






MAH JONGG TILE GROUPS CHEAT SHEET

Knowing Mah Jongg tile names, tile groups, and rules for how they can be built into a winning hand impacts every part of your game strategy.




























Tile Groups

Every winning hand in American Mah Jongg is built from specific groupings of tiles.

Term	What It Is	How You Build It	Can Use Joker?	Example
Single	One tile	Must draw	No	
Pair	Two identical tiles	Must draw	No	
Pung	Three identical tiles	Draw or call	Yes	
Kong	Four identical tiles	Draw or call	Yes	
Quint	Five identical tiles	Requires Joker	Yes	

Singles and pairs rule: You cannot use Jokers to complete singles or pairs, and you cannot call a tile to satisfy a single or pair unless it completes a winning Mah Jongg hand.

Suited Tiles

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dots	1 Dot 	2 Dot 	3 Dot 	4 Dot 	5 Dot 	6 Dot 	7 Dot 	8 Dot 	9 Dot 
Bams	1 Bam 	2 Bam 	3 Bam 	4 Bam 	5 Bam 	6 Bam 	7 Bam 	8 Bam 	9 Bam 
Craks	1 Crak 	2 Crak 	3 Crak 	4 Crak 	5 Crak 	6 Crak 	7 Crak 	8 Crak 	9 Crak 

Honor Tiles

Winds



Dragons



Special Tiles

Flowers

Flower and Season tiles can be used interchangeably for any flower grouping regardless of numeral or image on the tile.



Jokers

Jokers can replace any tile in a set of three or more tiles.



How to Do a Joker Exchange

If any player, including yourself, exposes a set that includes a Joker, on your turn, you can:

1 Replace the Joker with the real tile from your rack.

2 Take the Joker into your hand.

Note: You don't have to expose a set when doing a Joker exchange