



# These are The Rules...



*Lunch Money* is a game for two or more people. The two decks that came in the box with these rules are sufficient for at least four people. If you have more players, you may want to combine another set of cards, or simply be willing to reshuffle the discard pile when the draw pile runs out.

## Starting the Game

Each player starts the game with fifteen counters. You can use anything you like for counters: coins, milk caps, dead flies, whatever you have on hand. We recommend pennies. Each player is dealt five cards. The remaining cards are placed face down within reach of all players; they are the draw pile.

## Objective

You play cards to take your opponents' counters from them (moving them to a growing pool of lost counters in the middle of the play area), and to defend your own counter pile. A player who runs out of counters is "unconscious" and out of the game. The object of the game is to be the last person with any counters left; in other words, the last person still "conscious" and in the game.

## Play

Play begins with the player to the left of the dealer and proceeds clockwise. This player may initiate an action: She may **play** a card (placing it on top of the discard pile while naming its target), **discard** any number of cards from her hand and draw back up to five cards, or **pass**. After her action has been resolved (meaning other players have had a chance to respond with their cards — defending against attacks, for example, or intervening with a special card), all players draw cards if necessary to return the number in their hands to five, and it is the end of her **turn**. The sequence of one turn for each player is called a **round**.

**Making Attacks:** On your turn you'll usually play a card to attack another player. Cards that do this include Basic Attack Cards, Weapon Cards, and certain Specialty Cards. Sometimes you will play a sequence of cards (such as GRAB, POWERPLAY and a Basic Attack card). Your opponent may have cards to prevent you from succeeding, or to stop you from continuing the sequence of cards. You can also spend your turn playing FIRST

AID Defense Cards. If your attack succeeds, it is your responsibility to remove counters from the victim's pile and put them in the lost counter pool.

**Defending Against Attacks:** When someone plays a card on you, you may be able to respond with a Defense Card. Remember that the HUMILIATION specialty card can serve as an effective defense, too.

**Table Talk:** Colorful banter is an important part of *Lunch Money*, so don't be afraid to get into the game by describing in vivid detail the insults you perform upon your opponents. Don't be surprised by the imaginative things they do to you in return, and remember: it's just a game.

## Card Types

There are four types of cards. Each type has its own coloration, to make them easy to recognize at a glance: **Basic Attack Cards** (yellow), **Defense Cards** (blue), **Weapon Cards** (magenta), and **Specialty Cards** (orange).

## Basic Attack Cards

• Elbow, Hail Mary, Headbutt, Hook, Jab, Kick, Pimp slap, Uppercut

Each one of these cards has a number. This is the number of counters taken from the victim if nothing stops the attack. These cards may be DODGED or BLOCKED.

• Roundhouse, Spinning Backfist

These Basic Attacks have one special trait: If they are avoided by a DODGE card, the attack proceeds to the next player (left or right, attacker's choice) and that player must defend against the attack or suffer the damage. If the second player dodges, the attack proceeds again in the same direction. If everyone between the original target and the attacker dodges, there is no effect (i.e., the attacker doesn't hit herself). If one of these cards is BLOCKED, the attack does *not* proceed to another player.

## Defense Cards

• Dodge, Block

A player who has been attacked may defend herself with either of these cards. Simply play the Defense Card, and you don't lose your counters. See individual

Basic Attack and Specialty Cards for their interaction with these Defense Cards; sometimes a Defense Card is not permitted (in the case of "free attacks").

• First Aid

Each FIRST AID is worth 2 counters, restored to the player who plays the card. You can play as many FIRST AID cards as you have in your hand on your turn. You can play FIRST AID (as many as you have) when another player attacks you only if the damage you otherwise take sends you to zero or fewer counters.

• Freedom

This card counters or breaks any GRAB, HEADLOCK or CHOKE.

• Disarm

This card is played against any Weapon Card attack. No counters are lost by the defender, and the weapon card is discarded.

## Weapon Cards

• Knife, Chain, Pipe, Hammer

Each one of these cards has a number. This is the number of counters taken from the victim if nothing stops the attack. Unlike Basic Attack Cards, Weapon Cards return to your hand after use (unless countered by a DISARM). These cards may be DODGED, BLOCKED, or DISARMED.

## Specialty Cards

• Big Combo

The BIG COMBO entitles the player with this card to dream up any two fancy moves (such as a front kick followed by a spinning elbow strike) and announce them as the card is played. Defending against this attack requires two defense cards. If a defender only has one defense card to play against the BIG COMBO, then only half of the attack landed and half damage (i.e., 3 counters) is taken.

• Choke

(Grab + Choke) or (Block + Grab + Choke)

A CHOKE card is only played after a GRAB card and immediately takes one counter from the victim. (Assuming the GRAB wasn't avoided, the only immediate

defense against the CHOKE is HUMILIATION or FREEDOM.)

Cards that will break a CHOKE when the victim's turn comes are: FREEDOM, STOMP, HEADBUTT and HUMILIATION. Until the victim plays one of these cards, she will continue to lose one counter each time the attacker's turn comes around until she is unconscious. On her own turn, the victim can play one of those cards (to escape the CHOKE), discard cards from her hand in an attempt to draw an appropriate card, or play Basic Attack cards on players other than her attacker at half damage (round down).

As long as the CHOKE remains, both attacker and victim are helpless and cannot defend themselves from attacks by other players. The attacker may choose to release the CHOKE at any time (e.g., in order to BLOCK or DODGE an attack from another player).

• Grab

(Grab) or (Block + Grab)

A GRAB card is usually played in combination with other cards. A successful GRAB permits the player to one free Basic Attack or Weapon Card, which cannot be DODGED or BLOCKED. A GRAB also sets up certain specialty cards: CHOKE, HEADLOCK and POWERPLAY (see their descriptions).

A GRAB may be played as the start of an action on a player's turn. In that case, the GRAB may be countered by DODGE or FREEDOM, but not BLOCK.

A GRAB may also be played immediately after a BLOCK has been played. The defender who played the BLOCK has the first option to play a GRAB card (and follow up). But if a defender plays BLOCK and has no GRAB, the attacker now has the option to play a GRAB and follow it with a free attack.

• Headlock

(Grab + Headlock) or (Block + Grab + Headlock)

A HEADLOCK card is only played after a GRAB card (assuming the GRAB wasn't avoided, the only immediate defense against the HEADLOCK is HUMILIATION or FREEDOM). The HEADLOCK card renders the victim completely helpless and entitles the attacker to as many free JAB, UPPERCUT and STOMP cards as she has in her hand every round.

As long as the HEADLOCK remains, the victim is helpless and cannot defend her-

self from attacks by other players. Cards that will break a HEADLOCK when the victim's turn comes are FREEDOM, STOMP, and HUMILIATION. On her own turn, the victim can only play one of those cards (to escape the HEADLOCK), or discard cards from her hand in an attempt to draw one of those cards she needs.

The attacker may choose to release the HEADLOCK at any time; for instance, she may engage a HEADLOCK, deliver the appropriate attacks, and then release the HEADLOCK in the same turn. While the HEADLOCK is in place, the attacker may not attack players other than the HEADLOCK's victim.

### ● Humiliation

This card can be played at any time, at any point, on any player making any play (offensive or defensive), to humiliate the victim and ruin her best laid plans.

The holder of this card may interrupt the action, out of turn (after the victim has played her card[s]), and describe a sequence of events that will humiliate, but not physically harm, the victim. Once properly humiliated, the victim is open to (and cannot defend against, except with another HUMILIATION) one free Basic Attack or Weapon Card from the player that played this card.

### ● Poke in the Eye

If this attack is successful (it may be DODGED or BLOCKED), the victim loses one counter and is completely helpless for two turns (the turn she was attacked and the turn of the next person after the attacker; if the victim would be next, she loses her turn), and may not attack or defend herself in that time. The player who did the poking gets the first free shot (but only with a Basic Attack Card).

### ● Powerplay

(Grab + Powerplay) or (Block + Grab + Powerplay)

A POWERPLAY card is only played after a GRAB card (assuming the GRAB wasn't avoided, the only defense against the

POWERPLAY is HUMILIATION). The player using the POWERPLAY must describe how she manhandles the victim to cause 3 counters of damage and set up the victim for any single, free Basic Attack card.

### ● Stomp

The victim of this attack must make her next attack at half damage (round down) regardless of when that next attack is made. The STOMP may be DODGED or BLOCKED.

### ● Uppercut<sup>2</sup>

This attack is an uppercut so powerful it lifts the victim off the ground and onto her back, making her helpless and open to one free Basic Attack Card. The UPPERCUT<sup>2</sup> may be DODGED or BLOCKED.

### ● The Players

Luc      Kate  
Hedge    The Buddha

It's Luc's game so he wants to deal. Everyone gets 5 cards and 15 pennies. Kate is at Luc's left so she begins play by attacking first.

PTS./Player	Play	Comment	Draw
15 Kate	Kick (4)	"I just go up an' kick The Buddha".	
15 The Buddha	Dodge	"Dodge"	
15 Kate			1
15 The Buddha			1
15 Hedge	Pimp slap	"I pimp slap Kate."	
15 Kate	Block Grab Roundhouse	"I block that feeble, macho crap, grab you by the throat and feed you a roundhouse."	
11 Hedge		"Owww".	1
15 Kate			3
15 The Buddha	Grab	"I grab Luc. Can you defend?"	
15 Luc		"No."	
15 The Buddha	Headlock Jab Jab	"Headlock and I'm gonna unload these jabs."	4
13 Luc	Discards all	"I'm gonna discard."	5
15 Kate	Big Combo	"This is for you Hedge. Two, very graceful, spinning kicks to your lovely face for 6."	
5 Hedge		"And I just laugh."	
15 Kate			1
5 Hedge	Grab	"I grab Kate."	
15 Kate		"Okay."	
5 Hedge	Powerplay Headbutt	"I grab Kate by the collar, slam her against wall for 3, and then headbutt her highness for 3 more."	3
9 Kate		"Ugh!"	
15 The Buddha	Pipe	"I'm gonna release Luc, and pick on Kate 'cause she's looking weaker. Kate, have some pipe."	
9 Kate	Block	"Not so fast. Block."	
9 Kate			1

## ● Example of Play ●

PTS./Player	Play	Comment	Draw
13 Luc	Stomp	"I stomp The Buddha for 1."	
14 The Buddha		"Okay."	
13 Luc			1
9 Kate	Uppercut <sup>2</sup> Hook	"Buddha boy. Meditate on this for 8."	
13 The Buddha	Humiliation Pipe	"Not so fast. You miss, trip on your purse, and break a nail on the wall. Oh yeah; and now I bonk you on the head with my pipe."	2
6 Kate		"Break a nail? #%#@."	2
5 Hedge	Headbutt	"I headbutt Kate."	1
3 Kate		"Oh, Thank you."	
14 The Buddha	Pipe	"I try the pipe on Luc."	
13 Luc	Dodge	"Dodge."	1
13 Luc	Hammer	"One more bonk for Kate. Are you out?"	
0 Kate	First Aid First Aid	"Almost. First Aid for 4."	2
4 Kate	Big Combo	"Buddha. Take 6. Two kicks to the jewels."	
8 The Buddha		"ow."	
4 Kate			1
5 Hedge	Kick (4)	"Kick the Buddha."	
4 The Buddha		"Hey."	
5 Hedge			1
4 The Buddha	Grab	"I grab Hedge."	
5 Hedge		"Yeah..."	
4 The Buddha	Headlock	"...Put'cha in a headlock,	
4 The Buddha	Uppercut† Uppercut	"... and uppercut; two times!"	4
2 Hedge		"Oh, Oh."	
13 Luc	Elbow	"Hedge. In the gut."	
2 Hedge	Block	"Nuh-uh!"	1
13 Luc			1
4 Kate	Pimp slap	"Hedge. Go away."	
2 Hedge	Dodge	"No."	
4 Kate			1
2 Hedge			1
2 Hedge	Headbutt -3	"Headbutt the Buddha."	

†Note that the first uppercut is at 1/2 damage because of the previous stomp attack on The Buddha

PTS./Player	Play	Comment	Draw
4 The Buddha	Block Grab Pipe	"Block. Grab. Pipe."	3
-1 Hedge		"I'm out."	
4 The Buddha	Pipe	"Who's next? Kate?"	
1 Kate	Block	"I laugh at your tiny pipe."	1
13 Luc	Hammer	"Kate. What time is it?"	
-2 Kate		"Hammer time. I'm out."	
4 The Buddha	Pipe	"You an' me, punk."	
13 Luc	Dodge	"Yawn."	1
13 Luc	Hammer	"Submit to me."	
4 The Buddha	Disarm	"Drop it, buster."	1
4 The Buddha	Pipe	"Punk."	
10 Luc		"Thank you sir. May I have another?"	
10 Luc	Kick (2)	"Kick."	
4 The Buddha	Dodge	"Dodge."	
10 Luc			1
4 The Buddha			1
4 The Buddha	Pipe	"I'm gettin' tired of beatin' the crap outta you."	
7 Luc		"Me too."	
7 Luc	Hook	"Hook?"	
4 The Buddha	Block Grab Pipe	"Block. Grab. Pipe."	
4 Luc			1
4 The Buddha		"You'll never learn."	3
4 The Buddha	Pipe -3	"More pipe."	1
1 Luc		"Sure."	
5 Luc	First Aid First Aid	"I apply first aid; 4 pts."	2
4 The Buddha	Big Combo	"You're goin' down. Spinning roundhouse kick followed by... the pipe."	
-1 Luc	First Aid	"...That's all you got?"	
4 The Buddha		"Give up."	1
1 Luc	Grab	"I grab you by the ears..."	
4 The Buddha		"...And what?"	
1 Luc	Powerplay Hail Mary	"Headbutt you to your knees and release you from your mortal coils."	
-6 The Buddha		"Aw, man..."	

-Fin-

**Bold** player names indicate the start of that player's turn.

## Credits

**Game Concept & Design:**  
Charlie Wiedman

**Rules Text:** Charlie Wiedman & John Nephew

**Photography:** Andrew Yates and his daughter Anna

**Editing, Development, & Coordination:** John Nephew

**Playtesting:** Dana Atkiss, Ana Lisa Benson, Jenny Birch, Heather Conley, Woody Eblom, Zandy Garrard, Matthew Grau, Reid Johnson, Owen Justice, John Justin, Kat Koziar, Perry Mortenson, Jim Nephew, Paul Nurnberger, Derek Percy, Kent Rabehl, Dave Risk, Nancy Strnad, Jeff Tidball

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# ATLAS GAMES

PO Box 131233  
Roseville, MN 55113

Customer Service E-Mail:  
info@atlas-games.com  
www.atlas-games.com