

Simple Blackjack Strategy

NUMBER 1 RULE: Don't ever bring into a Casino money you cannot afford to lose - like Rent Money, food money, or the babies milk money. You can never be 100 percent certain of winning. So don't push yourself into a corner by risking money that will have you worrying about it while playing. That pressure will psychologically set you up to lose.

NUMBER 2 RULE: Always bet the table minimum until you get comfortable with your system/strategy.

NUMBER 3 RULE: Don't bet more money if you are losing - in an attempt to get it back. Don't panic. Stick with this system. Don't raise your bet following a loss - unless the cards are favorable according to the below system.

Casinos are vulnerable to skilled Black Jack players. They keep this secret because enormous amounts of money are bet and lost to them each and every year. The secret that Casinos keep closely guarded is that Black Jack is the ONLY casino game where the skilled player can actually turn the odds in their favor and win consistently.

As you probably know, the object of this game is to get closer to 21 than the dealer without going over. Some places still call the game "21". Jacks, Queens and Kings are counted as 10, and an Ace can be either 1 or 11. The other cards contribute at their face value.

To consistently win you must learn the secrets of when to stand or hit.

On the first deal, if your first two cards equal 21 (Blackjack), and the dealer does not come up with a 21 also - you win. Also, for instance, after two cards are dealt and you have say 20, and the dealer has 19 - you also win. Since the dealer can only see one of your two cards the dealer would most likely stand and not take a hit in this instance (when they have 19). If the dealer took a hit and got a 3 or more - the dealer would bust and you'd win.

If you can beat the dealer without a Blackjack (21) hand you win even money. If you get a Blackjack and the dealer doesn't also have a Blackjack the house pays you 3 to 2. If both you and the dealer have Blackjack - the dealer wins and you don't lose your money. Some other rules/strategies such as "splitting pairs" are part of the Blackjack game.

Depending on the Casino - the players receive their first two cards either both face down, or both face up. Where the Casino allows you to handle the cards they will be face down. If not, don't touch the cards.

To Stand, put your hand palm down over your wager. You can double your bet or split pairs (say you were dealt two 10's) after the first two cards are dealt. In American Casinos sometimes you can use the option of Surrendering after the first two cards are dealt. You would lose only half of your original bet if you Surrender.

To win at Blackjack leave both "luck" and "hunches" at the door. Completely get rid of these two .

An IBM computer expert ran 9 billion Blackjack combinations through computer banks many years ago to look for a Blackjack strategy. The result of this is a Blackjack strategy that doesn't in any way rely on intuition. This is very, very important to remember. This computer derived strategy relies on mathematical derived percentage bets - every time.

This means you have to make the same percentage bets each and every time to succeed. This will keep you that one-step ahead of the dealer to always come out a winner in the end. You'll lose some hands, but come out ahead most of the time.

The only advantage the Casino has over a player is based on the fact that it is the player who must act first (first to take hits, stand, etc).

Players have more advantages they can use than a dealer can. A player can stand with any total, a player can split their cards (dealer can't), a player can double down on any two cards, a player can take insurance, a player gets played 3:2 if he/she gets Blackjack, and a player can vary their bet.

Always factor in the dealer's up card when deciding to stand or hit. Don't make your decision based solely on the cards you are holding. Say you are holding a lousy 13 total and the dealer's up card is a 2, 4 or 6 - your odds are better if you stand. A dealer must take a hit on 16 - which means there is a good chance they'll go over. Remember percentages in this situation. 16 out of every 52 cards in a deck are 10's or face cards. This means a good percentage of the time the dealer would go over.

- If you are holding a combined total of 11 or less - always hit
- If you are holding a combined total of 17 or more (less than 21) always stand
- If your hand is 13 to 16 and the dealer's up card is 7 or more - take a hit
- If your hand totals 12 - always hit, unless the dealer is showing a 4 to 6

Doubling Down:

Doubling down is advantageous when your hand totals 9 to 11, because the odds are good of getting a 10 value pushing you to 19 to 21.

But don't ever double down if your hand totals 19 or 20.

Splitting Pairs

Always split two Aces or two 8's. Never split two 10's or two 5's. Don't split two 9's if the dealer's up card is either a 7, 10 or Ace.

BASIC HITTING RULES:

Always stand with 17 or more. Get hit with 13 thru 16 UNLESS the dealer's up card is a 2, 3, 4 or 5.

NEVER take Insurance.

DOUBLING DOWN: Double down with a 10 or 11 if your card total is greater than the dealer's up card.

CARD COUNTING:

Casinos will not tolerate Card Counters because the Casinos know that they can be beaten by skilled counters.

It is not against the Law to count cards, but Casino's just plain don't like it. And if you run into a noisy Casino using multiple decks you could go bonkers and easily give yourself away with frustration - trying to count cards. Don't ever practice card counting in a Casino. You will need to get it down pat before you play there. A place with your money on the table needs your full attention. You cannot afford to be distracted and fumbling about.

Casinos think that card counters are unsociable (for a reason--full attention on counting), they think they don't smoke and don't drink. They think they will always place minimum bets in the beginning. They think a counter will never take insurance when he/she has a minimum bet on the table. Casinos think counters never tip the dealer.

Some things a Counter/Strategy player can do to avoid being flagged and asked to leave is: don't play high stake games. Start with a spread of between \$5 and

\$50. Keep your gaming short at any one Casino. Don't stay all too long. Dress like an office worker who is just getting away from the office for a while to gamble.

A good strategy is not to eliminate card counting altogether, but to simply keep track of ratios of important cards instead of trying to count every card in the deck(s). Use it to quickly determine if it is currently favorable or unfavorable to bet.

Generally, a player has an advantage when the cards already dealt are a high ratio of the 2-8 cards. A player has a disadvantage when most 9, 10's and Aces are already dealt. Consider increasing your bet when the "count" is advantageous.

Also, increase your odds by simply keeping count of how many Aces remain in the deck.