



Let's Play Conkers!



Let's Play Conkers - The Traditional way

The autumn is the beginning of the season for the game when all over the country children start collecting conkers. You will find them on the ground around horse chestnut trees. They come in prickly green cases. Collect a number of these and break open the cases to reveal the shiny brown conkers.



The Rules:

Choose one conker (a nice big round shiny one) and then bore a hole through the middle of it.

Be VERY, VERY careful as you do this!

Thread a piece of string through the hole and tie a knot at one end, so that it doesn't pull through. The string should be long enough to wrap twice around your clenched hand and still have about 10 inches (25 cm) left.

A toss of the coin usually decides who starts first - but in the playground this is more often a matter of whoever shouts something like 'Obli, obli oh, my first go!'

Each player has their conker on its knotted string. Players take turns at hitting their opponent's conker.



A conker on a string

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If you are the one whose conker is to be hit first, let it hang down from the string which is wrapped round your hand. A 10 inch (25 cm) drop is about right. You must hold it at the height your opponent chooses and you must hold it perfectly still.

Your opponent, the striker, wraps their conker string round his hand just like yours. He then takes the conker in the other hand and draws it back for the strike. Releasing the conker he swings it down by the string held in the other hand and tries to hit her/his opponent's conker with it.

If he misses he is allowed up to two further goes. If the strings tangle, the first player to call "strings" or "snags" gets an extra shot.

Players take alternate hits at their opponent's conker. The game is won when one player destroys the other's conker.

(If a player drops his conker or it is knocked from his hand, the other player can shout "stamps" and immediately stamps on the conker; but should its owner first shout "no stamps" then "stamps" is disallowed and the conker hopefully remains intact.)



**Play Safe
and Have Fun!**



A conker in mid-swing and right on target!

Thank you to the World Conker Championships for sharing this informative activity.
For more information and details on playing conkers, please go to www.worldconkerchampionships.com