**Spanish playing cards**  have four [suits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suit_%28cards%29), and a deck is usually made up of 40 or 48 [cards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playing_card).  It has strong similarities with the [Italian deck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_playing_cards). Spanish cards are used in [Spain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain), southern Italy, parts of [France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France), [Hispanic America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic_America), [North Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Africa), and the [Philippines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippines).

Playing cards, originally of [Chinese origin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_playing_cards), were adopted [in Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk_playing_cards) by the 14th century if not earlier, and from there spread to [the Iberian peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus) in the latter half of the 14th century.

The four suits are: *bastos* (clubs), *oros* (golds or coins), *copas* (cups), *espadas* (swords).

**Spanish playing cards**

**Sicilian playing cards**

**Look at the pictures and complete the table with the given sentences:** they are 40- they are 48- they have numbers from one to seven- they have numbers from one to nine- the king is worth 10- the king is worth 12- the horse is worth 9- the horse is worth 11- the woman is worth 8-the jack is worth 10.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Spanish cards** | **Sicilian cards** |
| **Similarities** | They have four suits | They have four suits |
|  | They have three figures | They have three figures |
| **Differences** |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**The most popular games are:**

 **Brisca** is a popular Spanish [card game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Card_game) played by two teams of four with a 40-card [Spanish-suited pack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish-suited_pack) or two teams of six using a 48-card pack. Brisca is widespread in many countries, especially in the Mediterranean and Latin American areas. Related games include Italian [Briscola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Briscola%22%20%5Co%20%22Briscola). To win this game a player must earn as many points as possible, winning the rounds. The highest cards of each [suit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suit_%28card%29) are: Ace, Three, king, knight, Jack or Woman.

**Escoba** is a variant of the Italian [card game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Card_game) [Scopa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scopa%22%20%5Co%20%22Scopa), which means "broom", a name that refers to the situation in the game where all of the cards from the board are "swept" in one turn. The game is usually played with a deck of traditional [Spanish playing cards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_playing_cards).

**Burro** (English: donkey) is a [card](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Card_game) [game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game) played with [Spanish playing cards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_playing_cards). The principal objective of the game is to get four [cards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playing_card) of the same number. The ideal number of [players](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Player_%28game%29) is from 4 to 8. The objective of the [game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Game) is to run out of [cards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Playing_card) as quickly as possible. Each time one of the [players](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Player_%28game%29) lose, they are assigned a letter of the word [*burro*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donkey). The [player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Player_%28game%29) who is first to complete the word becomes the ultimate loser of the game. The final winner will be the [player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Player_%28game%29) who has failed to complete the word when others do. To win a game a [player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Player_%28game%29) must place their hand face down in the middle of the [table](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poker_table).

**Siete y Media** is a [card game](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Card_game) similar to [blackjack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackjack). It is traditionally played in Italy during [Christmas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas) holidays with the name “Sette e mezzo”. The game is also known in English as “Seven and a half”. Players must bet before receiving their first card, which is dealt face down. After receiving it, they must decide whether to *stand* (end their turn) or *hit* (receive another card). Players may stand or hit as long as they do not *go bust* (exceed 71⁄2). When a player goes bust they must show their face down card and immediately lose their bet, regardless of whether the dealer goes bust later. When a player achieves 71⁄2 they must announce it and show their face down card.

**TRUE or FALSE?**

1. Spanish and Sicilian cards have strong similarities. T F
2. Sicilian cards consist of fifty cards. T F
3. Playing cards is of Arab origin. T F
4. Playing cards spread to Spain in 12th century. T F
5. The suits of the cards are four. T F
6. “Brisca” is the Italian “Briscola”. T F
7. The highest cards in Brisca are seven and eight. T F
8. “Escoba” means bush in English. T F
9. “Burro” means donkey in English. T F
10. “Sette e mezzo” is Seven and half in English. T F