

The Game of Pass

Goal: To count to 100 without saying the target number or multiple of the target number.

This is a game for 2 or more people.

No equipment is necessary for this game.

How to Play:

- To begin, choose a target number. The number choice will make the game easier or more difficult. Five or ten are good choices for first time players. We will use five as an example.
- Once the target number is chosen, the oldest person goes first and then the counting continues in a clockwise circle. The first person starts counting with “one”; the next person says “two”, the next person says “three” and so on.
- When the count gets to a number that contains the target number or is a multiple of the target number, the person says “*pass*” instead of the number.
- For the target number of five, the count will sound like: “one, two, three, four, *pass*, six, seven, eight, nine, *pass*, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, *pass*, sixteen, ... and so on.
- Each player must pay attention to the count so they know what to say when their turn comes. This is especially difficult during the “decade” of the target number. In the case of 5, this would be the fifties. Since they each contain a five (fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three...), every number counted will be a “*pass*” from 50 through 60!

PASS!

Alternative Ways to Play Pass

The different ways to play this game are limited only by your imaginations. Here are some variations:

- For players who are just learning to count, encourage them to use a 100 chart (available here).
- Instead of counting one by one, players could skip count with no target number to avoid. Players could also skip count with a target number!
- For older players, you could count by a fraction, with or without a target number to avoid. (For example one-half: “one-half, one, one and one-half, two, two and one-half, three, ...”)
- Try playing this game with the whole family at mealtime!
- Make it into an elimination game. Each player who makes a “mistake” is out. The player left at the end of the game is the winner.
- You could change the ending number for a shorter or longer game.
- Try playing the game in another language, maybe a language your child is learning in school.

