



Tombola Game Rules

Tombola is the Italian version of Bingo. However, unlike the American version, where you can make Bingo horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, In Tombola, **only horizontally counts**.

On each card there are 3 rows and 9 columns. In each row, only 5 of the 9 columns are occupied by a number. The other columns are intentionally left blank.

- Column 1 contains numbers from 1-10,
- Column 2 contains numbers from 11-20,
- Column 3 contains numbers from 21-30,
- Column 9 contains numbers from 81-90.

Numbers are pulled out of a rotating drum, or, with home games, a bag. The person who pulls the number out of the drum is called the **tombolone**. The tombolone uses a master card on which the numbers from 1-90 are written in sequential order.

The tombolone proceeds to pull and announce numbers from the rotating drum one at a time. He/she will then typically announce the number in Italian (and sometimes in English, depending on the audience). Each number typically also has a little name or rhyme that goes along with it, which the tombolone will also announce. For example: If the number 25 is called, then the tombolone will shout out "Venticinque—Natale". (The connection being 25 is the date of Christmas, which in Italian is Natale.) If the number 33 is called, then the tombolone will shout out "Trentatre—L'anne Gesu Cristo". (The connection here is that Jesus lived on Earth for 33 years.)

As each number is called out, players cover that number on their cards. Most tombola sets that you can buy come with little plastic beans, or fagioli. (You can even use real beans if you run out of the plastic ones.)

Tombola is traditionally played for money. Each card costs a set amount (10¢ or 25¢). Players can purchase as many cards as they wish, except for the tombolone, who must purchase 6 cards. The total pot will be divided into 5 smaller prizes. Each prize goes to the winner of the 5 individual rounds which make up a complete tombola game.

The 5 rounds of a tombola game are:

1. **Ambo**: 1st person to cover 2 numbers in a row
2. **Terno**: 1st person to cover 3 numbers in a row
3. **Quaderno**: 1st person to cover 4 numbers in a row
4. **Quinto**: 1st person to cover 5 numbers in a row
5. **Tombola**: 1st person to cover all 15 numbers on the card

When one person has covered 2 out of the 5 numbers in a horizontal row, he/she will call out Ambo. Then the game stops and the person collects his/her prize. The game continues, with prizes are collected for the winners of the Terno, Quaderno, and Quinto rounds.

The person who finally covers all of the numbers on his/her card calls out Tombola, and is considered the winner of the game. (Usually the pot for the Tombola round is larger than those of the other rounds.)



Tombola Number Meanings

Neapolitan - Italian - English

The names are not consistent across different versions of the game, so the / indicates alternate names

<p>1 <i>L'Italia</i> L'Italia Italy</p>	<p>2 <i>'A piccerella</i> La bambina Little girl</p>	<p>3 <i>'A gatta</i> La gatta/il gobbo/lo storto Cat/hunchback</p>	<p>4 <i>'O puorco</i> Il maiale/la sedia Pig/chair</p>	<p>5 <i>'A mana</i> La mano Hand</p>
<p>6 <i>Chella ca guarda 'nterra</i> Quella che guarda a terra Part of woman's body that always looks down</p>	<p>7 <i>O' vaso e creta</i> Il vaso di creta/i sette peccati mortali Chamber Pot/seven mortal sins</p>	<p>8 <i>'A Madonna</i> La Madonna Our Lady</p>	<p>9 <i>'A discendenza</i> La figliolanza Offspring</p>	<p>10 <i>'E fasule</i> I fagioli/l'asino Beans/donkey</p>
<p>11 <i>'E suricille</i> I topolini Mice</p>	<p>12 <i>'E surdate</i> I soldati Soldiers</p>	<p>13 <i>Sant'Antuono</i> Sant'Antonio St Anthony</p>	<p>14 <i>'O 'mbriacone</i> L'ubriacone The drunk</p>	<p>15 <i>O guaglione</i> Il ragazzo/il re The boy/king</p>
<p>16 <i>'O culo</i> Il culo/il sedere Bottom/butt</p>	<p>17 <i>'A disgrazia</i> La disgrazia Bad luck</p>	<p>18 <i>'O sango</i> Il sangue Blood</p>	<p>19 <i>'A risata</i> La risata/San Giuseppe Laughter/St Joseph</p>	<p>20 <i>'A festa</i> La festa Feast</p>
<p>21 <i>'A femmena annura</i> La donna nuda Naked woman</p>	<p>22 <i>'O pazzo</i> Il pazzo The madman</p>	<p>23 <i>O' scemo</i> Lo scemo Fool</p>	<p>24 <i>'E gguardie</i> Le guardie The cops</p>	<p>25 <i>Natale</i> Natale Christmas</p>
<p>26 <i>Nannarella</i> Anna Little Annie</p>	<p>27 <i>'O càntero</i> Il vaso da notte/l'animale Chamber pot/animal</p>	<p>28 <i>'E zizze</i> I seni Breasts/tits</p>	<p>28 <i>'O pate d'e</i> <i>criature</i> Il padre dei bambini The father of the children</p>	<p>30 <i>'E palle d'o tenente</i> Le palle del tenente Lieutenant's balls</p>
<p>31 <i>'O padrone e case</i> Il padrone di casa Landlord</p>	<p>32 <i>'O capitone</i> Il capitone Big-headed</p>	<p>33 <i>L'anne e Cristo</i> Gli anni di Cristo Christ's age</p>	<p>34 <i>'A capa 'e morte</i> Il teschio/la testa Head</p>	<p>35 <i>L'uccelluzzo</i> L'uccellino/il ladro Birdy/thief</p>
<p>36 <i>'E castagnelle</i> Le nacchere/le caramelle Castanets/candy</p>	<p>37 <i>O' monaco</i> Il monaco Monk</p>	<p>38 <i>'E mazzate</i> Le bastonate Blows</p>	<p>39 <i>A funa 'ncanna</i> La fune al collo/la corda al collo At gun point/rope around the neck</p>	<p>40 <i>'A paposcia</i> L'ernia/la neve Hernia/snow</p>



41 'O curtiello Il coltello Knife	42 'O ccafe' Il caffè Coffee	43 'A femmena fore 'o barcone Donna al balcone Woman on her balcony	44 'E cancelli Le carceri Jail	45 'O vino bbuono Il vino buono Good wine
46 'E denare I soldi/il pomodoro Money/tomato	47 'O muorto Il morto Dead man	48 'O muorto che pparla Il morto che parla The talking dead man	49 'O piezzo 'e carne Il pezzo di carne A piece of meat	50 'O pane Il pane Bread
51 'O ciardino Il giardino Courtyard	52 'A mamma La mamma Mother	53 'O vecchio Il vecchio Old man	54 'O cappiello Il cappello Hat	55 'A musica La musica Music
56 'A caduta La caduta The fall	57 'O scartellato Il gobbetto Hunchback	58 'A mappata Il fagotto Bundle	59 'E pile/'a casa I peli/il gallinaccio/la casa Hair	60 'Se lamenta Si lamenta The moaner
61 'O cacciatore Il cacciatore Hunter	62 'O muorto acciso L'assassinato The murdered man	63 'A sposa La sposa Bride	64 'A sciammeria La marsina/il giaccone Dress-coat	65 'O chianto Il pianto Weeping
66 'E ddoje zite Le due zitelle Two old maids	67 'O purpo int'a chitarra Il polipo nella chitarra The squid in the guitar	68 'A zuppa cotta La minestra cotta Soup	69 'Sott'e 'ncoppa Sotto sopra Upside-down	70 'O palazzo Il palazzo Building
71 'L'omme 'e mmerda L'uomo di merda The shitty man	72 'A meraviglia La meraviglia Astonishment	73 'Ospitale L'ospedale Hospital	74 'A rotta La grotta Cave	75 'Pullecenella Pulcinella Punchinello/Punch
76 'A funtana La fontana Fountain	77 'E riavulille I diavoletti/le corna/le cambe delle donne Devils/horns/women's legs	78 'A puttana La prostituta The prostitute	79 'O mariuolo Il ladro Thief	80 'A vocca La bocca Mouth
81 'E sciure I fiori Flowers	82 'A tavula 'mbandita La tavola imbandita The laden table	83 'O maletempo Il maltempo Bad weather	84 'A chiesa La chiesa Church	85 'L'anema 'o priatorio Le anime del purgatorio The souls of purgatory
86 'A puteca La bottega Drugstore	87 'E perucchie I pidocchi Lice	88 'E casecavalle I caciocavalli Cheeses	89 'A vecchia La vecchia The old lady	90 'A paura la paura Fear