Pokémon Card Rarity Chart

Find the tiny symbol after the card number, in a bottom corner. Count the stars and check their color. **Rows run plain to fancy, not by scarcity:** pull rates differ from set to set.

PLAIN TO FANCY



●

Common
4 in a typical modern English pack



◆

Uncommon
3 in a typical modern English pack



★

Rare
Always shiny (holo) since 2023



★★

Double rare
The regular “ex” cards, Mega ex too



★

Illustration rare
Art fills the whole card, a plain (not ex) Pokémon



★★

Ultra rare
Full-art ex cards and full-art Trainer cards



★★

Special illustration rare
Whole-card art of an ex or a Supporter. Often a set’s most wanted card



★★★

Hyper rare
All-gold card. Scarlet & Violet sets, 2023 to 2025



its own gold symbol

Mega hyper rare
Replaced the hyper rare in Mega Evolution sets (since Sep 2025). All-gold, the top card of each set

Rare is not the same as valuable. Rarity only ranks cards inside one set. An old Common can be worth more than a brand-new Ultra rare, so always look up recent **sold** prices.

From The Visual Pokémon Card Guide by Ellis Marbury: 120+ picture answers for parents and grandparents. Get the book and more free checks at **realfakeorfair.com**

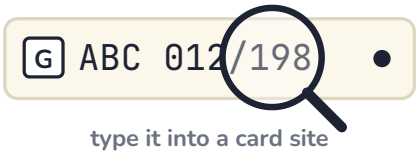
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Is it real? The 6-point fake check

No single check proves a card is real or fake. Run all six before you decide, and never judge on one alone.

Have ready: a real card from the same set · your phone · good light

1



type it into a card site

The number

Type the set code and number into a card site. The card that comes up should match yours.

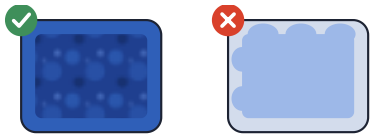
2



Words and font

Spelling mistakes, “Pokemon” without the é, silly numbers like HP 1000, or a heavy, oddly spaced font.

3

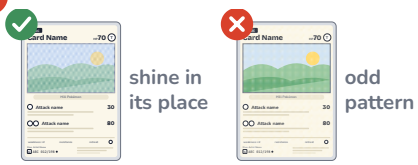


deep, dappled · flat, pale

The back

Hold it next to a back you know is real. Fakes are often flat and pale, with blue running into the border.

4



shine in its place · odd pattern

Shine and feel

Shine in the wrong place or an odd pattern. Many new rare cards have a texture you can feel; fakes are often smooth or too glossy.

5

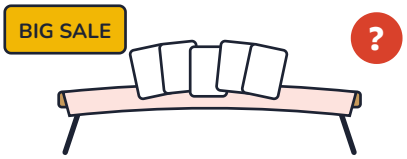


crisp · dull, fuzzy

Print and color

Dull or yellowish colors, fuzzy outlines, symbols the wrong size or off-center, borders much too thick.

6



Where it came from

A stranger, a flea market or a price far below normal? Check extra carefully.

All six look fine
Probably real.

One looks odd
Look closer. Odd is not always fake.

Several fail
Keep it out of trades. Ask a card shop.

Test with your eyes, never your hands. Videos online tear or bend cards to test them. That ruins a real card and often proves nothing. Unsure after all six? Ask a local card shop before anyone trades it.

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