

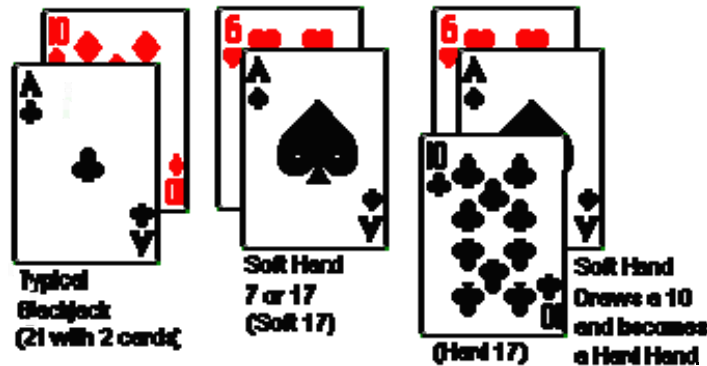
### **Object of the game:**

Some players call the game blackjack while others call it twenty-one. No matter what you call it, the object of the game is the exact same thing, BEAT THE DEALER!!! The basic premise of the game is simple; you want to have a hand value that is closer to 21 than the dealer does, without going over 21. Other players at the table are of no concern. Your hand is strictly played out against the hand of the dealer. The rules of play for the dealer are very strict thus leaving no decisions up to the dealer. Since both of your cards are dealt face up, it's alright for the dealer and everyone else at the table to know what each other has. When you're just starting out, don't hesitate to ask the dealer for assistance. Our professional casino party dealers will be more than happy to help you. You can also view our [Blackjack Strategy Guide](#) to increase your chances of winning big.

### **Basic Blackjack Rules:**

- Face cards are worth 10. Aces are worth 1 or 11, whichever makes a better hand.
- Each player starts with two cards, one of the dealer's cards is hidden until the end.
- To 'Hit' is to ask for another card. To 'Stand' is to hold your total and end your turn.
- If you go over 21 you bust, and the dealer wins regardless of the dealer's hand.
- If you are dealt 21 with the first two cards (Ace & any card worth 10), you've got a blackjack.
- Blackjack usually means you win 1.5 the amount of your bet. Depends on the casino.
- Dealer will hit until his/her cards total 17 or higher, but MUST stand on 17.
- Doubling is like a hit, only the bet is doubled and you only get one more card.
- Split can be done when you have two of the same card - the pair is split into two hands.
- Splitting also doubles the bet, because each new hand is worth the original bet.
- You can only double/split on the first two cards you are dealt, or the first two cards of a hand created by a split.
- You cannot play on two aces after they are split.
- You can double on a hand resulting from a split, tripling or quadrupling you bet.

- **Hard Hand:** A hand without an Ace or with an Ace valued at 1 is said to be hard in that it can only be given one value, unlike a Soft Hand. (You can value an Ace 1 or 11 to suit you).
- **Soft Hand:** A hand that contains an Ace counted as 11 is called a Soft Hand.



### **Blackjack:**

If you or the dealer is dealt an Ace and a ten-value card you have 21 known as a blackjack. This is a natural. If you get the blackjack you will be paid 3 to 2 for your bet providing the dealer does not get one at the same time. If you and the dealer have blackjack it is a push. If only the dealer has blackjack all players will lose.

### **Insurance:**

If the dealer's up card is an ace the dealer will offer insurance. You are not really insuring a hand. This is a side bet you make wagering half your original bet that the dealer has a ten in the hole. If you make the bet and he has the ten you are paid 2 to 1. You would then lose your original bet but win the insurance bet, which works out to being a push of your original bet. If you have a blackjack and the dealer has an ace you will be asked if you would like even money for your blackjack instead of 3 to 2. If do not take the even money you will have a push if the dealer has a blackjack. Both the insurance and the even money bet are sucker bets. The dealers will NOT have a ten more times than they will have one.

### **Hitting:**

To take a hit means that you want to draw another card. To signal the dealer for a hit you will tap the table in front of you or make a beckoning motion with your hand. If you wish another card after the first you would motion in the same manner.

### **Standing:**

Once you are satisfied with either your fist two cards or after hitting, you signal the dealer that you wish to stand. This is done by waving your hand over the top of your cards.



People often ask how it is known that the strategy tables such as the ones above are correct. They are created and validated in two ways: The first method involves applying probability theory which uses extremely complicated mathematics. The second technique involves using computers to simulate thousands of blackjack deals that are played using different strategies to see which combination of moves give the best end results (the moves that cause one to lose money the slowest).

Blackjack can be the best game in the casino with the lowest house edge if you play properly, however if you play by hunch it can be one of the worst games to play.

### **A Simple Strategy:**

If your first cards total 12-16 you have a "Stiff" hand. (One than can be busted with a hit.)

If the dealer's up card is a 2 - 6, it is a "Stiff" hand for the dealer.

If you have 17 or better it is a Pat hand and you stand.

If the dealer shows a 7 -Ace, you consider it a pat hand.

If you have a stiff and the dealer has a stiff you **STAND.**

If you have a stiff and the dealer has a pat hand you **HIT**

### **Summary:**

That's really all there is to know. If you've never played the game before, it can be a little intimidating at first. Just sit down at a table with one of our friendly dealers and give it a try. After 10 minutes, all these details will be easy. Like many things, it's easier done than said!

Good luck!