

SETTING A BUDGET is the best strategy.

The goal of blackjack is to create a hand with a higher total than the dealer's, without going over 21.

An element of skill comes into play in blackjack, but making the statistically correct play does not ensure a winning outcome. You still can't control which cards are dealt on any given hand.



PEARL OF GAMESENSE

It's possible to spend hours at Blackjack. But **setting a time limit** beforehand could help keep you fresh.

Around 21 things to know about BLACKJACK



HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS?

Ask a GameSense Advisor at the GameSense Info Center or visit gamesensema.com.

Know the game like an Ace.

This game guide is meant as an introduction. The official rules are available at: massgaming.com/rules



GameSense

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Hit or Draw

The decision to be dealt another card. Signal this by tapping on the table.

Stand

The decision to not be dealt another card. Signal this by waving your hand over your cards.

Double Down

To double your original bet and commit to standing after taking only one more card. Signal this by adding a separate bet to the original wager.

Split

If you're dealt two cards of the same value, you can split your original hand into two separate hands. This requires an additional, equal bet. No blackjack payouts occur in hands that have been split. Players should communicate this wager verbally to the dealer.

Surrender

If you don't like your first two cards, you can surrender. The dealer takes half of your original bet and your hand is discarded. You can't surrender when the dealer has Blackjack.

Insurance

If the dealer's exposed card is an Ace and a player has Blackjack, they will be offered the opportunity to take "Even Money" which will be paid 1-1. Player hands which are not Blackjack can take Insurance, which is a side bet, up to half their original wager. When the dealer checks the hole card, if it is a 10 value then insurance is paid 2-1 and the original wager loses. If it is any other value, Insurance loses, and the hand is played as usual.

TERMS YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW

Blackjack

A two-card hand containing an Ace and a 10-value card, totalling 21.

Bust/Break

A hand totaling over 21, automatically resulting in a loss.

Soft hand

A hand with an Ace that can be valued at either 1 or 11. With a soft hand, you cannot break or bust if you hit or take a card.



SIDE BETS

Blackjack offers a variety of side bets. These bets are optional and often carry a high house edge.

Blackjack Bonus Wager

An additional wager of \$1 or \$5 that a player will be dealt a Blackjack in the first two cards.

Twenty Point Bonus Wager

An additional wager that a player will be dealt a point count of 20 in the first two cards.

Let's play



- 1 The game begins when each player places their chips in the box on the table in front of them.
- 2 Every player is dealt two cards, while the dealer is dealt one exposed card and one face-down "hole" card. If a player has Blackjack, he or she is immediately paid out at either 3 to 2 or 6 to 5, unless the dealer also has Blackjack.
- 3 You can decide to stand, hit, double down or split. In some games you have the option to surrender.
- 4 The dealer will expose his or her hole card.
- 5 The dealer hits to 17. Some variations allow the dealer to hit a "soft 17" (a 17 in which one of the cards is an Ace valued at 11)
- 6 Once the dealer stands or busts, players with hands better than the dealer's win and are paid out at 1 to 1.

CARD VALUES

2 to 9	Face value
10, Jack, Queen, King	10
Ace	1 or 11