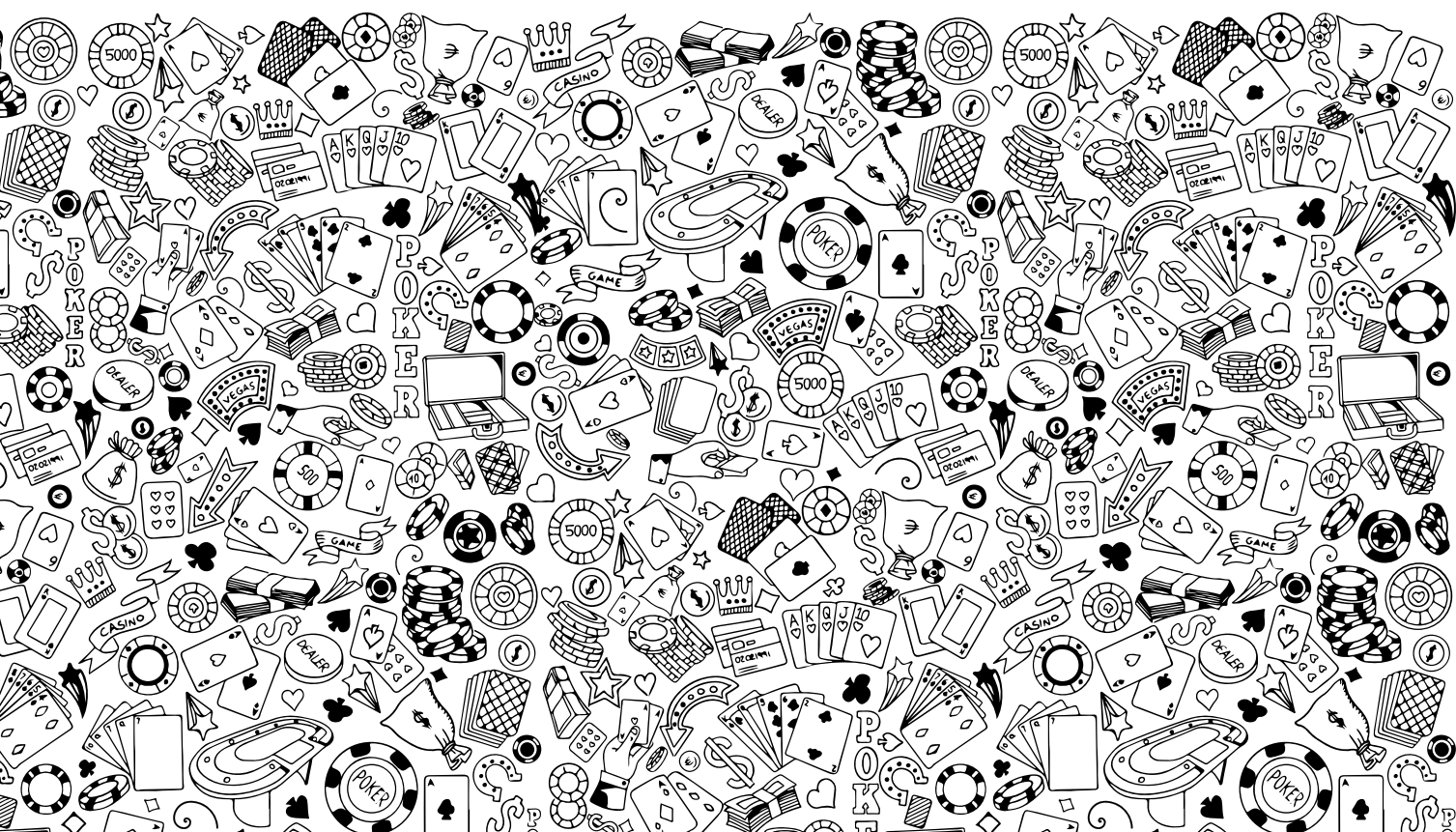


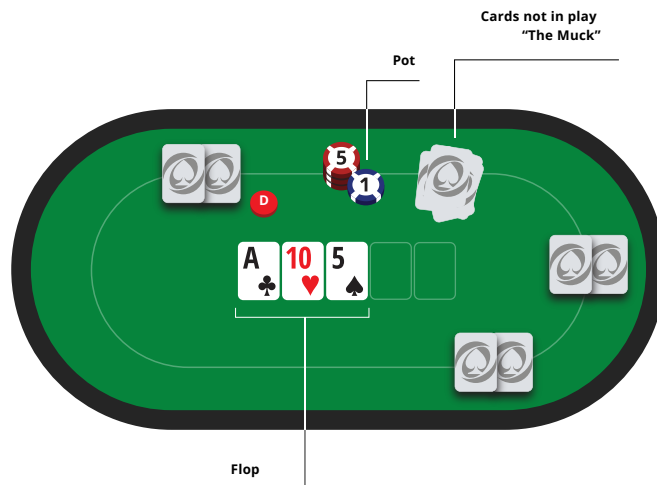
Ultimate Guide to Texas Hold'em



What is Texas Hold'em Poker?

Texas Hold'em is the most popular of all poker variations.

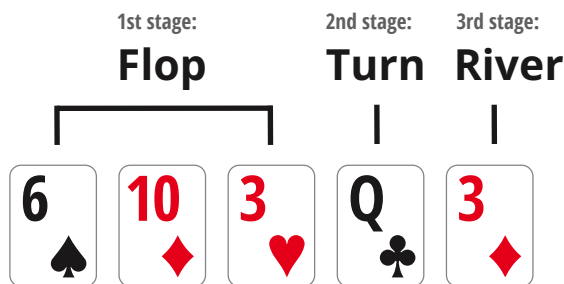
The goal of a Texas Hold'em game is to use your hole cards in combination with the community cards to make the best possible five-card poker hand.



Texas Hold'em Rules

So how do you play Texas Hold'em?

- In a game of Texas Hold'em, each player is dealt two cards face down (the 'hole cards').
- Over several betting rounds, five more cards are (eventually) dealt face up in the middle of the table.
- These face-up cards are called the 'community cards.' Each player is free to use the community cards in combination with their hole cards to build a five-card poker hand.



The mission of Texas Hold'em Poker is to be able to construct your five-card poker hands using the best available five cards out of the seven total cards (your two-hole cards and the five community cards).

You can do that by using both your hole cards in combination with three community cards, one hole card in combination with four community cards, or *no hole cards*. If there's a better combination, you can also play all five community cards.

If the betting causes all but one player to fold, the lone remaining player wins the pot without having to show any cards. This is where bluffing comes into play, it's possible a player can 'bluff' and get others to fold better hands.

The Button

When you play poker home games, the player with the button usually deals the hands. The play moves clockwise around the table, starting with action to the left of the dealer button and every hand the button is rotated left.

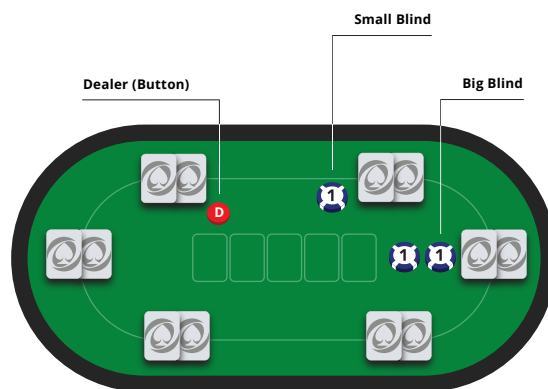
However, when playing in casinos and poker rooms, the player with the dealer button doesn't deal the cards (the poker room hires someone to do that).



The Blinds

The blinds are forced bets that begin the wagering. before every new hand begins, two players at the table are obligated to post small and big blinds – those two players being the people positioned to the left of the dealer.

Without these blinds, the game would be very without action because no one would be *required* to put any money into the pot and players could just wait around.

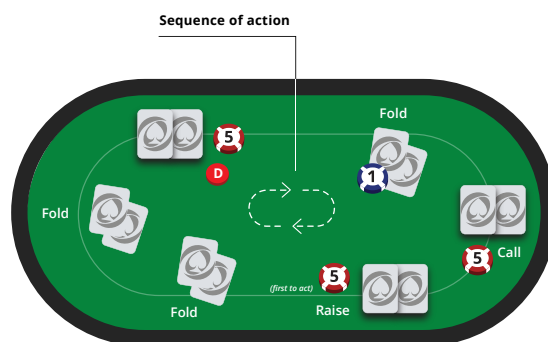


Betting Rounds

Preflop

The first round of betting takes place right after each player has been dealt two-hole cards. The first player has three options to call (match the amount of the big blind), raise (increase the bet within the specific limits of the game) or fold (throw the hand away).

If the player chooses to fold, they are out of the game and no longer eligible to win the current hand. The amount a player can raise to depends on the game that is being played. After the first player acts, the play proceeds in a clockwise fashion with each player being able to call, to raise, or fold.

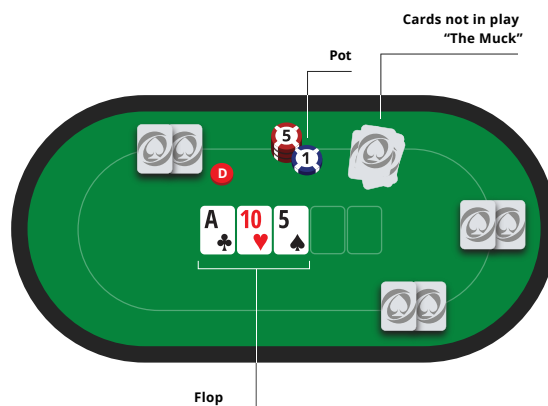


Once the last bet is called and the action is 'closed,' the preflop round is over and play moves on to the "flop."

The Flop

In the flop, the first three community cards are dealt and a second betting round proceeds. Along with the options to bet, call, fold, or raise, a player now has the option to 'check' (pass the action to the next player in the hand) if no betting action has occurred.

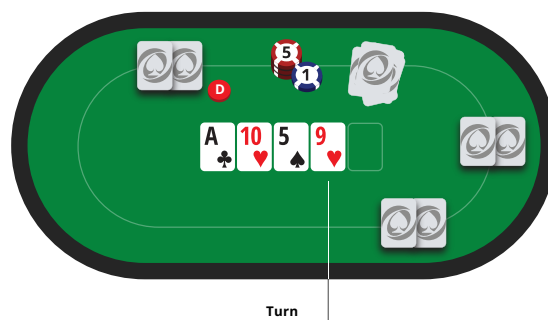
It also can happen that every player simply chooses to check around the table, which also ends the betting round.



The Turn

The fourth community card, called the turn, is dealt face-up following all betting action on the flop.

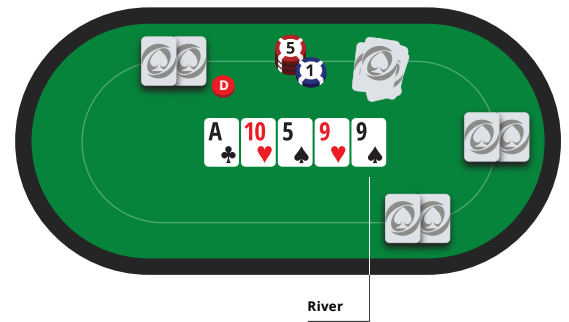
Once this has been completed, another round of betting occurs. Continuing the previous rounds, players have the option to options to check, bet, call, fold, or raise.



The River

The fifth community card, called the river, is dealt face-up.

After all betting action has completed, the remaining players in the hand with hole cards now expose their holdings to determine a winner. This is called the showdown.



The Showdown

The remaining players show their hole cards, and with the assistance of the dealer, a winning hand is determined. The player with the best combination of five cards wins the pot.



Styles Of Play

When you're playing poker, whether you're newer to the game or have more experience, everyone has their own individual playing style. The four main styles, are:

Tight Players

Tight players wait patiently for a good hand or wait to play until they gain advantageous situations for a higher chance of winning.

Loose Players

Loose players consistently play a lot of their hands, whilst being in numerous positions on the board and a wide range of starting hands.

Aggressive Players

Aggressive players make aggressive bets, this is whilst betting larger amounts, so their opponents must spend more to stay in the hand.

Passive Players

Passive players prefer to call and check, whilst rarely raising their bets. If you're a passive player, you may be happy to fold, whilst not often making raises.

With more experience and confidence to the game of poker, your playing style may adapt. There is also the possibility of your style turning into one of the four poker playing styles:

Tight & Passive

As a player who is tight and passive, you may play with a lot of patience, with the need to use that patience to mitigate risks which may help dominate the poker table. Being more scared of action, you may not take the initiative and find an excuse to fold.

Loose & Passive

As a player who is loose and passive, you may play more hands, but prefers to check or call over betting and raising. As someone who rarely takes the initiative, they respond to opponents play rather than being on the offensive.











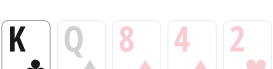
Tight & Aggressive

As a player who is tight and aggressive, you may be a more confident player, who plays more aggressive to be able to instil fear into your opponents. You may combine patience but play aggressive once you spot opportunity. Possibly being the most profitable way to play poker, with the combination of knowledge and good judgment.

Loose & Aggressive

As a player who is loose and aggressive, you may play too many hands, and you may not hesitate to lead with the positioning bets and raising. you may also be eager to get into pot. Although this playing style can be profitable, especially against tighter players, it is difficult to execute which requires confidence and skill.

What Beats What In Poker?

 Poker Hand Rankings / From Highest to Lowest	
1. Royal Flush 	The best possible hand in Texas hold'em is the combination of ten, jack, queen, king, ace, all of the same suit
2. Straight Flush 	Five cards of the same suit in sequential order
3. Four Of A Kind 	Any four numerically matching cards
4. Full House 	Combination of three of a kind and a pair in the same hand
5. Flush 	Five cards of the same suit, in any order
6. Straight 	Five cards of any suit, in sequential order
7. Three Of A Kind 	Any three numerically matching cards
8. Two Pair 	Two different pairs in the same hand
9. One Pair 	Any two numerically matching cards
10. High Card 	The highest ranked card in your hand with an ace being the highest and two being the lowest