

How to play Blackjack

Basics of Play

There are relatively few decisions to make when playing Blackjack. You must consider your cards and your dealer's card and remember, if you go over 21, you "bust."

Play progresses as follows:

1. Starting from the player to the left of the dealer, a card is dealt, face up, to each player in turn and then one to the dealer. The dealer's card is face down and called the "hole" card.
2. A second card is then dealt, again face up, to each player and to the dealer.
3. Each player decides whether to draw further cards.
4. After all players have completed their hands, the Dealer proceeds to draw cards to complete the Dealer's hand.

You win if:

- Your total is higher than the Dealer's total
- The Dealer goes over 21 or "busts".

If your total is the same as the Dealer's total it is a "push" (tie).

The Values of the Cards:

- Picture Cards (Jack, Queen and King) each count as 10 points.
- An Ace counts as 1 point or 11 points; whichever is better for the player's hand.
- All other cards are numerical face value.

What is a Blackjack?

Blackjack is a combination of an Ace and any 10 card or picture card with your first two cards. It pays one and a half times your bet unless the dealer also draws Blackjack, in which case you have a "push".

Restrictions on the Dealer

The dealer plays according to a strict set of rules. Dealers must take another card if their hand totals a soft 17 or less. Dealers must stand (not take any more cards) if their hand totals a hard 17 or more.

Splitting

If your first two cards are of equal value you may split these to form up to four separate hands. Aces may be split to form only two hands. You will receive additional cards for each hand, however a wager equal to your original bet must be placed each time you split. Aces split will receive only one additional card each.

Doubling Down

You may place an additional bet (not exceeding your original bet) on any first two cards. You will receive one and only one additional card to complete your hand.

Insurance

If the dealer's up card is an ace, the dealer will call for "Insurance." An insurance bet may be placed up to one half of the original bet. If the dealer has a blackjack, the insurance bet is paid 2 to 1.