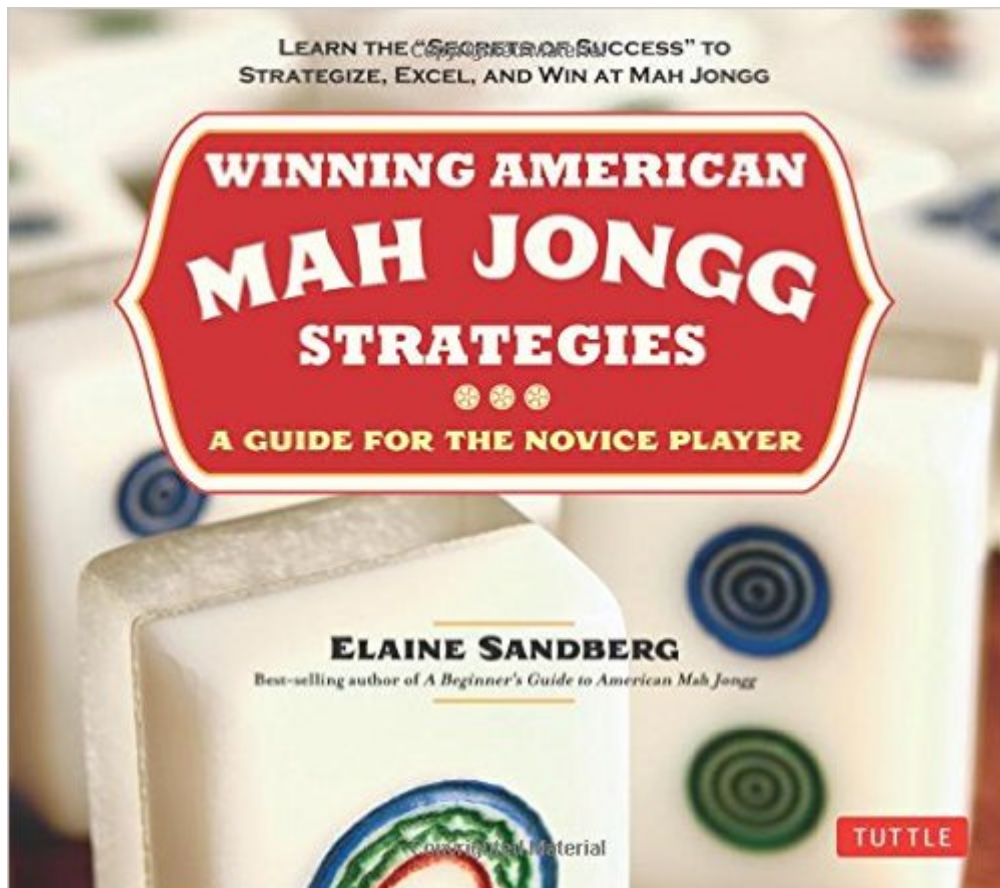


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# Winning American Mah Jongg Strategies: A Guide For The Novice Player



## Synopsis

Master the fascinating and rewarding game of American Mahjong with this guide for beginners. "Strategies, strategies, strategies! If I only knew more strategies I could win more games!" is the frequent lament of beginning Mahjong players. Following up on the success of her acclaimed book, *A Beginner's Guide to American Mah Jongg*, bestselling author Elaine Sandberg's new book offers novice players the advice they need to excel at the game of Mahjong. *Winning American Mah Jongg Strategies: A Guide for the Novice Player* is the strategy guidebook that provides American Mahjongg beginners with the practical information they need to build hands, improve game-play skills, strategize, and win! This easy-to-follow, comprehensive book teaches players how to overcome common difficulties and provides the knowledge to sharpen strategic skills and increase win ratios. By showing beginners how to see and utilize different strategic elements and scenarios, players learn how to elevate their skills and increase their wins. Challenges covered in this Mahjongg book include: Finding the best hand The use of defensive tools To Expose or not to Expose and why Determining an opponents hand And many more! *Winning American Mah Jongg Strategies* is a gem of a book that is the perfect gift for Mahjong players of all ages!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author's first book helped me a lot, back when I was first learning the ins and outs of the game. Now I can play without getting confused QUITE so often as I used to (!), but sometimes I still get super frustrated with figuring out (or maybe it's with staying confident about) building my hands. This "Strategy" guide is giving me all I hoped for, and actually more: because there's an appendix with

fun historical info and images which I really like too! Other players may have different needs, but I can attest that this book really is helping me "get it"--my skills seem to be sinking in somehow, so that I'm playing stronger. I love the change and my (more experienced) fellow players are pretty impressed already. The reviewer Johana seemed confused about the years of the Cards that the book references; I wonder if maybe it's a language barrier she's dealing with? The book is very clear on that aspect, I thought--it includes all the examples and info you need to learn everything it teaches. Actually, I find that all the examples the author gives to help you, make it really practical. High marks!

I found this book to be really useful for improving my game. This is the first book I've ever seen that teaches you about how to strategize to get the best hand. I found it very easy to read and understand, and the examples really help. The chapter about applying the strategies in a real game was extremely helpful too! I also learned a lot about the history of American Mah Jongg and really enjoyed the photos. I highly recommend this book for players who know the rules but need some guidance in strategizing to win.

I really like this book but wish that the author had provided a copy of the 2010 card that she refers to throughout the book to make it easier to follow along. That card not available from NMJL, but I made a copy from a friend's. This book has helped to make it more comfortable in choosing a section first, then a hand. The author does a nice job of explaining each step and I feel all beginners could benefit from it. I plan to read it over and over in order to boost my confidence and speed. I was told it takes about a year of playing to have a good handle on it; meanwhile, I am having fun playing it and play as often as I can. It's addictive! I just learned how to play in December 2011 and, what is most comforting, is that even experienced players can make mistakes such as exposing the "year" tiles, etc. It makes me smile when I hear newer beginners say the same words I used to say when I first started, which the author comments about throughout the book.

Most people agree that the hardest part of playing American Mah Jongg is deciding which hand to play. This book shows you how to arrive to an educated guess and takes some of the stress out of your decision. It tells you how to divide your tiles in different combinations to choose your best hand. The more you use their ideas the easier it becomes to make a choice.

Elaine Sandberg is a Mah Jongg instructor. This book is a follow-up on her bestseller A Beginner's

Guide to Mah Jongg, which I found to be the best book out there for beginners. In *Winning American Mah Jongg Strategies*, Sandberg's strategies and tips are excellent and clearly written. She shows you how to choose a hand, know your power tiles, learn what to keep and what to discard, how to change a hand if you have to and basically how to sharpen your skills. There are Summaries and Practice Exercises available. At the end of the Guide, there is a quiz which poses questions and situations that you will face in every game. The answers are also given. Although this Guide is excellent, I felt the last twenty pages could have been better used. In place of the origin of Chinese Mah Jongg vs American Mah Jongg, I would have liked to see more games and strategies in its place. Also, there was an error when Sandberg referred to games from the wrong game card year. Every year there is a new game card printed. However, this didn't affect the strategies and tips used. I highly recommend this Guide for the Novice Player.

Just ordered 5 of these books for myself and friends who I play with. We all read Elaine's first book. I thought the book to be pretty good, found some glitches, page 58 has 15 tiles on the rack, (too many 6 cracks), page 66... those are ELEVEN hands not SEVEN as stated. I thought it would have been much less complicated to just have used the 2010 card for the test so it could have also been used as a visual aid when working on the hands in the first section of the book. While I now know that the 2009 card was merely for the test, I did not know that and spent time being confused. So was another friend. All in all I still recommend the book and wish Elaine lived near me so I could take her class.

The importance of this book to me is that it is a guide for setting up a hand after it is first dealt and a step by step process for secondary arrangements and even subsequent arrangements so that the player is able to "see" potential by following a rote pattern of handling one's tiles instead of just staring at the entire hand and trying to visually discriminate without moving them around. This is key in most new hands. Of course there are situations where your tiles "talk to you" and you need do nothing more than just go with what is the obvious.... but the "foggy hand" is the one that this book addresses and where the directions for "what to do routinely" should be followed for quick and clear path to a fun game. So the strategies taught in this book are actually forms which you adhere to in the beginning and then of course you would expect some tips for strategizing as is included as well, as you progress in the game AFTER the Charleston.

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