

# Poker Cheat Sheet: Your Complete Reference Guide

Welcome to your handy guide for all things poker!

If you're new or need a refresher, we have you covered. From understanding the basics of hand rankings to knowing the odds of winning and the importance of position, everything you need to win is right here.

## Part 1: Learn Poker Terms and Lingo

Poker is a game with its own unique language and terms. Below you will find a list of the most used terms and what they mean.

- Action: Something players do in poker during their turn, like a check, call, raise, or fold.
- All-in: When a player bets all their remaining chips.
- Ante: A small, mandatory bet placed by all players before the hand begins.
- Bet: To place the first chips into the pot on a given street.
- Big Blind: A forced bet, usually the size of the minimum bet per hand for that game.
- Bluff: A bet or raise made with a weak hand to make opponents fold.
- Board: The community cards that all players share in games like Hold'em..
- Call: To match the amount of the current bet.
- Check: To pass the action to the next player without placing a bet.
- Community Cards: Cards dealt face-up in the center of the table for all players to use.
- Dealer Button: A marker that indicates which player is the dealer for the current hand.
- Draw: A hand that has the potential to become a very strong one on a later street.
- Flop: The first three community cards dealt.
- Fold: To give up on a hand, forfeiting any chips you've already bet.
- Flush: A hand consisting of five cards of the same suit.
- Full House: A hand consisting of three cards of one rank and two cards of another rank.
- Hand: The five-card combo a player uses to win, or the period from deal to showdown.
- Hole Cards: The face-down cards dealt to each player at the beginning of the hand.
- Kicker: An unpaired card used to break ties between hands of the same rank.
- Muck: The pile of folded or discarded cards.
- Nuts: The best possible hand at any given moment.
- Pocket Pair: A starting hand with two cards of the same rank, e.g., two sevens.
- Pot: The total amount of money or chips being competed for in the center of the table.
- Raise: To increase the size of the current bet.
- River: The fifth and final community card is dealt.
- Showdown: When players reveal their hands to determine the winner after all bets.
- Small Blind: A forced bet by the player left of the dealer, typically half of the big blind.
- Straight: A hand with five cards in sequential rank (e.g., 5-6-7-8-9).
- Three of a Kind: A hand with three cards of the same rank.
- Turn: The fourth community card is dealt.

## Part 2: Poker Hands Cheat Sheet

Poker is all about the cards you're dealt and the hands you make from them. The goal is to make the best possible five-card hand. But with so many combinations, how do you know what beats what? It all comes down to a clear ranking system that pits your best hand against the rest of the table.

POKER HAND RANKINGS					
10	J	Q	K	A	Royal Flush
7	8	9	10	J	Straight Flush
4	4	4	4	K	Four of a Kind
10	10	10	2	2	Full House
K	9	J	5	A	Flush
7	8	9	10	J	Straight
2	2	2	6	A	Three of a Kind
8	8	7	7	Q	Two Pair
5	5	J	10	3	Pair
K	2	8	J	6	High Card

Understanding these hand rankings is the foundation of every poker game, and learning them is the first step to becoming a winning player. Above, we've laid them all out for you, from the rarest and strongest hands to the most common.

## Learn Poker Hand Odds

In poker, understanding the odds of hitting a certain hand is vital for making the right decisions and achieving long-term success. Knowing the probabilities helps you decide what to do and when. This means you know when to bet big, call an opponent, or if you need to fold a strong hand. It's the difference between guessing and playing with a solid, mathematical foundation. It may sound complicated, but here's a helping hand! Below is a poker odds cheat sheet with some common pre-flop hands and the chances of you making a winning hand.

Starting Hand	Chance of Being Dealt	Chance of Making Hand on the Flop
Pocket Aces (AA)	1 in 221	12% for a Set on the Flop
Pocket Kings (KK)	1 in 221	12% for a Set on the Flop
Any Pocket Pair	1 in 17	12% for a Set on the Flop
Any Two Suited Cards	1 in 4	0.8% for a Flush on the Flop
Any Two Unsuitd Connectors	1 in 5	1.3% for a Straight on the Flop
Ace-King Suited	1 in 331	0.8% for a Flush on the Flop
Ace-King Offsuit	1 in 110	1.3% for a Straight on the Flop

## Part 3: Actions and Betting Rounds in Poker

In poker, an action is any decision a player makes during their turn. These choices include:

- Fold: To give up on a hand, forfeiting any chips you've already put into the pot.
- Check: To pass the action to the next player without placing a bet, only possible if no one has bet on the street.
- Bet: To place the first chips into the pot during a betting round.
- Call: To match the amount of the current bet or raise.
- Raise: To increase the size of the current bet, forcing other players to either match the new amount or fold.

Mastering these actions is essential, as each choice can have a huge impact on the outcome of the game.

### The Preflop Round – Get Involved or Fold

- Blinds: The small blind and big blind are placed to start the pot.
- Action Begins: The player to the left of the big blind chooses to call, raise, or fold.
- Take Turns: The action moves clockwise around the table, and each player acts.
- Round Ends: The round ends once all of the players have either folded or bet.

### The Flop: First 3 Face-Up Community Cards Dealt

- Betting Round: The action starts with the active player to the left of the button.
- Options: Players have the option to check, bet, raise, or fold, and continue the betting.
- Round Ends: The betting ends when all players either fold or match the pot.

### The Turn: Dealer Discards a Card and Reveals 4th Community Card

- Betting Round: The betting continues, following the same way as the flop.
- Round Ends: The round ends when all players either match the pot or fold.

### The River: Dealer Discards a Card and Reveals 4th Community Card

This is the final community card and the last round of a poker hand.

- Final Bets: This is the last chance for players to bet, raise, or fold.
- The Action: Any active players left continue to bet until wagers are matched or they fold.
- Round Ends: The hand ends, and it's time to find the winner.

### Showdown: Compare Hands and Find a Winner

This is the most thrilling part of a poker game, the final showdown, where players reveal their final hand. This is where your strategy, bluff, or plain luck decides if you're walking away with the final pot.

- Reveal Hands: Each hand is laid out, starting with the last player to bet or raise.





## Part 4: Poker Positions

Understanding where you're sitting at the table is a critical poker skill, and it can change how you play every single hand. Known as 'position' in poker, this means where you are seated compared to the dealer button. It determines when you act in a round; the further from the button you are, the later you act. This gives you more information and lets you assess the table and opponents better.

Let's take a look at the different poker positions and how you can play from each different spot.



### 6-Handed Table Poker Positions

- Small Blind (SB): The player to the left of the button, posting the forced small blind.
- Big Blind (BB): The player to the left of the SB, posting the forced big blind.
- Under the Gun (UTG): The first player to act pre-flop, also known as the Lojack (LJ).
- Hijack (HJ): The player to the left of the UTG / Lojack.
- Cutoff (CO): The player to the right of the button is in a powerful position.
- Button (BTN): The best position on the table; they act last in every round post-flop.

### 9-Handed Table Poker Positions

- Small Blind (SB): The player to the left of the button, posting the forced small blind.
- Big Blind (BB): The player to the left of the small blind, posting the forced big blind.
- Under the Gun (UTG): The very first player to act pre-flop. This is the worst position.
- UTG+1: The player to the left of UTG.
- UTG+2: The player to the left of UTG+1.
- Lojack (LJ): The player to the left of UTG+2.
- Hijack (HJ): The player to the left of the Lojack.
- Cutoff (CO): The player to the right of the button.
- Button (BTN): The last player to act after the flop.

## Part 5: Starting Hand Charts for Different Positions

Having a solid starting hand poker cheat sheet is one of the most important tools for new players. While it's tempting to play every hand, the most successful players only play hands that have a good chance of winning. The position you sit at the table should change the hands you choose to play.

### Starting Range of Pairs and Suited Hands

To help you get started, we've created a simple chart of solid starting hands, including pairs, suited hands, and position. These rules aren't set in stone, but they are a great starting point for beginners.

#### PAIRS & SUITED RANGE

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTs	QTs	JTs	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9s	Q9s	J9s	T9s	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8s	Q8s	J8s	T8s	98s	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7s	Q7s	J7s	T7s	97s	87s	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6s	Q6s	J6s	T6s	96s	86s	76s	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5s	Q5s	J5s	T5s	95s	85s	75s	65s	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4s	Q4s	J4s	T4s	94s	84s	74s	64s	54s	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3s	Q3s	J3s	T3s	93s	83s	73s	63s	53s	43s	33	32s
A2o	K2s	Q2s	J2s	T2s	92s	82s	72s	62s	52s	42s	32s	22

■ EARLY POS. ■ MIDDLE POS. ■ LATE POS.  
■ POCKET PAIRS  
■ SUITED HANDS  
■ OFFSUIT HANDS



### Starting Range of Unsuit Hands

While suited hands are what you want, many unsuited hands can be played for a profit, especially from a late position. The following chart breaks down which unsuited hands are strong enough to enter the pot, from different positions at the table.

#### UNSUITED RANGE

AA	AKs	AQs	AJs	ATs	A9s	A8s	A7s	A6s	A5s	A4s	A3s	A2s
AKo	KK	KQs	KJs	KTs	K9s	K8s	K7s	K6s	K5s	K4s	K3s	K2s
AQo	KQo	QQ	QJs	QTs	Q9s	Q8s	Q7s	Q6s	Q5s	Q4s	Q3s	Q2s
AJo	KJo	QJo	JJ	JTs	J9s	J8s	J7s	J6s	J5s	J4s	J3s	J2s
ATo	KTs	QTs	JTs	TT	T9s	T8s	T7s	T6s	T5s	T4s	T3s	T2s
A9o	K9s	Q9s	J9s	T9s	99	98s	97s	96s	95s	94s	93s	92s
A8o	K8s	Q8s	J8s	T8s	98s	88	87s	86s	85s	84s	83s	82s
A7o	K7s	Q7s	J7s	T7s	97s	87s	77	76s	75s	74s	73s	72s
A6o	K6s	Q6s	J6s	T6s	96s	86s	76s	66	65s	64s	63s	62s
A5o	K5s	Q5s	J5s	T5s	95s	85s	75s	65s	55	54s	53s	52s
A4o	K4s	Q4s	J4s	T4s	94s	84s	74s	64s	54s	44	43s	42s
A3o	K3s	Q3s	J3s	T3s	93s	83s	73s	63s	53s	43s	33	32s
A2o	K2s	Q2s	J2s	T2s	92s	82s	72s	62s	52s	42s	32s	22

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## Part 6: Fundamental Poker Strategies to Level Up Your Game

Once you understand the basic rules of poker, the next step is to build yourself a winning strategy. It's more than simply knowing the hand rankings and betting rounds; you need to understand how to use those to your advantage. We've got a few tips for you that cover essential strategies.

### Specialize in a Poker Format

Focusing on one specific poker format is a key strategy for long-term success. Instead of being a jack of all trades, choosing a specialty allows you to master the nuances of a single game. This will lead to more profitable decisions and a deeper understanding of the game. This dedicated approach gives you a massive edge over opponents who play a variety of games without mastering any of them. Explore these popular poker formats and find the one that suits your style: Texas Hold'em, Pot Limit Omaha, and 5-PLO.

### Useful Tips for Cash Game Players

- Bankroll: Be disciplined with your money. Only play with funds you can afford to lose.
- Table Selection: Don't be afraid to leave a table if the players are too strong.
- Stack Size: Deep stack allows for more creativity, while a short stack allows for less.

### Useful Tips for Tournament Players

- Patience is Key: You don't need to play every hand, especially in the early stages.
- Blinds Matter: Blinds and antes increase, forcing you to play more and be more aggressive.
- Stack Size: Your chip stack relative to the blinds dictates your strategy.

### Learn About Value Betting and Bluffing

- Value Betting: This is when you bet with a strong hand, hoping to get called by a weaker hand. The goal is to extract as much money as possible from your opponents.
- Bluffing: Bluffing is the art of betting with a weak hand, hoping your opponent will fold. This is a crucial skill for winning pots you couldn't win at showdown.

### Figure Out Correct Bet Sizing

- Consistency: Use a consistent bet size, often based on a percentage of the pot
- Bet for Value: Size your bets to get called by weaker hands.
- Bet to Bluff: Size your bluffs to look credible without risking too many chips.

### Manage a Bankroll

A poker bankroll is the total amount of money you have put aside for playing the game. This covers your cash games and tournament buy-ins. Proper bankroll management is the most essential skill to learn, and it ensures you can keep playing without going broke. For beginners, this is a vital skill to learn because it protects you from the swings of the game. By following a clear plan and never playing with money you can't afford to lose, you can navigate the ups and downs of poker and enjoy the game for years to come.

