

Blackjack Rules and How to Play

One of the biggest appeals of blackjack is its simplicity. Players flock to blackjack tables, be they in brick-and-mortar casinos or online establishments, because they know they are guaranteed a good time **regardless of their experience** as gamblers. If you’ve never played before, this section will walk you through the basics.



Cards:

The number of cards used in a game depends on the game, but usually there will be a large stack of cards made up of more than one 52-card deck.

Chips:

Bets are made using counters known as chips. Different colours denote different values, which will usually be shown clearly at the bottom the screen in online games.

Shoe:

The dealer usually will draw the cards from a device known as a shoe. This allows for quicker and easier dealing and removes any doubts about card manipulation. While multiple decks may be placed in a shoe, most casinos will use a cut card in order to indicate that it is time for a shoe change when there is a certain number of cards left. This is done to reduce the efficacy of card counting.

Cut Card:

A card that is easily distinguishable from the rest of the playing cards, which is placed at a specific location in the deck in order to control when shoe changes are needed.
Discard Tray: Cards that have been used are not always placed back into the shoe. Instead, they form a discard pile in a tray on the other side of the table, so as to avoid confusion.

In between the dealer and the players’ betting boxes, is the insurance box – more on taking out insurance later – and, depending on the operator, a description of the dealer’s restrictions may be written too. Finally, the **blackjack payout information** is displayed closest to the dealer.