



HELP ME BET

Need to know? We'll tell you how!

How to Play Blackjack?



Blackjack, also known as twenty-one is one of the simplest games in the world. The object of the game is a simple one, Beat the dealer.



Blackjack is played with one, two, four, six or eight decks of cards. In multi-deck games the cards are dealt out of a tray like box that is called a shoe. In the style of casino we're going to talk about the cards are dealt face up to the player and you are not allowed to touch your cards.

Objective

As we said the objective of the game is to beat the dealer. If your cards total higher than the dealer's cards without going over 21 you win. You are not trying to get close to 21. If your hand or the dealer's hand goes over 21 you "Bust". If you bust you automatically lose. If the dealer busts and you do not you win. The player must act first. If the player busts he loses regardless if the dealer busts or not.

Card Values




Card Suits have no affect on the Game. Cards  to  are counted at face value without regards to their suit. All face cards have a value of ten. An ace can count as either one or

eleven. So a king and a seven would equal 17. An  and an  would total either 9 or 19.

Hard Hand – This is a hand that has no Ace, because it has only the one value.

Soft Hand – This is a hand that has an Ace in it, because the value can change.

If you have a Soft Hand and you draw a card that puts you over 21 then your hand becomes a

Hard Hand. E.g. You are dealt an  and a . You have 5 or 15. If you then draw a  you now have a hard 15 because your ace becomes a 1. If you count the ace as 11 you would have 26, which would bust you.

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Blackjack Table

Blackjack is dealt on a table that is shaped as a semi-circle. There is a separate circle or square for each player. The player puts his bet in the betting circle if front of his space. Only chips put in the betting circle count as your bet. Never touch your bet once placed in the betting circle. After all bets are made the play begins.



Each player is dealt two cards face up. The dealer receives one card face up and one card face down known as the hole card. When your cards are dealt, the dealer will ask each player in turn to make their decision. The player to the left of the dealer is first to act. This position is known as first base. The position of the last person to act is called third base. You will make your decision about how to play your hand based on the dealer's up card and the two cards that you were dealt.

A rule of thumb for the beginner is to assume the dealer has a ten in the hole. You use hand signal to make your decisions known. Tap the table for a card (Hit), or wave over the top careful not to touch (Stand). Blackjack, also known as twenty-one is one of the simplest games in the world. The object of the game is a simple one, Beat the dealer. Remember that in a game dealt from a shoe you are not allowed to touch the cards.

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Blackjack



If you or the dealer is dealt an  and a  card you have 21 known as a blackjack. This is a natural. If you get the blackjack you will be paid 3 to 2 for your bet providing the dealer does not get one at the same time. If you and the dealer have blackjack it is a push. If only the dealer has blackjack all players will lose.

Hitting

To take a hit means that you want to draw another card. To signal the dealer for a hit you will tap the table in front of you or make a beckoning motion with your hand. If you wish another card after the first you would motion in the same manner.

Standing

Once you are satisfied with either your first two cards or after hitting, you signal the dealer that you wish to stand. This is done by waving your hand over the top of your cards.

Doubling Down.

When you double down you are allowed to double your bet after receiving your first two cards. You then receive one card only on your hand. Most casinos will allow you to double down on any two cards (DOA). Some casinos limit your doubling to hands that total ten or eleven. DOA is a favourable rule to the player. To signal that you are doubling down you will place an additional bet next to your original bet. Most casinos will let you double down for less than your original bet providing it meets the table minimum. This is foolish. You only double in favourable situations and it is to your advantage to double for the maximum.

Splitting

If you are dealt a pair (two cards of the same rank) you can split these into two separate hands. You must make an additional bet equal to your starting bet. You signal the dealer that you are splitting by placing your second bet next to your first bet in the betting circle. Do not put this bet on top of the original bet. Do not separate the cards. The dealer will do this for you. You will no play each hand one at a time. The dealer will give you a second card to go with the first split card. You will then decide to hit or stand. After you play out this hand and stand you will move on to the next split card and the process will be repeated. Some casinos will allow you to double down on your first two cards after splitting. You would play this as

you would if you were doubling down on your first two cards. This rule is favorable to the player.

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Insurance

If the dealer's up card is an ace the dealer will offer insurance. You are not really insuring a hand. This is a side bet you make wagering half your original bet that the dealer has a ten in the hole. If you make the bet and he has the ten you are paid 2 to 1. You would then lose your original bet but win the insurance bet, which works out to being a push of your original bet. If you have a blackjack and the dealer has an ace you will be asked if you would like even money for your blackjack instead of 3 to 2. If do not take the even money you will have a push if the dealer has a blackjack. Both the insurance and the even money bet are sucker bets. The dealers will NOT have a ten more times than they will have one.

Surrender

Some casinos will allow you to surrender your hand and give up half your bet on your first two cards after the dealer checks for a blackjack. This is known as late surrender. This option is not offered in many casinos. It is to the player's advantage when played correctly. Unfortunately when it is offered many players surrender more hands than they should thus giving up the advantage gained by this option.

As you see, there are many decisions that you must make when playing blackjack. If you play your hand properly you can reduce the house edge to less than one percent. To do this you must learn Basic Strategy, which is a mathematically proven method to determine when to hit and stand.

Now you know how to play, [try it for real.](#)