Dreidel game guide

A Hanukkah game using an ordinary dreidel and symbolic paper counters.

Prepare for 2-6 players

Use an existing dreidel, scissors and these paper counters. Give 12 to each player. No cash, purchase or prize is needed. Page 3 has 24 counters: print once for 2 players, twice for 3-4, three times for 5-6. Keep spare pieces aside.

Print on matching US Letter paper at 100% / actual size. Page 1 is the guide; page 2 is the shared letter/pot mat; page 3 is the counter sheet. Cut only page-3 squares.

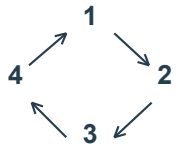
Start and take turns

Choose a starting seat. Everyone puts one in the pot. Spin clockwise; use the upper face. This pack chooses this family convention.

נ	**Nun**	Nothing changes.
ג	**Gimel**	Take the whole pot. Everyone still in, including you, pays one; anyone unable leaves.
ה	**Hey**	Take half, rounded down.
ש	**Shin**	Add one to the pot; unable to pay, leave.

Israeli dreidel: Pey replaces Shin; same add-one action.

Zero counters alone keeps you in. Refill only after Gimel, before next turn; never for an empty or one-counter pot otherwise. No borrowing.



Clockwise seats

Five-counter half

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Hey: take 2; leave 3.

Finish: this pack's three-round house rule

If only one player remains, they take the pot: finish immediately. Otherwise play three rounds. Each round follows the original seat order once, skipping anyone out. Begin each new round at the original starting seat, even if empty.

After round 3, compare held counters; ties share the result. Leave the pot unawarded, count it separately, then return every piece to the supply.

Letters and shared pot

Outside Israel: Nun, Gimel, Hey, Shin. Set this mat beside your dreidel.

נ

Nun

Nothing changes.

ג

Gimel

Take the whole pot. Everyone still in, including you, pays one; anyone unable leaves.

ה

Hey

Take half, rounded down.

ש

Shin

Add one to the pot; unable to pay, leave.

Israeli alternative fourth face

פ

Pey replaces Shin; same add-one action.

Four outcomes: Shin OR Pey.

SHARED POT

Place counters here.

Hey with 5: take 2, leave 3.

Refill only after Gimel, including the spinner.

Completed rounds: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

Follow original clockwise seats once per round, skipping players out. Stop at one player (award pot) or after round 3 (compare held counters, ties allowed; pot unawarded). Return all pieces.

Twenty-four paper counters

Give 12 counters to each player; use an ordinary dreidel with pages 1 and 2.



Print page 3: one copy for 2 players, two for 3-4, three for 5-6. Cut each square outline; keep the small diamond on its counter. Set spare pieces aside. No folds, glue or top construction.