

EA Survivor: How to Play

Your step-by-step guide

New to EA Survivor? This guide will walk you through the game from start to finish. Grab your coffee and let's go.

Section 1: Before You Start — What You'll Need

- A computer with a modern browser (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or Safari)
- The game link (open it now if you have it)
- 20-30 minutes of focused time
- A team name (get creative!)
- An open mind — this game teaches by making you experience it

Section 2: The Big Idea — What This Game Teaches

You win by completing HIGH-VALUE work — not the MOST work.

Pick your battles. Say no to busywork. Trust your instincts.

In real EA life, everyone tries to 'clear the list.' This game will teach you why that's the wrong strategy — and give you the confidence to say no to busywork.

Section 3: The Lobby — Getting Set Up

Step 1: Open the Game

When the game loads, you'll see the welcome screen. This is your lobby — where you set up your session.

Step 2: Choose Your Difficulty

You'll see three options. Each affects how many AI tokens you get, how much time you have, and how many curveballs appear:

- Easy: 7 tokens, more time, tiers visible — great for first-timers
- Standard: 5 tokens, normal challenge — recommended for most players
- Survivor: 3 tokens, less time, tiers hidden — for experienced players

 **First time playing?** Pick Standard. You'll get the true experience without being overwhelmed.

Step 3: Enter Your Team Name

Type a name in the box. This shows up on the leaderboard. Have fun with it! (Examples: 'The Prioritizers', 'Value Squad', 'Copilot Crew')

Step 4: Click 'Start Game'

You'll be taken into Round 1. You're ready!

Section 4: Meet Your 6 MDs

Before Round 1 starts, click 'View My 6 MDs' to see the people you're supporting today. Each MD has their own personality — knowing them helps you make better AI decisions later.

MD	Role	Their Style
Marcus Chen	Strategy	Hates AI-generated content
Priya Patel	Tech	Loves Copilot, wants speed
James O'Brien	M&A	Confidential deals — no external AI
Sarah Williams	Client Lead	Polished, warm communications
David Kim	Operations	Loves SOPs and templates
Elena Rodriguez	Growth	Trusts your judgment

 **Ask yourself:** 'Would MD Marcus want me to use AI for this?' Sometimes the right answer is no.

Section 5: Round 1 — Triage

Duration: 6 minutes (or longer on Easy)

Goal: Complete high-value tasks. NO tokens allowed in this round.

Step 1: Click 'Start Timer'

 **Don't forget!** The timer only counts down after you click 'Start Timer'. Do this at the beginning of EVERY round.

Step 2: Read Your Tasks

You'll see task cards in front of you. Each card shows:

- What the task is (e.g., 'Prep board deck for MD's meeting')
- The value tier (High, Medium, Low, Trap, or Verify — color-coded)
- Points you'll earn

Step 3: Decide What to Do With Each Task

Each card has three buttons:

-  **Complete (10m):** Do the task manually. Takes 10 minutes off your budget.
-  **Use Token (1m):** Not available in Round 1! (Save your tokens for later.)
-  **Skip:** Ignore the task. Costs 0 minutes — and sometimes it's the best choice.

Step 4: Watch Your HUD (Top of Screen)

Keep an eye on these live stats:

-  **Round Timer:** How much time you have left in this round
-  **Workday Left:** How many minutes remain in your 8-hour day
-  **AI Tokens:** You still have all 5 (or 3/7 depending on difficulty)
-  **Score:** Your current point total
-  **Done:** How many tasks you've completed

Step 5: Prioritize Ruthlessly

You can't do everything. Look for High-Value (denim) cards first. Skip Low-Value (gray) tasks. Watch out for Trap cards (red) — they steal points!

Step 6: Click 'Next Round' When Done

When you're ready to move on (or you've run out of time), click 'Next Round' at the top of the screen.

Section 6: Round 2 — Token Drop

Duration: 7 minutes

Goal: Spend up to 3 AI tokens on the RIGHT tasks with the RIGHT tools.

Step 1: Click 'Start Timer' Again

Yes, every round has its own timer. Click it to start counting down.

Step 2: Read New Tasks

New tasks appear. Look for high-value or medium-value tasks where AI would really help.

Step 3: When You Find a Good Task, Click 'Use Token'

A pop-up will ask you to pick your AI tool. Choose wisely!

AI Tool	Best For
M365 Copilot	Meetings, docs, Excel work
Enterprise AI	Company policy questions
Claude	Polished writing (bios, client comms)
Copilot in Outlook	Email drafting and triage
Copilot Agent Builder	Reusable workflows (+8 BONUS!)

 **Watch out!** Using a token on a low-value task = -2 penalty. Using a token on a trap card = -5 penalty.

Step 4: Consider Building an Agent

Every time you use Copilot Agent Builder, you earn a +8 bonus. Look for recurring, repeatable tasks — those are perfect Agent candidates.

Step 5: You Can Only Use 3 Tokens This Round

You have 5 tokens total, but only 3 can be spent in Round 2. Save the rest for Round 3.

Section 7: Round 3 — Survivor Finale

Duration: 6 minutes

Goal: Handle whatever comes your way. Curveballs are coming!

Step 1: Click 'Start Timer' (Yes, Again!)

Step 2: Watch for Curveballs

During this round, URGENT tasks will drop into your grid — with a red 'URGENT' badge and a swirl 🌀 icon. They FEEL urgent, but not all of them are important!

💡 **Not every URGENT thing is IMPORTANT.** Ask yourself: 'Would completing this actually matter tomorrow?'

Step 3: Spend Remaining Tokens Wisely

You have your remaining tokens to burn. Save at least 1 for a curveball emergency — but don't hoard them all (unused tokens = +1 each, which is worth less than a good high-value task).

Step 4: When Time's Up, Click 'End Game'

Section 8: The Bonus Challenge — Describe One Real Copilot Agent You'd Build

After Round 3, you'll get a special screen: describe ONE Copilot Agent you'd actually build at work. Write at least 50 characters and you'll earn a HUGE +15 bonus.

Example: 'An MD Weekly Brief Agent that summarizes my MD's last 5 meetings every Monday morning. Saves 45 min/week.'

Take this seriously — it's not just for points. Writing down a real idea makes you 3x more likely to actually build it later.

Section 9: The Results Screen

After you submit, you'll see your final results:

- **Final Score** — your total points earned
- **Triage Accuracy Grade (A-F)** — how well you picked value over volume
- **Score Breakdown** — where your points came from
- **Achievement Badges** — special accomplishments unlocked
- **Session Leaderboard** — where you rank
- **AI Recipe Book** — 15 ready-to-use prompts you can copy for real work
- **3 Reflection Questions** — think about them for next time

 **Don't just close the tab!** Read the Recipe Book. Those 15 prompts are gold — copy them into a note for later use.

Section 10: 5 Tips to Win

1. **Skip busywork.** Every minute on low-value work is a minute wasted.
2. **Read every task carefully.** Some 'urgent' tasks are traps.
3. **Verify AI output.** Don't blindly trust — catch mistakes and earn +6 bonus.
4. **Use Copilot Agent Builder at least once.** The +8 bonus is huge.
5. **Save tokens for the finale.** Curveballs are coming.

Section 11: Common Mistakes

Things to avoid:

- **✗** Trying to complete every task (you can't — pick wisely)
- **✗** Using tokens on low-value tasks (-2 penalty)
- **✗** Ignoring the Bonus Challenge at the end (+15 bonus is easy points!)
- **✗** Not clicking 'Start Timer' (the round doesn't advance without it)
- **✗** Forgetting to read Verify cards carefully (trusting bad AI = -5)

Section 12: Have Fun!

This is a game. You'll make mistakes. That's the whole point! Every wrong choice teaches you something you can use in real life. Play multiple times, try different difficulties, and see if you can beat your own score.

Ready? Let's go!