

30/7/24

Lesson 4 Chow, Pung, Kong and What to do with Flowers and Seasons

There are terms we use in Mahjong:

Chow - A group of 3 tiles with numbers running consecutively in the same suit.

Pung - Three Identical tiles

Kong - Four Identical tiles

(less common, **Quint** - 5 Identical tiles, with use of a joker)

To pick up a tile, it must complete a Chow, Pung or Kong for an exposed hand. Remember to never pick up for a concealed hand, unless it is the final tile needed to declare Mahjong.

How to pick up a tile for an Exposed Hand

When a tile is discarded, any player can pause the game to pick up the most recently discarded tile. Players may announce “**PAUSE**” before the next player draws if he/she is unsure whether to pick up the discarded tile. The player can retract the pause if he/she decides not to pick up the discarded tile.

If someone wants a discarded tile and already has 2 tiles the same on their rack they call ‘**Pung**’ and take it and display it in front for all to see. If you pick up a tile from the wall that makes a ‘Pung’ the player keeps it hidden on the rack ‘Concealed’.

If you have an exposed ‘Pung’ and someone discards the 4th tile for your set, you cannot pick it up. [If, however, you take the 4th tile from the wall, you can add it to your ‘Pung’ to make a ‘Kong’ and take a replacement tile from the Flower/Kong Wall]

If he/she has a concealed ‘Pung’ and someone discards the 4th tile – the player may call ‘**Kong**’ and place it on top of his/her rack for all to see – then take a replacement tile from the ‘Flower/Kong Wall’.

The rules for forming a ‘Chow’, are that if you have two tiles already you can only ‘Chow’ the third tile from the person who goes immediately before you in the game – but you are allowed to pick up only 1 ‘Chow’ per hand.

Tile Precedence: Two players require the same discarded tile, claim to a discard follows these priorities:

- A player requiring that tile to go Mahjong has first claim.
- To form a Pung/Kong has precedence over Chow.
- If two players require the same tile to win/P/K, the player next in turn claims the tile.

What to do when you get Flower or Season tiles.

There are :4 flower tiles – Plum Blossom, Orchid, Chrysanthemum, Bamboo

4 season tiles – Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter

They do not form part of the play but are used as bonuses for scoring later in the game. Do not worry about scoring for now as we will discuss that at the more advanced stage.

In general, if a Flower or Season tile is received in the draw of tiles – starting with East wind in an anti- clockwise direction, players take 1 tile from the ‘Kong/Flower Wall’ per Flower or Season received. During the play, if you draw a Flower or Season, place it in a full view and get a replacement from the Flower Wall.

Next lesson : 3 Player Set up