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The Best Two-Player Board Games

By [James Austin](#)

Updated June 21, 2023



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Two-player games have come a long way since checkers, backgammon, and Battleship, and today the best of them are just as complex and enthralling as any group game.

We talked with experts, spent more than 25 hours researching, and played 34 different games to find the one-on-one games that most people will enjoy.

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Meet your guide



James Austin



James Austin is an associate staff writer currently covering games and hobbies, but he's also worked on just about everything Wirecutter covers—from board games to umbrellas—and after being here for a few years he has gained approximate knowledge of many things. In his free time he enjoys taking photos, running D&D, and volunteering for a youth robotics competition.

Further reading



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