



# POKÉMON TCG POCKET

## A simplified spin on a beloved classic

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It seems the *Pokémon* brand continues to print money, and its latest offering is no exception. Released on October 30, 2024, the mobile game *Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG) Pocket* quickly captivated fans old and new, reintroducing the iconic *Pokémon Trading Card Game* in a fresh, new, simplified format. Within just two days of its global launch, the game had amassed over 10 million downloads – a testament to the enduring appeal of *Pokémon* and the allure of its vibrant trading cards – and is going strong three months into its release.

### Simplified, yet true to its roots

Bangladeshi kids from the '90s and early 2000s will remember *Pokémon* cards as the cool, shiny collectables that everyone seemed to be into back in the day. *Pokémon TCG Pocket*, at its core, offers a beginner-friendly version of the original *Pokémon TCG*. Where the original involves six Pokémon in play, 60-card decks, and six prize cards, *Pocket* condenses the experience: players use up to four Pokémon at a time, 20-card decks, and instead of prize cards, points are awarded for knocking out opposing Pokémon. The first player to reach three points wins, making matches fast-paced and easy to pick up.

Another notable change is the removal of Energy cards, which are needed to power up your Pokémon's attacks in the original TCG. Instead, *Pocket* auto-generates one energy per turn based on the chosen Pokémon types of your deck, streamlining gameplay and eliminating an arguably tedious aspect of the original format. These changes boil the game down to its essence, focusing on a mostly offence-heavy gameplay while still retaining strategic depth involving



unique abilities and attacks.

### A visual treat

The beautifully illustrated Pokémon cards – arguably the heart of the game's appeal – are well-represented in *Pocket*. While some of the artwork is reused from existing cards, the majority of the cards feature original designs, ensuring the mobile game feels fresh. The result is a visually appealing collection that will entice both seasoned fans and casual players.

The game currently features over 320 cards across a major expansion called "Genetic Apex", a mini-expansion called "Mythical Island", and additional promo cards released frequently through events. With new sets on the horizon, *Pocket* is likely to sustain its momentum for the

foreseeable future.

### Accessibility

One of *Pocket*'s greatest strengths is its accessibility. Matches are quick, typically lasting four to five minutes, making the game ideal for casual play. Players can open two card packs (each containing five cards) for free daily, with additional packs obtainable through in-game resources or real money. This allows players to collect a respectable number of cards without spending a dime, including coveted EX cards and rare full-art cards, which are not too difficult to obtain if you are a regular player. As such, the balance between free-to-play and paid elements feels fair – a major selling point for any free mobile game.

For beginners, this game serves as a fantastic entry point into the complex world of *Pokémon TCG*. By removing the intimidating layers of mechanics from the original format, *Pocket* provides a smooth learning curve. After just a few matches, even new players will feel confident enough to explore the deeper strategies of the full TCG.

### Final thoughts

*Pokémon TCG Pocket* strikes a delicate balance between simplification and nostalgia. Its fast-paced gameplay, stunning card art, and accessible mechanics make it a standout title for both newcomers and long-time *Pokémon* fans. While it doesn't offer the depth of the original TCG, it excels in introducing the trading card game's fundamentals in an approachable, fun way.

Whether you're a lifelong collector, a casual *Pokémon* enthusiast, or a complete beginner curious about the TCG, this game is well worth your time. *Pocket* is more than a simplified version; it's a delightful celebration of all things *Pokémon*.