Examples

a. If the first tile placed is a 5-5, then the player scores a 10. At this point all sides of the 5-5 are available for play.
b. If the second tile placed is a 5-0, then the player scores a 10. At this point three sides of the 5-5 are available for play, as well as the blank.
c. If a 3-5 is played on, the 5-5, the total is 3 (3 + 0), so that move scores no points. If the next move is a 0-2, then the total is 5 (3 + 2), so the player scores 5 points. The top and bottom of the initial 5-5 are still available for play, as is the 3 and 2.

   The ends of the initial double (the spinner) do not count towards the point total once both sides of the tile have been played.

d. Four moves later, a 5-4 has been placed atop the 5-5, a 2-2 has been placed off the 0-2, a 2-5 has been connected to the 2-2, and a 3-3 has been connected to the 3-5. The total is 15 (5 + 4 + 3 + 3), so the player scores 15 points. There are now 4 open ends: the bottom of the initial 5-5, the 3-3, the 4, and the 5 on the right. Note that the top and bottom of the 2-2 are not open.



Ending A Hand

A hand ends either when a player plays all his tiles, or when a game is blocked, at which time the lightest hand wins total of his opponents points (minus any points in his own hand), rounded to the nearest 5, and divided by 5. For example, if the winning player has 3 points in his hand, and his three opponents have 5, 11, and 13, then the total difference is 26 (5 + 11 + 13 - 3). This is rounded down to 25 and divided by 5. Thus, 5 additional points are added to the winner's total. All players retain the points that they have attained during gameplay, but only the winner gets the bonus points at the end of a hand.

Winning A Game

A game is generally played to 100, 200, or whatever is agreed upon before the game begins.

A Cribbage board can also make a handy scorekeeping device. If a Cribbage board is used, the point totals during play (5, 10, 15, etc.) are divided by 5, yielding 1, 2, 3, etc. End-of-hand bonus points are still given full value (in which case they become even more important). Games played using a Cribbage board are typically played to a score of 61.