**What is shiritori?**

*Shiritori* (しりとり) is a word game in which players take turns to say words, each of which begins with the final kana of the previous player's word. The first kana of the word must be the same as the last kana of the previous player's word, the *shiri* (尻), or "bottom" of the previous word. The game ends if one player chooses a word ending in the kana *n* or if he cannot think of another word.

For example,

1. とまと
2. とんかつ
3. つなみ
4. みかん ← GAME OVER!

Here the final player has lost because they chose a word ending in kana *n*.

**Rules**

The rules of the game vary, but in general:

* The words allowed are usually restricted to nouns.
* Words may not be repeated.
* If the final syllable is a *chōon* (長音) (long vowel), such as in *mikisa-* (ミキサー) "cement mixer", there are three possibilities:
  1. Use the *chōon* as a vowel, so *aisukuri-mu* (アイスクリーム) is allowed;
  2. Ignore the *chōon*, so *sandobagu* (サンドバッグ) is allowed;
  3. Use both the kana and the following *chōon*, so only a word beginning with サー, like *sa-kitto* (サーキット), is allowed.
* *Dakuten* (濁点 , ゛) and *handakuten (*半濁点 , ゜) may or may not be ignored. For example, if *dakuten* are ignored, *tomato* (トマト) may be followed by *do-natsu* (ドーナツ), "doughnut".

From: https://www.sljfaq.org/afaq/shiritori.html