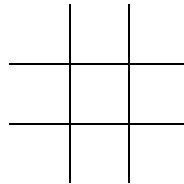


Notakto¹: Tic-tac-toe with only 'X's

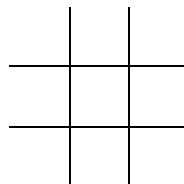
Notakto is a game played on the same board as tic-tac-toe, except players only make 'X's. The first player to draw an 'X' on the board that gives you three-in-a-row (in the usual ways you can do that in tic-tac-toe) loses. There are several variations of Notakto, some played with more than one board. On the simplest version, two players take turns marking 'X's on the same board, e.g.

Player A	Player B	Player A	Player B	Player A	
X	X	X	X X	X X	
— — —	— — X	X X	X X	X X X	← Player A loses!
					(No, it wasn't a very smart move. But you get the idea...)

There are no games on this version that go on for nine moves. To reach that point, you would have had to have already made three-in-a-row (probably multiple times), at which point the game would have ended before reaching nine moves. Likewise, there are no eight-move games. However, there are seven-move games that end with someone losing. To show this, draw a board with six 'X's on it, on which the next person to write an 'X' must lose the game, no matter which space they pick.



There is also at least one five-move game in which someone loses. Draw a board with four 'X's on it, on which *any* subsequent move will lose the game.



¹ Learn more at: [http://rmm.ludus-opuscula.org/PDF_Files/Thane_tictac_49_54\(1_2014\)_low.pdf](http://rmm.ludus-opuscula.org/PDF_Files/Thane_tictac_49_54(1_2014)_low.pdf)