



**PokerRoom.com**

MEET THEM AND BEAT THEM



**Poker Survival Guide**

# THE BASICS

Texas Hold'em poker is played with a standard 52-card deck. What makes Texas Hold'em stand out from many other card games is the use of five community cards – cards dealt face up on the table that all players share. Each player also receives two face-down cards – hole or pocket cards. These two cards make up your starting hand.

A round of poker starts with every player being dealt their two hole cards. The winner is the player who, after several betting rounds, can use his hole cards together with the five community cards and make the best ranked five card poker hand.



# HAND RANKINGS



Royal Flush



Straight Flush



Four of a Kind



Full House



Flush



Straight



Three of a Kind



Two Pairs



Pair



## Hand Nicknames

- AA** Pocket rockets, bullets
- KK** Cowboys, King Kong
- QQ** Double date, Canadian aces, Siegfried and Roy
- JJ** Fish hooks
- 99** German virgin  
(no, we don't know why)
- 22** Ducks
- AK** Big slick

- AQ** Big chick
- AJ** Black Jack, Jack-ass
- KQ** Royalty, marriage
- 95** Dolly Parton
- A8** Dead man's hand  
(A player named Wild Bill Hickok was shot in 1876 after winning with it!)



# POKER STRATEGY

Poker tables are intense, furious battlefields. The first time you log on and join a table just keep your cool and TAKE IT EASY. Watch and learn. And when it's your turn, take your time. Remember always stick to YOUR game. With time, you'll learn to handle and read other players' play.

## What not to do...

### **DON'T PLAY WHILE UPSET, FATIGUED OR PLAIN MAD.**

It will ruin your game.

### **DON'T TRY TO BLUFF EVERYONE ON THE FIRST HAND.**

They will end up bluffing you.

### **DON'T PLAY EVERY HAND.**

Learn to fold faster than Superman on laundry day!

### **DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK AROUND.**

Poker players are helpful people.

## What to do...

### **DO KNOW YOUR ODDS.**

If you understand the math of the game, you win.

### **DO TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.**

They're usually right. If you think you're beat, you probably are.

### **DO THINK BEFORE YOU ACT.**

### **DO LEARN THE THREE BASICS:**

Starting hand value, position play and folding.

# THREE BASIC RULES OF HOLD'EM

## 1. STARTING HAND VALUE

Two pocket cards, or hole cards, are what separate your hand from another player's hand. So, learning how to play them is vital. An Ace-Ace combo simply has a much greater chance of winning than say a 7-3 combo. Play the good starting hands. Fold the bad.

## 2. POSITION PLAY

Being seated in a "late position" is a huge advantage, getting to see your opponents move before you act yourself. To become a good player, one must understand this. A good starting hand in an early position may actually be a worse hand to play than a bad hand in late position.

## 3. FOLDING

No matter the betting round, if you have nothing and can't draw to anything, fold faster than Superman on laundry day. It's as simple as that.

## STARTING HAND ODDS:

The higher the odds in the following chart – the better chance your starting hand will win (i.e., defined pocket pair or Ace-King suited are the best hands to start with)!

<b>HOLE CARDS</b>	<b>ODDS</b>
Defined Pocket Pair, like Ace-Ace	220 to 1
Ace-King suited	331 to 1
Ace-King off-suit	110 to 1
Ace with less than Jack, suited	36 to 1
Ace with less than Jack, off-suit	11 to 1
Any Pair	16 to 1
Any two cards suited	3.25 to 1
Any two cards connected and suited	47 to 1
Any two cards connected and off-suit	15 to 1





"THE PROFESSOR"

## PLAYER PROFILES

### **THE ROCK** PASSIVE + TIGHT + PRO

By far, the tightest player of any table. The rock barely plays any hands at all. Aces and Kings he loves, though. And when he gets them, he knows exactly how to play them. He is a good reader of the game who risks very few unexpected, big losses. He knows when his Aces have been cracked.

### **THE MAD HATTER** LOOSE + CASUAL + LOUDMOUTH + AGGRESSIVE

This complete nut job is the biggest fish of all! Either he doesn't have a clue how to play, or he just doesn't care. And gladly informs everyone that he thinks "Poker is just like Scrabble." He bets every hand and raises even more, while constantly asking questions like "I have a four card flush, is that any good? Oh."

### **THE LOOSE GRINDER LOOSE + EINSTEIN**

The weekend regular who plays mainly for fun, hoping to edge out a little profit by the end of the night. He has picked up some skills during all his sessions, and can, on a lucky night, be a real force. Not to be underestimated, but never to be overestimated, either.

### **THE PROFESSOR TIGHT + AGGRESSIVE + PRO**

The guy to avoid at all times. He understands the cards, he knows how to play them and does so mercilessly. He hasn't read the books, though. He wrote them. But he will lay them aside when necessary. Don't try and bluff this guy. Don't try to outplay him. Actually don't play him at all. Become him.

### **CALLING STATION LOOSE + PASSIVE**

Next stop: Suckerville. A newcomer to the game of poker, he often finds himself acting like a calling station, staying in pots as long as there is a chance, albeit remote, of winning it. He doesn't care about his odds or his outs. If there's a chance, well, then there's a chance. "Might as well" and "I paid you this far, so..." are typical calling station expressions.

### **THE PRETENDER CHAMELEON + AGGRESSIVE + LOUDMOUTH**

This is the dodgy fellow that makes all the other players tilt. He pretends and plays like he is a mad hatter, but he's got your game read like an open book with thirty foot letters in it. He lures people in with his seemingly idiotic raises and bluffs and just when people are about to stack the pot, the pretender reveals some absolute crap starting hand he knew would win all along. He then stacks the pot while the other player has to settle for a good steam.

### **MISS MYSTERY CHAMELEON + PRO + HIBERNATOR**

The perfect covert strategy for the player deemed to be underestimated. Happily plays along, making stupid comments and sometimes intentionally making bad calls. All the while figuring the others out and making sure to win the really big pots – of course, without seeming to know it. Keeps a very low profile, in fear of revealing the act.





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# STRATEGIC MOVES

## MASTER THE GAME!

### **THE CHECK RAISE TRAP**

If you have a really good hand, and the action is checked to you, try and check also! Hopefully, someone behind you will bet and when the action goes back to you, you can then raise! Helps to build bigger pots.

### **PLAY SLOW, WIN BIG**

In poker, deception is everything. If you have a hand you think is unbeatable, there is no need to raise the pot too early and risk scaring the other players off. Lure'em in and then strike'em out!

### **THE INFO BET**

The more you know about your opponent's hand the better. One way of finding out more about his hand is to make a bet just to see how he reacts. Does he re-raise or call? Does he think before acting?

### **MUCK, MUCK, SHOW**

When you win uncalled hands you don't have to show your hand – leaving opponents to wonder. But sometimes it's a good idea anyhow, either to upset them (with the bluff), or to show that you didn't bluff.



# POKER DICTIONARY

## **ACTION**

A move by a player. There are seven basic moves in Texas Hold'em:

- BET** Putting money in the pot
- CALL** To equal another player's bet
- FOLD** Forfeiting cards and chance at winning the pot
- CHECK** Passing on making an action (if no bet is in play)
- RAISE** To increase another player's bet
- RE-RAISE** To increase another player's raise!
- ALL-IN** Betting all the chips in front of you at once!

## **BAD BEAT**

A hand that is beaten by someone getting very lucky and drawing out that hand.

## **BOARD**

The five community cards that all the players can see and use to build their hands.

- FLOP** The first three community cards to be dealt
- TURN** The fourth communal card
- RIVER** The fifth and final communal card

## **FISH**

A nickname for bad, losing players, given by better, winning players.

## **KICKER**

In case of two players holding equal hands, like the same pair, the highest unpaired card, the kicker, will decide the winner.

## **POSITION**

A player's position in relation to the dealer's button. As the button moves, so does your position.

- EARLY** First three seats left of (after) the button.  
The least advantageous position since these players make their moves first.
- MIDDLE** Seats 4 through 7 after the button.
- LATE** Positions 8 and 9. Playing out of this position gives players an edge since they already know the other players' moves.
- ON THE BUTTON** This seat acts last and thus has an even bigger edge than the late position.

## **OUTS**

The total number of possibilities a player has to win a pot based on the current situation. If he holds 99 and needs another 9 to win, he would then have a total of two outs.

## **POCKET PAIR**

Holding two equally valued cards like AA, KK, 77 or 22.

## **A SET**

A pocket pair that connects with the board making a three of a kind.

## **TELLS**

Behavioural patterns that reveal a player's moves and strategies.

## **TILT**

To completely lose it and play like a madman. Most commonly after taking several bad beats.

## **TRAP**

To lure other players to stay in and preferably raise a pot you are absolutely sure you are going to win.



# ANTE UP

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## POPULAR POKER GAMES:

**Texas Hold'em**  
**7 Card Stud**  
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With the best graphics, game play and features, PokerRoom.com is the hottest place online to get in on the poker action.

Based in Sweden, our skilled team of developers is always adding to the rich content on our site. With new promotions and tournaments added daily, a full Poker School and a player Community Forum, our player base receives only the best in gaming entertainment.

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