

TIC – TAC – TOE

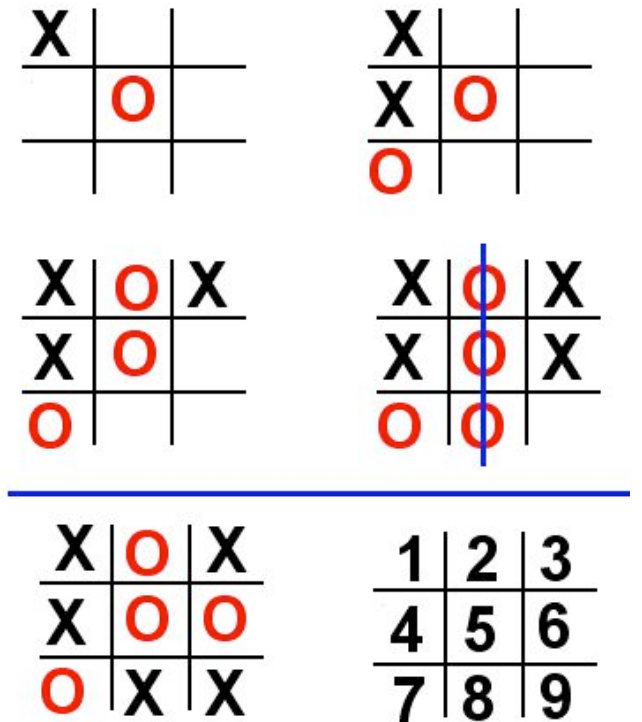
A Classic Game

I am writing this post for our younger readers. When I say to a grade nine student that they should never lose at Tic-Tac-Toe but should win or tie, I sometimes get a weird look. It's sort of like, "I've never really thought about it, I guess I can, but..."

So, here is the game: The players alternate, one playing the letter "X" and the other playing the letter "O". The object is to get three of your letters in a row and at the same time, stop the other player from getting three in a row with his or her letters. The three letters can be in a row horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

In the game illustrated to the right we will use the numbering system on the bottom right to explain. The game is illustrated left to right.

	Black's Move	Red's Move
1	Put "X" in 1	Put "O" in 5
2	Put "X" in 4	Put "O" in 7
3	Put "X" in 3	Put "O" in 2
4A	Put "X" in 6	Put "O" in 8 and wins since there are three "O's" in a row. (Blue line)
4B alternate ending under blue line	Put "X" in 8	Put "O" in 6
5B	Put "X" in 9 Game ends in a DRAW, since no one has three in a row.	



Your mission, over the next week is to find a strategy to win, or to never lose.