

How to Play the Dreidel Game

Here a few simple rules of the games taken from
A Different Light: The Hanukkah Book of Celebration

At the beginning of each round, every participant puts one game piece into the center "pot."
In addition, every time the pot is empty or has only one game piece left, every player should put one in the pot.

Every time it's your turn, spin the dreidel once.

Depending on the outcome, you give or get game pieces from the pot:



Nun means "nisht" or "nothing" in Yiddish. The player does nothing.



Gimmel means "gantz" or "everything" in Yiddish.
The player gets everything in the pot.



Hay means "halb" or "half" in Yiddish. The player gets half of the pot.
(If there is an odd number of pieces in the pot, the player takes half of the total plus one.)



Shin means "shtel" or "put in" in Yiddish.
The player adds a game piece to the pot.

If you find that you have no game pieces left, you are either "out" or may ask a fellow player for a "loan."

When one person has won everything, that round of the game is over!

