



How to Win at Blackjack

Blackjack is a card game that does not rely on luck alone. You, as the player, have a large role to play in winning. Just learning three basic blackjack principles will help you maximize your chances of winning at blackjack.

The Aim of Blackjack

The aim of blackjack is to beat the dealer by accumulating cards whose total is higher than the dealer's cards, but without going over 21. Face cards are worth 10 points. Aces are worth either 1 or 11. Other cards are worth their normal values.



Some Basic Blackjack Principles

1. There are a lot of 10s in the blackjack deck.

Remember that 10s, jacks, queens, and kings are all worth 10 in blackjack. That means that while a blackjack deck holds only four 2s, four 3s, four 4s, etc., it holds 16 tens. So there is a good chance that the next card dealt from the deck will be a 10.

2. The dealer has no free will.

You, the blackjack player, are free to decide for yourself whether to stand or to hit. The dealer, on the other hand, cannot decide anything for himself. The blackjack rules are very strict: the dealer must hit on any hand up to 16, and must stand on any hand of 17 or more.

3. A soft hand cannot bust.

A soft hand is a hand with an ace counting as 11. For example, a hand with an ace and a 6 is a soft 17. If you hit on soft 17 and receive a 5, your ace turns from an 11 into a 1, your hand is now worth 12 (1+6+5), and you are still alive to stand or hit again.

Putting the Principles into Action

Example 1: You have 15, and the dealer is showing a 6. Principle #1 tells you that there is a good chance that the dealer's hole card is a 10, giving him a total of 16. Principle #2 tells you that the dealer must hit on 16, creating a high probability that he will bust. So instead of taking a chance on busting yourself, you stand and let the dealer go ahead and lose.

Example 2: You have 15, and the dealer is showing an 8. Principle # 1 tells you that there is a good chance that the dealer has a hand of 18, and Principle #2 tells you that the dealer stands on 18. In this case, your 15 will not be enough to win, so you decide to hit. True, there is a danger that you will bust, but it is a risk worth taking in hope of getting a 3 to push or a 4, 5, or 6 to win.

Example 3: You have soft 17, and the dealer is showing an 8. Principle # 1 tells you that there is a good chance that the dealer has a hand of 18, in which case your 17 will lose. Principle #3 says your soft hand cannot bust, so you have no reason not to go ahead and hit in hopes of improving your hand.

Now you have some rules to follow, go ahead and try a game of [blackjack](#)

