

# KGS FROM SCRATCH

## How To Join and Use the KGS Go Server

The KGS Go Server (<http://www.gokgs.com/>) is one of many servers where thousands of people play go at any hour of any day. We recommend KGS as a friendly place where a lot of English-speaking players hang out, including many newcomers. This article will tell you how to get on KGS, how to get a game and how to set up a user account.

### TO GET ON KGS

1. Google KGS or type <http://www.gokgs.com/> into your browser.
2. Click on “Play Go Now”. You will be asked for your name and password.
3. Enter a user name and click on “Guest.” (You will need a name that is not already in use.) This will bring you to the KGS home page.

You will need to install or update Java if you don't have it already. KGS will tell you what to do, just follow directions and reboot your computer.

Most Apple machines block Java, so Apple users may need to download “CGoban 3,” a KGS client. Go back to the KGS home page and click on “Download the Client and SGF Editor.” Install it, open it and sign in as a guest.

### TO OPEN A USER ACCOUNT

You can continue use KGS as a guest, but if you register your own account:

1. All of your games will be recorded and saved; studying them will help you to improve.
2. With a user account you can also start to use your KGS rating as a measure of progress.

So we recommend that before you begin using KGS, you set up a user account. **NOTE:** You can have more one user account if you like. Famous pros sometimes use special accounts to play anonymously online. Some users like to have different accounts for fast and slow

games, serious and fun games, etc. At least one user believes that if you bring an account to life and play it, it will develop its own personality.

1. Click on the “User” tab.
2. Click on “Register now.”
3. Answer the questions on the pop up screen. When you are done, click 'OK'.
4. KGS will send you an email. It will include your user name and a password. Open your e-mail in another window and retrieve your new user name and password.
5. Go back to the KGS home page and log in again with your new user name and password. Click OK.

You are now on KGS with your own user account. All your games will be saved there permanently.

To change your password, click on the “User” tab, then select “Edit Personal Information”. In the upper right hand corner, enter your new password. Right below it, in the next box, enter it again. Click OK and the new password is set.

## **PLAYING ON KGS**

KGS is divided into rooms. Some room tabs are on your window already. Click on the tab and you will see that room’s home page. The main window lists players who are hanging out or looking for a game. Scroll down and you will find a list of all games being played, including the handicap and the current move number. The bar on the right lists everyone in the room alphabetically.

To find and join a room:

1. Click on the “Rooms” tab.
2. Select the “Main” menu, scroll down and click on the room you want.
3. Click “Join,” and the page for that room will open.

Some rooms, such as “**The English Gaming Room**”, are huge, with 1000 players or more. Others are like small towns where everyone knows each other. Practice your foreign language skills in rooms where dozens of languages are in use. Got a question? Try the “**Help**” room.

Some rooms are private. You can even make your own private room. (But good luck finding an opponent there . . . )

**Tiger's Mouth**, moderated by the AGF, is a private, safe area for young players. You have to post on the website if you want to be admitted:

[http://tigersmouth.org/forum/viewthread.php?thread\\_id=356](http://tigersmouth.org/forum/viewthread.php?thread_id=356)

Getting your first few games can be hard because most players like to know their opponent's rank, but once you have a rank (after one or two games) opponents are easier to find. It is customary to greet your opponent: "hi gg" ("Have a good game") will do.

**Automatch:** One easy way to find opponents is to let KGS find them for you! Click "Play Go" on the top menu and set your "Automatch Preferences" -- opponents' strength, time limits and other options. Then click "Automatch" and your profile gets matched against everyone else who is waiting for match. If someone meets your criteria, you will be matched immediately. Otherwise you will have to wait for the right opponent to appear. In large rooms such as the English Gaming Room, this usually only takes a few minutes.

As you play more you can make friends with Go players from all over the world. You could actually play Go 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, if you didn't already have a real life. :)

Good luck and good games!

The American Go Foundation