



pokernews

POKER CHEAT SHEET



POKER HANDS FROM BEST TO WORST

ROYAL FLUSH



The best possible hand in Texas hold'em is the combination of ten, jack, queen, king, ace, all of the same suit

STRAIGHT FLUSH



Five cards of the same suit in sequential order

FOUR OF A KIND



Any four numerically matching cards

FULL HOUSE



Combination of three of a kind and a pair in the same hand

FLUSH



Five cards of the same suit, in any order

STRAIGHT



Five cards of any suit, in sequential order

THREE OF A KIND



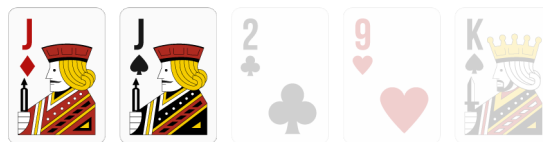
Any three numerically matching cards

TWO PAIR



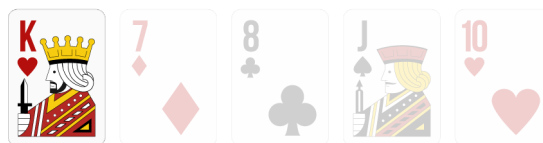
Two different pairs in the same hand

ONE PAIR



Any two numerically matching cards

HIGH CARD



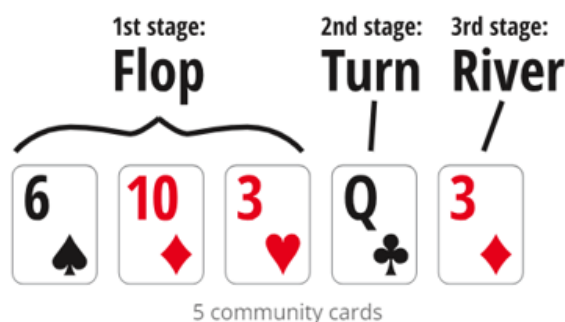
The highest ranked card in your hand with an ace being the highest and two being the lowest



TEXAS HOLD'EM

BETTING ROUNDS EXPLAINED

Every Texas Hold'em cash game and tournament features four betting rounds: preflop, the flop, the turn, and the river.



PREFLOP

What is Preflop in Texas Hold'em and How Does it Work?

Preflop is where every Texas Hold'em hand begins. The player to the immediate left of the dealer pays a small blind, and the player to their direct left pays a big blind, which is usually twice the size of the small blind. If antes are in play, each player pays their ante during the preflop round.

Once the blinds are paid, and any antes if they are in play, the dealer pitches a face-down card to each player, starting with the small blind and moving in a clockwise direction. The dealer then deals another face-down card to each player starting with the small blind.

Once everyone has their "hole cards," the player to the immediate left of the big blind, a position known as under the gun, acts first. They have the option to fold, call a bet the same size of the big blind (known as limping), or raise. If the under the gun player folds or calls the next player has the same three options. If the under the gun player raises, the next player to act can either match their raise with a call or make a raise of their own.

This continues until everyone at the table has acted. The game proceeds to the flop if two or more players still have hole cards in front of them.



THE FLOP

What is the Flop in Texas Hold'em and How Does it Work?

The Flop in Texas Hold'em games usually defines how the hand progresses because it reveals three of the five community cards. This betting round starts with the player closest to the dealer's left; that player can check or bet. The next player can either fold, call the bet, or put in a raise.

The flop betting round ends and a new hand begins if only one player remains in the hand. The game progresses to the turn if two or more players stay in the hand.

THE TURN

What is the Turn in Texas Hold'em and How Does it Work?

The Turn, sometimes called fourth street, is when the fourth of five community cards is revealed.

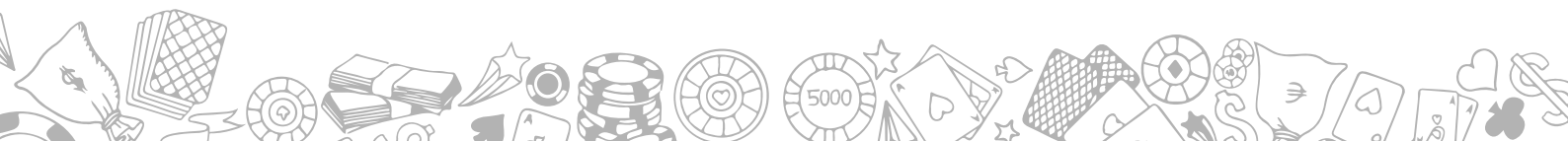
The action follows the same rules as the flop. The turn betting round ends and a new hand is dealt if only one player remains after everyone has acted, or moves onto the river if two or more players still have hole cards in front of them.

THE RIVER

What is the River in Texas Hold'em and How Does it Work?

The River is when the fifth and final community card comes into play in a Texas Hold'em cash game and tournament. Again, this betting round starts with the player closest to the dealer's left. The first player can check or bet, with subsequent players able to fold, call the bet or raise.

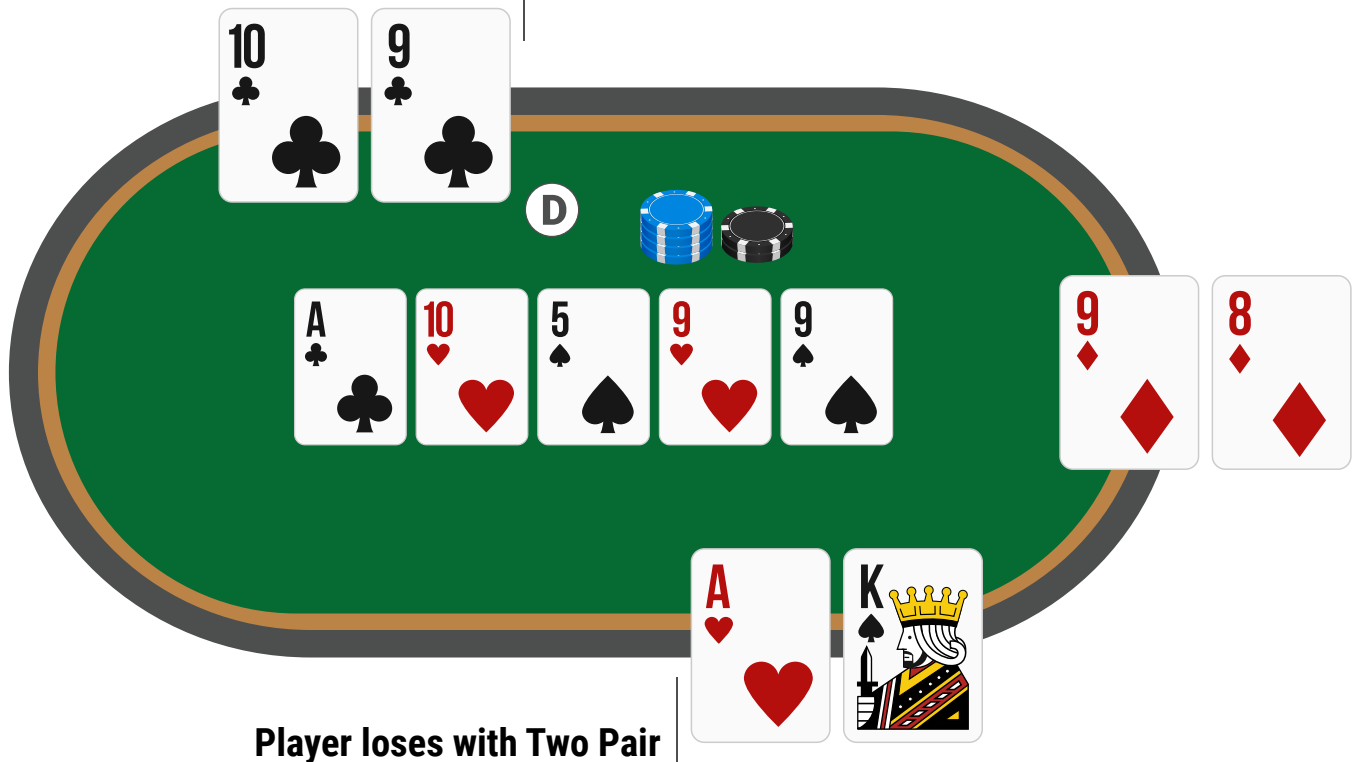
Once the betting round is completed, the game ends and a new one begins if only one player has cards in front of them, or moves onto the showdown if two or more players remain in the hand.



SHOWDOWN

What is the Showdown in Texas Hold'em and How does it Work?

Player wins Pot with Full House



Player loses with Two Pair

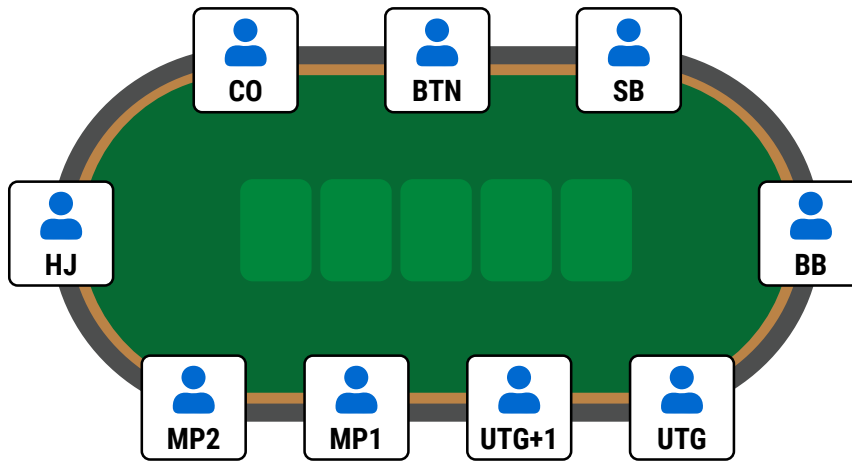
Player loses with Three of a Kind

A showdown occurs if two or more players remain in the hand once the river betting round is complete. The player that last showed aggression, that is bet or raised, reveals their hole cards. If there was no betting action (i.e. the river was checked around), the player closest to the dealer's left reveals their holding first.

The winner of the hand is the player with the best five card poker hand ranking. The other players do not need to show their hole cards if they cannot beat the hand shown to them by the other player. "Mucking" is folding your hand without it being seen by your opponents.

POSITION IN POKER EXPLAINED

Each position at the poker table has a name when you are playing Texas Hold'em. Those names are as follows at a nine handed table:



UTG

- ▶ An acronym for Under The Gun. It is the player seated to the direct left of the Big Blind. It is called such because the player is first to act preflop.

EARLY POSITION

- ▶ The next two players after the UTG are referred to as being in early position.

MIDDLE POSITION

- ▶ The next two seats after Early Position are called Middle Position.

HIJACK

- ▶ The Hijack sits to the immediate right of the Cutoff and two seats to the right of the Dealer.

CUTOFF

- ▶ This is the player to the immediate right of the Dealer or Button.

DEALER OR BUTTON

- ▶ This is the player acting as the Dealer; they act last every hand. The dealer button moves clockwise at the start of each new hand.

SMALL BLIND

- ▶ The Small Blind is seated directly to the left of the Dealer. They pay the small blind before the preflop betting round.

BIG BLIND

- ▶ The Big Blind sits to the direct left of the Small Blind. They pay the big blind before the preflop betting round of each hand.



HOW TO PLAY EACH POSITION IN POKER

Once you learn position in poker, you realise your strategy alters depending on where you are seated at the table in relation to the dealer.

As a general rule, the more players that are left to act after you, the tighter you should play.



How to play UTG in Poker

You should play a very tight range of hands when playing from UTG at a full-ring or nine-handed table. This is because there are several opponents left to act who could raise you.

Even if they only call, they will act after you, so they have more information about the hand on which to base their decisions.

How to play in Early Position in Poker

You should still play tight in early position but you can start adding more starting hands to your arsenal. If the players left to act are playing tight, you can add even more starting hands to your repertoire. Tighten up if those left to act are raising and re-raising frequently.

If the UTG has raised, you usually need a very strong hand to continue in the hand.

How to play in Middle Position in Poker

Being in middle position allows you a little more freedom when you are first to act because almost half of the table has already folded, and there are not as many players left to act.

Hands such as small pairs and suited connectors start being added to your range of starting hands.

How to play the Cutoff in Poker

The cutoff is a powerful position because only the button and blinds are left to act, and the blinds will be out of position against you if they choose to call a raise. The cutoff is prime position for opening pots with a raise with a wide range of hands, unless the button and blinds have shown a tendency for three-betting (re-raising) raises from late position.

You will often win the pot uncontested, but will have position on all but the button if your bet is called.

How to play the Button in Poker

The button is another name for the dealer because you have a dealer button placed in front of you. Most of your winnings will stem from being on the button; the position is that powerful. Open pots with a raise with a wide range of hands because you only have the blinds to beat and will have position on them for the rest of the hand if they do call your raise.

You can also call earlier position raises with a wider range of hands if you are on the button because you have more information about the hand before you act, plus the all-important positional advantage.

How to play the Small and Big Blind in Poker

You will lose money playing from the blinds no matter how good you are at poker. The positional disadvantage is too great for even the very best to play profitably. The blinds are not a place to be splashing around in pots. Instead, stick to premium hands and hands that could flop sets, or draws.





POKER TERMS EXPLAINED

There are thousands of poker terms, but you do not need to learn them all! Here are a handful of the most common poker terms you will hear in Texas Hold'em.

ACTION

A check, call, fold, or raise is called an action. Action sometimes refers to a game where there is a lot of betting and raising i.e. an action game.

ANTE

An ante is a forced bet made preflop in addition to the blinds. Sometimes, everyone pays an ante, or the big blind or button will only pay an ante each hand.

ALL-IN

A player is all-in whenever they have committed all of their chips into the pot during a hand.

BIG BLIND

The player seated two seats to the left of the dealer and one to the left of the small blind. The big blind is also the forced preflop bet.

BUBBLE

A term with several applications, all having to do with the period just before the money is reached in a tournament. The period itself - when just one or a few players need to be eliminated before reaching the cash - is referred to as the "bubble" period.

CHECK

Checking is when you do not want to bet or raise but do not want to fold.

COMMUNITY CARDS

These are the five cards placed on the table which you use, alongside your hole cards, to make the best five card poker hand.

DRAW

A draw is when you have a unmade hand but could improve to a straight or flush on future streets.



FOLD

Folding is throwing away your hand with it's your turn to act.

GUTSHOT

When you need one card within a range of 5 consecutive cards to complete a straight e.g. you have 9-8 on a board of 7-5-4.

HEADS-UP

Heads-up is used to describe any hand where only two players are contesting the pot.

HOLE CARDS

These are the cards the dealer pitched to you preflop. They are called such because they remain face down until showdown, so it is like they are in a hole.

KICKER

The highest unpaired side card in a players hand. Kickers come into play when making the best five card poker hand.

MUCK

The muck is the pile of discarded and unused cards in a Texas Hold'em game. To muck is to discard or throw your hand away, usually without revealing its value.

NUTS

The nuts is the strongest possible hand that cannot be beaten by any other possible hand. While a royal flush is the ultimate example of the nuts, you can have the nuts with an ace-high straight or flush, or even with top set.

OVERCARD

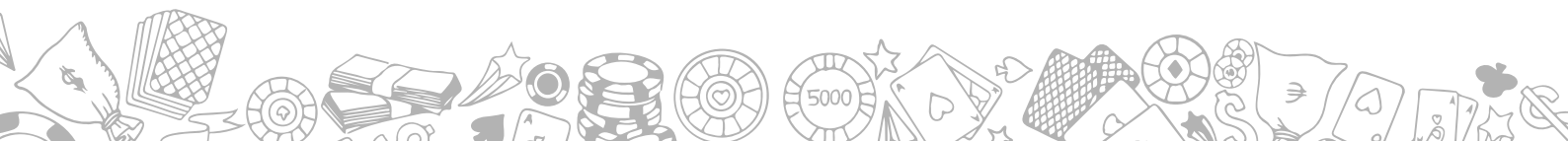
An overcard is a card that is higher than any of the community cards.

STRADDLE

This is an optional "third blind" bet placed before the cards are dealt in cash games. This bet is usually made by the 'under the gun' player and is typically double the big blind.

TILT

A term used to describe when a player's emotions have taken over them, and they begin to play sub-optimally.





TOP 5 POKER TIPS FOR CASH GAMES

1

REALISE THE POWER OF POSITION

Play tight in early positions and loosen up as you move closer to the button.

2

TRY NOT TO LIMP INTO POTS

This is particularly true in short-handed games. They say if a hand is worth opening the betting with, it is worth doing so with a raise.

3

BLIND PLAY

Play tight when you are seated in the blinds because you are all but guaranteed to lose money in the long term in these positions.

4

ATTACK THE BLINDS

Even if your hole cards are weak, it is often worthwhile attacking the blinds from the cutoff and button if everyone else has folded.

5

PAY ATTENTION

Take notes on the two players to your immediate left and the two to your right because they will be in the blinds when you have the button, and you will be in the blind when those on the right have stealing opportunities.





TOP 5 POKER TIPS FOR TOURNAMENTS

1

PLAY TIGHTLY EARLY ON

Hardly anyone wins a poker tournament in the first few levels of play. Try to play tightly early in the tournament.

2

CONSERVE YOUR STACK

Preserving your stack is often more important than building a bigger stack, particularly early into the tournament.

3

OPEN UP IN THE MIDDLE STAGES

Pay attention to your opponents so you know who will be easier to play pots with. As the tournament progresses you can start to widen your raising ranges & steal aggressively from late position as the blinds become more valuable.

4

BE AGGRESSIVE ON THE BUBBLE

You can accumulate many chips as the money bubble approaches because many players are looking to fold their way into the money. Take advantage of these players.

5

KEEP AN EYE ON THE STACK SIZES

Stack sizes vary wildly in tournaments, but often remain similar in cash games. Be aware of the stack sizes of the players yet to act because you could be priced in to call their all-in bet.





TOP 5 POKER TIPS FOR HEADS-UP

1

KNOW YOUR FOE

Observation is everything in heads-up poker. Take notes on all of your opponent's tendencies.

2

POSITION IS KEY

The power of position is amplified during heads-up play. Be ultra-aggressive when you have the button.

3

AGGRESSION IS CRUCIAL

Heads-up is often a battle of wits and a who dares wins affair. Bet and raise strong and made hands, and even bet your draws.

4

DON'T GET BULLIED

Your heads-up opponent is likely playing aggressively, so you need to play back at them to show you cannot be pushed over.

5

PREFLOP RAISES CAN BE SMALLER

It is OK to raise less preflop when you have the button because you only have one opponent to beat. Furthermore, it helps limit your losses if you are facing an aggressive opponent that frequently three-bets.





TOP 5 POKER TIPS FOR BOUNTY BUILDER TOURNAMENTS

1

APPLY PRESSURE

Use the fact you can bust an opponent to your advantage. Be the big stack bully.

2

DO NOT BLINDLY CHASE BOUNTIES

Although some bounties grow substantial and their value, to some degree, governs if you can call an all-in bet profitably, do not blindly chase bounties.

3

AVOID RISKING YOUR STACK EARLY

The bounties are small at the start of a Bounty Builder tournament, and are not worth risking busting from the event.

4

BE PREPARED TO SEE SOME CRAZINESS

Players will move all-in and call all-in bets with some weird and wonderful hands once the bounty payments increase. Prepare to not believe your eyes!

5

SOLID POKER IS STILL BEST

Think of the bounties as added bonuses. The biggest prizes are reserved for the top three main prize pool payouts, so aim to reach here.





TOP 5 POKER TIPS TO HELP BUILD A BANKROLL

1

TRACK YOUR PLAY

Keep a record of your profits and losses when trying to build a bankroll. It is important to track where your bankroll stands at all times.

2

SLOW AND STEADY

Building a bankroll can take time unless you manage to win a tournament for a large score. Slow and steady wins the race when it comes to building a poker bankroll.

3

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BONUSES

Welcome bonuses and promotions can give your bankroll a shot in the arm. Check out PokerNews' online poker reviews for the best online poker bonuses.

4

TREAT YOUR BANKROLL LIKE AN INVESTMENT

Treat your poker playing like a business so that you value every decision. Pretend you cannot reload your account, and see if you can nurture your bankroll to dizzy heights.

5

GAME SELECT CAREFULLY

There is no point being the sixth best poker player on the planet if you continually play against the top five players. Choose your games and tables wisely. If there isn't a fish or two in your game, swap tables.

