

How to Play Blackjack



Blackjack is a simple card game and, even for a casual player, the odds favor the player rather than the house.

The overly simple rules of the game are: "Get as close to 21 as possible without going over."

In reality, the object of black jack is to beat the dealer, first by not going bust (go over 21) and second by outscoring the dealer or having the dealer go bust.

Here are the basic rules of the game:

- Aces may be counted as 1 or 11 points, 2 to 9 according to pip value, and face cards count as ten points.
- The value of a hand is the sum of the point values of individual cards. A "blackjack" is the highest hand, consisting of an ace and any 10-point card.
- After the players have bet, the dealer will give two cards to each player; the player also deals two cards to himself, one face up and one face down (his hole card.)
- Play begins with the player to the dealer's left. The following choices are available:
 - Stand: Player stands with his dealt cards.
 - Hit: Player draws another card, and more if he wishes. If the card(s) causes the player's total points to exceed 21 he loses, (known as "busting.")
- After each player has had his or her turn, the dealer will turn over his hole card. Depending on the total points, the dealer may draw another card.
- If the dealer goes over 21 points, and player who didn't already but will win. If the dealer does not bust, the higher point total amongst player and the dealer will win.
- Winning wagers play at least even money.