Beginner Mahjong Hand Chart

The 5 easiest hand families to learn first

The Building Blocks

Block	Tiles	Notes
Pair	2 identical	Never uses jokers
Pung	3 identical	Jokers allowed
Kong	4 identical	Jokers allowed
Quint	5 of a kind	Always needs a joker

X vs C

- X = exposed hand: you may call discards for pungs/kongs.
- C = concealed: everything from the wall except the winning tile.

The 5 Beginner Families

- 2468 - hands built only from even numbers; watch for two-suit lines.
- Consecutive Run - staircase numbers like 3-4-5-6-7 in one suit.
- Like Numbers - the same number across all three suits.
- Winds-Dragons - honor tiles only; many are concealed.
- Year hands - the year digits (2, soap-as-0, 2, 6 for 2026).

How to Practice

Play one family per game night until spotting it is automatic. Check the card colors before committing - colors tell you the required suits.

mahjonghints.com - free printable for personal use - American mahjong is a social tabletop game, no gambling