

PLAYTIME!



Don't miss out on the excitement!

Few forms of entertainment can match the heart-pounding fun of casino gaming. This simple, concise guide will teach you how to play...

- Slot Machines
- Video Poker
- Roulette
- Blackjack
- Three Card Poker

You can read specific sections or the entire booklet. Then head for the casino and catch the excitement!



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Welcome to the Exciting World of Casino Gaming!

Few entertainment venues can match the heart-pounding exhilaration of casinos, where fascinating games, bright lights and lively sounds combine to create an atmosphere like no other.

Of course, casinos can seem mystifying and a bit intimidating at first; some people shy away simply because they don't know how to play the games. That's too bad, because they're missing out on a lot of fun.

Gaming is a wonderful way to escape the day-to-day humdrum and add a little spice to life. And today's enormous variety of casino games makes the experience even more exciting.

If you're a relative newcomer to gaming, don't feel self-conscious — every player was a beginner once. Besides, other people in the casino will be so absorbed in what they're doing, they won't even notice what you're up to.

This simple, concise guide will show you how to play five of the easiest and most popular games: slot machines, video poker, roulette, blackjack and three card poker. It won't instantly turn you into a world-class gamer, but it will teach you enough to get your feet wet and have a great time.

Read specific sections or the entire booklet — then throw your inhibitions to the wind, head for the casino and catch the excitement!



CASINO GAMING Q&A

It is the job of every casino staff member to make you feel welcome and comfortable.

> **Do casinos have a dress code?**

Decades ago, most people got dressed up to go to a casino; now that is the exception rather than the rule. Today's casinos really don't have a dress code. Whatever you want to wear is acceptable — the only exception being a bathing suit. Shorts and tank tops are fine. (Keep in mind, however, that casinos tend to keep the temperature pretty low.) Choose clothing that makes you comfortable.

> **Should I come with cash in hand?**

It's a good idea to bring some money with you, but if you don't, most casinos have ATMs and cash-advance terminals conveniently located throughout the gaming area. Also, many casinos will be happy to cash your traveler's checks at the cashier cage, which is clearly identified with a prominent sign.

> **Will I need coins for the slot machines?**

At virtually all casinos nowadays, slot and video poker machines do not take coins. Instead, you insert paper money of any denomination (or a paper credit voucher that you purchase at a voucher machine) into the machine you want to play, and it automatically gives you the equivalent in gaming credits.

> **What about table games?**

For blackjack, craps, three card poker and other table games, you give paper money to the dealer, who in turn gives you back the equivalent in chips. When you're finished playing, take the chips you have to the cashier cage and exchange them for money.

> **Can I just hang out in the casino?**

Absolutely. Many casinos have inviting bars where you can sit, have a drink and watch

the nearby action and passing parade. You can also spend time in a casino's keno, racing and sports lounges. However, if a lounge is really crowded, you may be asked to give up your seat for someone who is wagering.

> **Is it okay to stand near players and ask questions?**

When it comes to table games, it's best to ask the dealer. But if the casino is really quiet (during off-hours, for example), you might ask one of the players what you want to know. Do it with sensitivity; if you think the individual is apt to view the interruption as intrusive, don't interrupt.

> **If a hostess offers me a cocktail, how much will it cost?**

Generally, all drinks on the casino floor — except those served in bars — are complimentary. Of course, a small gratuity (a dollar or two) is always appreciated by the servers.

> **Is smoking permitted?**

You are free to smoke in most casinos. However, “No Smoking” signs may be posted at some table games; please honor them. Also, if you do smoke in the casino, try to be considerate of the folks around you.

> **Can kids come into the casino?**

In most jurisdictions, gaming regulations prohibit anyone under 21 from spending time in the casino or playing the games. If youngsters need to walk across the casino floor, they must stay on the marked pathway, which in most cases is in a different color of carpeting.

> **What if I'm uncertain about what to do or where to go?**

It is the job of every casino staff member to make you feel welcome and comfortable by answering any questions you have. Don't be shy — just ask!



SLOT MACHINES

There's been an explosion of "slot mania." A revolution in slot technology has made today's machines hotter than ever.

Slot Machines

There was a period when the slot machine was viewed as just a simple little diversion for ladies while they waited for their menfolk to finish at the gaming tables. Those days are long gone. In the past decade, there's been an explosion of "slot mania"—and it has hit everyone: men and women, people who play table games and those who don't.

> **Why all the interest now?**

For one thing, the proliferation of penny and nickel machines has made playing slots highly affordable for one and all. Even more important, a revolution in slot technology has made today's machines hotter than ever:

- **DAZZLING SIGHTS AND SOUNDS**

Today's slot machine graphics, animation and sound effects are spectacular.

- **GREAT VARIETY OF THEMES**

No matter what your favorite television show, motion picture or board game, there's likely to be a slot machine based on it.

- **EASE OF OPERATION**

You push a button to make the wheels spin — so play is faster and less physically demanding than when you had to pull a handle. (Most slots don't even have handles anymore, and the few that do are likely to disappear in the near future.) Also making play easier: Virtually all slots now take paper money and paper vouchers, rather than coins.

- **MULTIPLE PAYOUT LINES**

In the past, when the wheels stopped spinning, the center horizontal line alone determined whether you won. Today, dozens of different combinations can make you a winner. Of course,

the more lines you want to play at once, the more money you have to wager.

- **BONUS ROUNDS**

Many of today's slots have interactive bonus rounds that not only are fun to play, but can be extremely lucrative as well. These bonus rounds are self-explanatory — the machine will tell you what to do.

> **How do I play the slots?**

There's not much to learn...

- Deposit paper money of any denomination, or a paper voucher, into the slot machine. Depending on the machine and how many lines you want to play, you can invest a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, dollar, five dollars or more on any given spin.

If you're a novice, it might be a good idea to start with machines at the lower end of the wagering scale. That way, your money will last a long time no matter what.

- Push the button to start the wheels turning. When the wheels stop, the machine will tell you if you won. If you did, you can take the money right away or "let it ride" to pay for more spins.
- When you do want to cash out, the slot machine will issue you a paper voucher for the money. You can use the voucher to play other gaming machines, or you can cash it at the casino cashier. In addition, there are money-dispensing machines where you can cash out.

> **I've heard some strange theories about beating the slots. Are any of them true?**

Whatever you've heard comes under the category of "gaming urban legends." The exact location of a machine on the casino floor doesn't matter, nor does the day of the week you play. Casino personnel have no idea which machines are about to pay off big; if they did, they'd quit their jobs and spend all their time playing!

Only one thing matters when playing slots: whether Lady Luck has taken a liking to you. But while winning at slot machines may be purely a matter of good fortune, this is a sure bet: the casino's slot club.

> **What's a slot club? How do I join?**

Casinos have created slot clubs to reward people for playing. There is usually a clearly marked booth where you can join. Once you sign up — it doesn't cost anything — you receive a special card to slide into the slot machine (or video poker machine) every time you play.

Depending on how much money you put into the machines and how long you play, you earn valuable points. Accrue enough of these points, and you can exchange them for everything from a free meal at one of the establishment's restaurants to special prizes.

By the way, in most casinos you can also receive points on your slot club card when you play table games. Just give the card to the dealer (or croupier, depending on the game).

When you're done playing and want to find out if you have qualified for a reward, take your club card back to the slot club booth and ask a staff member to check your account.

GAMING FUN FACT:

In 1895, San Francisco auto mechanic Charles Fey invented the first mechanical slot machine.



VIDEO POKER

Although luck does play a significant role, knowledge and skill also can help make the difference.

Video poker machines may look a lot like slot machines — and they're sprinkled among the slots on the casino floor — but they are not slot machines. However, playing video poker can earn you slot club points at most casinos, so if you're going to play video poker, be sure to join the club. (See page 16.)

There are scores of different versions of video poker, maybe even hundreds. The most common version, which is based on the classic five-card-draw poker game, is usually called something along the lines of Jacks or Better (or Jacks or Higher). This is the version explained here.

Other popular variations include Deuces Wild, Joker Poker, Triple Play, Five Play and Hundred Play. Various versions have different pay schedules for winning hands, but they all have this in common: They're a lot of fun!

Unlike winning at slots, winning at video poker is not just a matter of luck. Although luck does play

a significant role, knowledge and skill also can help make the difference between winning and losing.

> **Do I need to know how to play the card game of poker?**

Strictly speaking, no. There is a major difference between the two games: In the video version, you're not playing against other people — so you don't have to take other players into account when strategizing your moves. Still, you will have a better chance of winning at video poker if you are familiar with the ranking of hands in the card game.

> **What are the hands I want to get?**

In most video poker games, a pair of Jacks or better (Queens, Kings or Aces) is the minimum you need to have a winning hand. The best hand — which pays a jackpot to the player — is a royal flush. However, in order to win with a royal flush,

you must have wagered the highest number of that machine's required gaming credits.

Starting with the royal flush and working down, these are the winning hands:

ROYAL FLUSH

Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 10, all of which are in the same suit (hearts, diamonds, spades or clubs).

STRAIGHT FLUSH

Any five cards in sequence, all of which are in the same suit (for example, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of hearts).

FOUR OF A KIND

Four cards of the same value (for example, 6, 6, 6, 6 or Jack, Jack, Jack, Jack). Obviously, they will be in all four suits.

FULL HOUSE

A pair plus three of a kind (for example, 9 and 9 plus Queen, Queen and Queen).

FLUSH

Any five cards that are in the same suit; however, they do not have to be in order (for example, 3, 4, 8, 10 and Queen of clubs).

STRAIGHT

Five cards that are in sequence, but that are not all in the same suit (for example, 6 of diamonds, 7 of spades, 8 of diamonds, 9 of hearts and 10 of clubs).

THREE OF A KIND

Any three cards that have the same value (for example, 5, 5, 5 or Queen, Queen, Queen).

TWO PAIR

Two different pairs (for example, 5, 5 and 9, 9).

PAIR

Two cards, Jacks or better, that are of the same value (for example, Queen, Queen).

> **How do I play?**

- First, insert paper money of any denomination, or a paper voucher purchased at a voucher machine, to receive the equivalent amount of money or number of credits on the machine. For example, when you insert a dollar bill into a 25¢ machine, you get \$1 or four credits.
- Once you deposit the money or voucher, choose how much you want to wager on the hand. Then press the Deal/Draw button to be dealt five (video) cards at random from a standard 52-card deck.
- You can try to improve your hand by replacing any or all of the cards — but only one time. Press the Hold/Cancel button for each card you want to keep (hold). If you change your mind about a card, press the Hold/Cancel button again to reverse the hold.
- Once you've designated which cards you want to keep and which you want to replace, press the Deal/Draw button again. The cards you haven't held will be replaced with new ones.

- The five cards you end up with determine whether you win. If you do win, you can immediately receive a paper voucher for your winnings, or you can use your winnings to play more hands.
- If you opt to get a voucher, you can play it in other machines. Alternatively, you can cash it at the casino's cashier cage or a money-dispensing machine.

GAMING FUN FACT:

Poker was first played in early 19th century New Orleans and on the many riverboats that plied the Mississippi during that era.



ROULETTE

Playing roulette is a great way to make the leap from slot and video poker machines to table games.

Playing roulette is a great way to make the leap from slot and video poker machines to table games. Don't be intimidated — this is a very social, very relaxing (some would say almost mesmerizing) game.

> **How does it work?**

Roulette is pretty straightforward. A large wheel with 38 numbered compartments is used to determine the winning number.

Both the wheel and the playing field — the section of the table where bets are placed — consist of numbers 1 through 36. They are divided evenly between odd and even numbers, and between red and black numbers. In addition, there are a green 0 and a green 00. (Some roulette wheels don't have the 00.)

The dealer — known as the croupier — spins the wheel counterclockwise and releases a small plastic ball clockwise on a track on the upper portion of the wheel. Where the ball eventually lands and rests is the winning number.

Other things to know:

- A maximum of seven players are at the table. Your play does not affect whether anyone else wins or loses, and vice versa.
- Roulette uses chips that are different from the standard chips used for other casino games. You purchase roulette chips from the croupier, paying with either standard chips or cash.
- To distinguish one player's bets from another's, every player is assigned different-color chips.
- Before you make your first wager, note the table's minimum allowable bet, which is clearly marked.

> How do I play?

- Pick a number between 1 and 36, or 0 or 00, and place your bet (consisting of one or more chips) on the corresponding number on the playing field. Play birthdates, jersey numbers, street addresses, apartment numbers, how many spouses you've had — whatever tickles your fancy.
- For every spin of the wheel, you can place bets on as many different numbers as you want. If other players have already placed wagers on the numbers you choose, you are still free to bet on them. (Again, that's why there are different-color chips.) If you're not sure where to place your bet on the playing field, the croupier will help you.
- A bet on an individual number can be made in a smaller amount than the table minimum would indicate, but you must make enough of these bets to add up to at least the minimum.
- You can also bet on a combination of numbers. For example, by putting your bet on the inter-

section of four numbers, you can wager on all four at once. Other possibilities include betting on a row of numbers (1-12, 13-24 or 25-36) or on various clusters and groupings. You can play odd/even, black/red or high/low (19-36 or 1-18).

- You can place a bet even after the wheel has started spinning and the ball has started rolling — but about 10 seconds before it looks like the ball is going to stop, the croupier gestures or announces “No more bets.”
- If you bet on an individual number and the ball comes to rest on it, you're a winner. If you bet on a group of numbers and any one of them comes in, you're also a winner — but you don't win as much.
- The payout on a single number is 35 to 1 — so if you bet \$10 and win, you get back your money plus \$350. Either/or bets (odd/even, black/red, high/low) pay off even money (in other words, if you bet \$10, you get that back plus another \$10). Combination bets pay off at varying odds.



BLACKJACK

A warm, lively camaraderie often develops among tablemates — and most veteran players are patient with beginners.

Without a doubt, this is the most popular table game in the casino. Blackjack (or “21,” as it is also commonly called) does require a certain amount of knowledge and skill. But when those are coupled with a little luck, the game can be very winnable.

> **Why is blackjack so popular?**

One reason is the simplicity of the basic premise. Players try to get cards that add up to closer to 21 than the dealer’s cards. When that happens, the player wins. The player also wins if the dealer’s cards add up to more than 21 (known as “busting”). However, if the player’s cards add up to more than 21, the player loses, no matter what hand the dealer has.

Another reason for the popularity of blackjack: It is one of the few games in which players make decisions that ultimately determine if they win or lose. That and the exhilaration of defeating

a common enemy (the dealer) combine to make blackjack a favorite.

> **How do I get started?**

First of all, be certain you’re at the right table. Because blackjack’s semicircular table design has become standard for most card games, make sure you’re actually at a blackjack table and not, say, at a pai gow poker table.

Each blackjack table can host up to seven players at a time; the players sit on one side, while the dealer stands on the other. Every player has a “betting circle” where they place their wagers prior to the cards’ being dealt.

Before you begin playing, note what the minimum bet is at that particular table. (It is always clearly posted.) The amount can vary greatly from one table to another.

Until you feel confident about playing, watch for a while and ask questions. It's best to ask the dealer — but if it is quiet in the casino (during off-hours, for example), you might also ask one of the players. Do it with sensitivity; if you think the person is apt to view the interruption as intrusive, don't interrupt.

When you know how to play correctly, blackjack can be one of the best bets in the house. Of course, don't expect to win every time. Do expect to be challenged, intrigued and excited — and, yes, sometimes frustrated. No matter what, you'll have a good time!

> **How do I play?**

- Give the dealer cash to buy the amount of chips that you want.
- Place your bet by putting chips of the desired value into your betting circle. Once you've put your chips down and play begins, you cannot change your bet.

- After you and all the other players place their bets, the dealer — moving clockwise — gives each person at the table (including the dealer) one card.
- The dealer immediately repeats the process and gives everyone a second card. Generally, all the players' cards are face-down. (However, some games are played with the players' cards face-up.) Only one of the dealer's cards is face-up, for everyone to see.
- Each number card in the deck is worth its face value. Jacks, Queens and Kings are valued at 10; Aces can be worth either 1 or 11. (There are no Jokers.) If you get an Ace, you decide which value to assign to it, depending on what would be to your advantage at the time.
- When all players have two cards each, they look at their cards and then place them back on the table, face-down. (Obviously, this is not the case for games played with all cards face-up.)

- Again, play moves clockwise around the table. When it's your turn, you have to decide whether your two cards add up to a number closer to 21 than the dealer's cards. Remember, you know what only one of the dealer's two cards is.
- If you think you're closer to 21, you "stand," which means you receive no other cards. If you think you need an additional card to achieve the better hand, you "hit" and the dealer gives you another card. You can continue getting as many more cards as you want, one at a time, as long as your hand totals less than 21.
- In blackjack, players have an advantage because they can decide what they want to do. By and large, the dealer has to play by a set formula. If the dealer's two cards add up to 16 or less, the dealer must hit. Generally, speaking, if the dealer's two cards add up to 17 or more, the dealer must stand. (In some casinos, however, if the dealer's 17 is made up of an Ace and a six — known as a "soft 17" — the dealer must take at least one card.)

- All the players stand or hit before everyone shows their cards.
- If you have an Ace plus one picture card or a 10 — congratulations, you have blackjack. That usually means you are an automatic winner. However, if the dealer also has blackjack (and not just a total of 21 points among three or more cards), it's a "push" (tie). You don't win any money, but you don't lose your bet.

The most important decision you make when playing blackjack is the amount you wager, which determines how much you can win (or lose). Except when you get blackjack, the odds are always even money: If you bet \$10 and win, you get back your \$10 plus an additional \$10. If you have blackjack, you are paid higher odds.

On certain hands, there can be a number of additional decisions to make: doubling down, splitting pairs, doubling down after splitting, insurance, surrender, etc. Once you've been playing for a while, you'll begin to become familiar with these terms — but don't worry, you don't need to know them to get started.

> **Anything else I should know?**

A warm, lively camaraderie often develops among tablemates — and most veteran players are patient with beginners. If you're a novice, knowing certain protocols will minimize the chance that you'll annoy a tablemate or the dealer:

- Whether you're standing or hitting, there's no need to speak in order to communicate. Use simple hand gestures instead. If you want another card, make a brushing motion with your hand, palm-down, toward you. If you don't want another card, wave your hand, palm-down, back and forth in a "no" motion.
- Do not touch your bet once the cards are dealt.
- When cards are dealt face-down, use only one hand to pick them up. Always keep the cards above the table in full sight of the dealer.
- When the dealer gets to you, be prepared with your decision about whether you want to stand or hit.
- Ask the dealer your point total if you are confused. Dealers are happy to help, since doing so doesn't affect their play in any way.

GAMING FUN FACT:

In an early version of blackjack, players won a bonus if their first two cards were the Jack and Ace of spades — hence the game's name.



THREE CARD POKER

The game — played at a blackjack-style table — is gaining fans because it's fast, fun and easy to play.

Three Card Poker

Although this is a relatively new casino game, the growth in its popularity can be measured by the ever-increasing number of three card poker tables on the casino floor. The game — which is played at a blackjack-style table with up to seven players — is gaining fans because it's fast, fun and easy to play.

Three card poker is based on the traditional card game of poker, but there are some differences. In three card poker — unlike the traditional versions of the game — a straight ranks higher than a flush, and three of a kind beats both a straight and a flush.

Starting with the straight flush and working down, these are the hands you want to get:

STRAIGHT FLUSH

Three cards that are in sequence and are all in the same suit (for example, 3, 4 and 5 of hearts).

THREE OF A KIND

Three cards of the same value (for example, 6, 6, 6 or Jack, Jack, Jack). Obviously, they will be in different suits.

STRAIGHT

Three cards that are in sequence but that are not all in the same suit (for example, 6 of diamonds, 7 of spades and 8 of clubs).

FLUSH

Three cards that are in the same suit but that are not in consecutive order (for example, 3, 5, 8 of clubs).

PAIR

Two cards that are of the same value (for example, 8 of clubs and 8 of diamonds).

> How do I play?

- Before the dealer deals the cards, players can make two different types of wagers using chips: a pair-plus bet and an ante bet.
- The only wager that players must make is the pair-plus bet. In this wager, you're betting you'll get a pair or higher (a pair, flush, straight, three of a kind or straight flush). If you don't get a pair or higher, you lose the bet.
- You also can make an ante bet. In this wager, you're simply betting that your hand will be better than the dealer's.
- Once the pair-plus bets and ante bets are made, each player and the dealer are dealt three cards. When everyone has their cards, and all the players have looked at theirs, each player can make yet another wager: a play bet.

To win a play bet, players must have a better hand than the dealer has, *and* the dealer's hand must include a queen high or better (at a minimum, one queen, king or ace).

If the dealer doesn't have a queen high or better, the hand is considered a "push" (tie), and the players get their money back.

> I'm sort of confused. This game is easy?!

Actually, it is. Don't be intimidated. Just sit at a table and have fun. Dealers will be happy to teach you the game — and once the bets are placed and the cards are dealt, all you really need to know is the hierarchy of three card poker hands.

GAMING FUN FACT:

The first playing cards made in the United States were manufactured around 1800. Approximately 70 years later, Americans invented the Joker.



READY FOR THE NEXT LEVEL?

Once you've gotten your gaming feet wet, it's time to try some of the more challenging possibilities.

Ready for the Next Level?

Playing the five games explained in this booklet is only the start of the fun and excitement you can have in the casino. Once you've gotten your gaming feet wet, it's time to try some of the more challenging possibilities. The following games call for varying degrees of knowledge and strategy, in addition to luck.

> Craps

Craps — which is played with dice — is far and away the most exhilarating game in the casino. Aside from the opportunity to win a lot of money fast, the game's appeal lies in the camaraderie that develops among players. Craps is a hootin' and hollerin' good time!

It also may be the most intimidating of the casino games, especially for novices. We suggest that you take a class in how to play (offered free at most casinos) and ask a lot of questions. Then stand near a table that has just a few players and observe the action.

Once you feel confident and comfortable enough to play, you definitely should give craps a whirl. Just be ready to go on a wild ride!

The following four games are variations on the traditional American card game of poker. Many casinos offer free classes in these games as well.

> Let It Ride

The main reason for the popularity of this simple game is the potential for big payouts, especially through a bonus bet that makes play even more exciting. The game itself is actually very relaxing, because players are not competing against anyone. Playing Let It Ride is an easy way for slot and video poker aficionados to make the leap to table games.

> Pai Gow Poker

Pronounced “pie gow,” this relatively new casino game is based on traditional Chinese dominos

and American poker. While it was originally played with domino tiles, the new incarnation uses a deck of 53 cards (the standard 52 plus one joker). It is played at a leisurely pace that enables your money to last a long time.

> **Caribbean Stud Poker**

Caribbean stud poker was invented in the Caribbean Islands and grew in popularity on cruise ships. One of the game's main attractions is its progressive jackpot; before any cards are dealt, players can place an additional \$1 jackpot bet. The odds of winning may be long, but the potential payout is huge — usually more than \$100,000!

GAMING FUN FACT:

Primitive dice have been found in 4,000-year-old Egyptian tombs and in archeological sites that date back 8,000 years.