

DEALER <b>HITS</b> ON SOFT 17												
4 OR 8 DECKS												
PLAYER HAND	DEALER'S UP CARD											
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A		
HARD TOTALS												
5 TO 8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		
9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H		
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H	
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D		
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H		
13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H		
14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H		
15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H		
16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H		
17+	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
SOFT TOTALS												
A2	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H		
A3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H		
A4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H		
A5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H		
A6	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H		
A7	D	D	D	D	D	S	S	H	H	H		
A8	S	S	S	S	D	S	S	S	S	S		
A9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
PAIRS												
2,2	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H		
3,3	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H		
4,4	H	H	H	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	H		
5,5	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H		
6,6	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	H		
7,7	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H		
8,8	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP		
9,9	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	S	SP	SP	S	S		
10,10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S		
A,A	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP		
S STAND H HIT D DOUBLE DOWN SP SPLIT												

TEAR OFF THIS BASIC STRATEGY GUIDE TO USE WHILE YOU PLAY!

This guide is simplified for standard Blackjack in Ontario. Some blackjack tables offer different gameplay rules, or game versions that require a different guide. Check with your dealer if this guide applies.

SHOULD YOU HIT ON A SOFT 17?  
THERE'S A STRATEGY FOR THAT.  
READ TO FIND THAT OUT + MORE!

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BJ-03E



# HOW TO PLAY

## BLACKJACK



# THE BASICS OF BLACKJACK

## THE OBJECT OF THE GAME

Looking to take a crack at Blackjack? The objective of the game is to get a hand of cards with a higher total point value than the dealer without going over 21. If you go over 21 you'll "bust" and lose!

## HOW THE CARDS WORK

In Blackjack, only the card's face value counts – the suits mean nothing. For example, the 8 of spades is counted as 8 points. The total number of points of your cards equals the value of your hand.



### NUMBERED CARDS

Cards numbered from 2–10 are worth their face value.



### FACE CARDS

Kings, Queens and Jacks are all equal in value at 10 points each.



### ACES

The ace is worth either 1 or 11 points: it's the player's choice, depending on their hand at play.

## HOW TO PLAY A ROUND

### 1. START WITH A GAME PLAN

This includes setting a time and money budget – and sticking to it! This will make it easier to find a table with betting minimums that fit your budget.



### 2. GETTING YOUR CHIPS

You can buy your chips from the dealer at the table. Now, you're ready to start playing!



### 3. START PLAYING!

The action starts with players placing their bets with their chips. The dealer then deals two cards facing up to each player, and two to themselves – with one card face up, the other face down.

If the dealer's face up card shows a 10 or an ace, they will check to see if the face down card adds up to a Blackjack (21 points). If so, the round is over and all players automatically lose – unless one of the players also has a Blackjack.

If the dealer goes over 21 points, then any player who didn't already bust will win! If the dealer doesn't "bust", then the higher point total between the player and dealer will win. If point totals are the same, i.e. if there's a tie, the player keeps their original bet.

### PLAYSMART TIP

Be sure to follow your budget once you set it!

## KNOW THE MOVES

Starting from the dealer's left, cards are dealt out until each player has two cards face up and must decide their next move. Each move corresponds with a hand gesture:



### HIT

Get another card from the dealer. If this card takes your total points above 21, then it's a "bust", or loss.

#### THE MOVE:

Tap your finger on the table behind your cards.



### STAND

Let the dealer know you are satisfied with your hand and don't want any more cards.

#### THE MOVE:

Wave your hand over the table.



### DOUBLE DOWN

Double your initial bet in return for receiving one, and only one, draw card.

#### THE MOVE:

Place your chips next to your original bet.



### SPLIT

If you have two cards of the same value, split them into two separate hands. This requires making another bet equal to the original one. The dealer will automatically give the first hand a second card, which the player may hit, stand, or double – before moving on to play the second hand.

#### THE MOVE:

Show the dealer a splitting gesture of your index and middle finger.

## ETIQUETTE

Ready to play? Although they don't increase your odds of winning, good manners make for a good game:

- To buy chips from the dealer, place your cash on the table just outside your betting spot.
- Always place your higher denomination chip on the bottom of your stack of chips.
- Don't touch the cards you've been dealt.
- Keep the table free of personal items.
- Need advice? Blackjack dealers are always happy to help.

## ODDS

Odds work differently in Blackjack than in other casino table games. Since cards are removed after each round, the odds are always changing. Even though the house has an edge, the simplest way to improve your odds is to follow the basic strategy.

### PLAYSMART TIP

Feel free to ask the dealers for help at any point. They're there to guide you if needed.

## BASIC STRATEGY

In Blackjack, there are three kinds of hands:



### HARD HANDS

A hard hand is two cards, without an ace.



### SOFT HANDS

A soft hand is two cards, one being an ace.



### PAIRS

Pairs are two cards of the same points value.

To the right is a basic Blackjack strategy guide that can help you improve your chances of winning.

FOR MORE  
FACTS, TOOLS & ADVICE  
ON BLACKJACK  
GO TO [PLAYSMART.CA](https://www.ontario.ca/playsmart)

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