

HOW TO PLAY BLACKJACK

The Basics of Blackjack

The game Blackjack, or 21 as it is also referred to, has enjoyed a place of prominence in casinos worldwide. Bearing testimony to the march of technology and the invasion of cyberspace, Blackjack now has two versions; there is online Blackjack which is played in online casinos and the regular Blackjack which is played in land based casinos such as the ones in Vegas. The rules of Blackjack are very simple. Players have to accumulate cards totaling up to 21 points and no more.

The values of the cards are:

- Face cards and 10 (Jack, Queens and Kings) = 10 points

- Aces = 1 or 11 points

- Other cards = The number they represent

If you are a beginner, you need to start by learning the Blackjack rules and the most basic information. For instance, how do you choose a table? Study a number of Blackjack tables before you settle at one of them. Observe the signs displayed on all the tables mentioning the minimum and maximum bets allowed and opt for a table with a lower bet size.

Tables with lower limits tend to be more crowded but would be a wiser choice for a beginner. After you are seated you will need to buy some chips. Lay your money on the table for the dealer to pick up and give you the appropriate value in chips. Table chips have standard color values common to most casino games:

- Red -\$5

- Green -\$25

- Black -\$100

- White -\$1

- Purple -\$500

The Rules of Blackjack

Six is usually the number of players that a Blackjack table will seat for playing. The dealer normally shuffles six or eight decks of cards and places them in a card dispensing box called a 'Shoe'. All players must place their bets before they are dealt two cards face up. The dealer's cards will then be dealt, one face up and one face down. The players can either stay or take additional cards to try to reach a total close to 21. If the cards total more than 21 they bust. Until then they wait for the dealer's turn. After all the players are through, the dealer turns the face down card over. If his total is over 17 he must stay, if it is 16 or lower he must draw. If a player ties with the House, it is a push (like a draw) and there is no winner. An Ace and a 10 would be a Blackjack if dealt in the first two cards and would be an automatic win for the player at 1.5 to 1. That is if the House does not tie.

Online Blackjack Rules

The rules for online Blackjack are not very different from those of the casino games. The basic premise of the game and scoring rules are the same when you play online. The dealer deals two cards for every player including himself and the game begins immediately. Each hand gets to decide the next move. In classic Blackjack you get the first move as the dealer is restricted.

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