Chase the Ace Card Game

What is Chase the Ace?

A simple game that's just as fun for entertaining the kids on a rainy afternoon as it is for spicing things up on poker night. Chase the Ace works best as a multiplayer game in which each player tries to stay in the game by making sure they don't have the lowest-ranked card at the end of each round.

How Many Players? 5 or more. **Ages?** All ages. **Difficulty?** Easy.

Main Objective: Avoid having the lowest card at the end of each round.

Equipment Needed to Play Chase the Ace Card Game:

A standard deck of cards (no Jokers) and tokens. These tokens could be poker chips, pieces of candy, or coins. Each player will need at least three tokens, so for a seven-person game, you'll need 21 tokens.

How to Play Chase the Ace: Setting Up

- Each player starts with three tokens and draws a single card from the deck. High card deals this first round; then dealer rotates to the left after each round.
- Once all cards have been dealt, the game starts with the player on the dealer's left.
- Keeping in mind that the aim of the game is to avoid having the lowest numbered card, that player can choose to keep the card he or she was dealt or swap it with the person to their left.
- To do this, they should place the card face down on the table and slide it over to that player, who then picks it up and looks at it without revealing it to anybody else. They then place their original card face down on the table and slide it back to the first player.
- From there, each player has the same option to keep their card or swap it with the player to their left. This continues until play reaches the dealer.
- At that point, the dealer can choose to keep his or her own card or swap it with the one on top of the deck of remaining cards.
- Once all players have taken their turn, everyone reveals what card they have by turning it over. The player with the lowest scoring card loses one of his or her tokens.
- That round of the game is then over. To begin a new round, the cards are collected and added to the bottom of the deck. New cards are dealt from the top of the deck. Optional: A quick shuffle after each round.

Keeping Score and Winning the Game

- Subsequent rounds are played in exactly the same way as the first one, with players choosing to either stick with the card they have or swap it with the person to their left (or in the dealer's case, with the card on top of the deck.)
- Every round sees the person with the lowest card lose a token. Once a player loses all three of his or her tokens, that person is out of the game.
- Rounds continue until one person is left with one or more tokens remaining. That person wins the whole game. (And if tokens are like a dime or a quarter, collects those.)

The Rules of Chase the Ace

- All players must swap their cards when asked to do so.
- Cards are ranked from highest to lowest in the following order: King, Queen, Jack, 10 – 2, Ace (lowest).
- If two players end up with the lowest number, they both lose a token.
- If only two players are remaining and they tie, their cards are returned and new ones dealt. A new round is played until there's an eventual one winner.

Can players look at their card before deciding to swap? Of course! Each player can look at his or her card before making a decision about how to play.