

How to Play BlackJack 21 Winning Tips



A Free eBook Provided By:
The Big “M” Casino, Myrtle Beach

Learn more by visiting www.BigMCasino.com/Myrtle-Beach, or calling (877) 250-LUCK.
Copyright © 2010. Big “M” Casino. All Rights Reserved.

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

1. History of BlackJack
2. BlackJack Rules of the Game
3. BlackJack Etiquette
4. Choosing a BlackJack Table
5. The BlackJack Deck & Card Values
6. Placing a BlackJack Bet
7. BlackJack Surrender
8. BlackJack Doubling and Splitting
9. BlackJack Odds
10. Rules for the BlackJack Dealer
11. BlackJack Strategy
12. Understanding BlackJack Insurance
13. BlackJack Hand Signals
14. What is a BlackJack or a “Natural”?
15. How to Become A BlackJack Dealer
16. Winning a FREE BlackJack Dinner Cruise
17. Online BlackJack
18. Why People Love BlackJack
19. BlackJack Groups & Specials
20. Glossary of BlackJack Terms
21. BlackJack Books – Recommended Reading

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 1: BlackJack a Lesson in History

BlackJack is not known to be “invented” by any one person in time, but rather a mixing and shuffling of different influences from around the globe.

One of the earliest assumptions, is that BlackJack was created by the Romans.

No hard proof of this exists for this claim, but it is true that the Romans loved to gamble.

The most widely accepted origin of BlackJack was derived from a game discovered in France between the 17th and 18th Centuries called ‘Vingt-et-Un’ (French for ‘21’).

It is suspected that Vingt-et-Un came from a modified version of another game called ‘Chemin de Fer’ (French for ‘way of the Iron’, because the cards were kept in an Iron box).



Another influence to the game of BlackJack came from Spain, who had a game called ‘One and Thirty’, in which the goal was to collect no more than 3 cards valuing 31 points.

Luckily BlackJack made its way to the United States in the early 1800’s and continued its successful growth when the State of Nevada made it legal to gamble in 1931.

That is the year in which Nevada Casinos made a special bet. If your hand holds a black Jack (spades or clubs) and the Ace of Spades - the house would pay 10 -to-1 odds on the bet.

Casinos have discontinued this payout, but the name - BLACKJACK - still sticks to this day!

And it came to be that Blackjack has become one of the world’s most popular gambling games.

If you would like to learn more about “How to Play BlackJack”, please Read on to our next step, BlackJack Rules of the Game or [reserve a spot](#) on the [Big “M” Casino](#) Cruise and get a [Free BlackJack lesson](#).

How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 2: Blackjack Rules of the Game

When you are on a Big “M” Casino Cruise, you will see a lot of action in the BlackJack pits. So to be prepared for your next cruise, it’s a good idea to get familiar with the basic rules of Blackjack:

- ♥ The goal of blackjack is to beat the dealer’s hand without going over 21.
- ♥ Face cards are worth 10. Aces are worth 1 or 11, whichever makes a better hand.
- ♥ Each player starts with two cards, one of the dealer’s cards is hidden until the end.
- ♥ To ‘Hit’ is to ask for another card. To ‘Stand’ is to hold your total and end your turn.
- ♥ If you go over 21 you “bust” and the dealer wins regardless of the dealer’s hand.
- ♥ If you are dealt 21 from the start (Ace & 10), you got a Blackjack.
- ♥ Blackjack usually means you win 1.5 the amount of your bet depending on the casino.
- ♥ Dealer will hit until his/her cards total 17 or higher.
- ♥ Doubling down is like a hit, only the bet is doubled and you only get one more card.
- ♥ A split can be done when you have two of the same card – the pair is split into two hands.
- ♥ Splitting also doubles the bet because each new hand is worth the original bet.
- ♥ You can only double/split on the first move, or first move of a hand created by a split.
- ♥ You cannot play on two aces after they are split.
- ♥ You can double on a hand resulting from a split of your bet.

These are just a few of the tips we have for you, but if you are feeling ready to play, [make your reservation](#) today!



How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 3: BlackJack Etiquette



Wondering how to play it cool in the BlackJack Pits?

It's really easy if you have read the rules in our first tip, but there are certain "unwritten" rules you should be aware of. I like to think of them as the unwritten Code of Conduct of Vegas (as if there was such a thing).

We have adopted this Code of Conduct as a suggestion to ensure all of our Cruises guests will thoroughly enjoy there Casino Gambling Cruise experience.

Here's the Unwritten Code of Conduct for the Big "M" Casino:

- ◆ When you are watching a table, do so quietly, as to not bother the players.
- ◆ No touching the cards when playing a face-up BlackJack. If you are playing Face-Down, then you can touch the cards.
- ◆ Limit your table chatting It's disruptive to the other players' concentration.
- ◆ Spilling drinks on the table is obviously a big no-no. Accidents happen, but try not to be the cause of the spill.
- ◆ Don't tell other players how to bet or how to play.
- ◆ Don't ask the dealer for advice on strategy.
- ◆ Do not touch your bet once the game has started.
- ◆ Learn the BlackJack Hand Signals (see tip 13)
- ◆ Tipping the dealer when you are winning shows respect and gratitude.
- ◆ Pay attention while playing, treat people nicely, and enjoy the cruise!

Hopefully these rules will give you the confidence to [join us](#) soon on the [Big "M" Casino Gambling Cruise](#), but if you are still looking for more tips check out "[How to pick a BlackJack Table](#)".

How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 4: How to pick a Blackjack Table

Now that you understand the basics, you need to choose a table.

First, find a table that suits your bet sizes. In most casinos, minimum and maximum allowable bets should be clearly posted on the table-top.

At The Big “M”, choose from the following Blackjack limits:

- ♣ \$5 min - \$200 max
- ♣ \$10 min - \$300 max
- ♣ \$25 min - \$1000 max
- ♣ \$50 min - \$1000 max

How do you know if a Blackjack table is “hot or not”?

There are several options when it comes to choosing a Blackjack table. Most of the time it comes down to your personal preference and getting that “lucky feeling” while you are passing it by.



At the Big “M” Casino on Myrtle Beach our guests get to choose from Blackjack tables with a gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean!

When choosing a blackjack table, some of our guests prefer to look for tables:

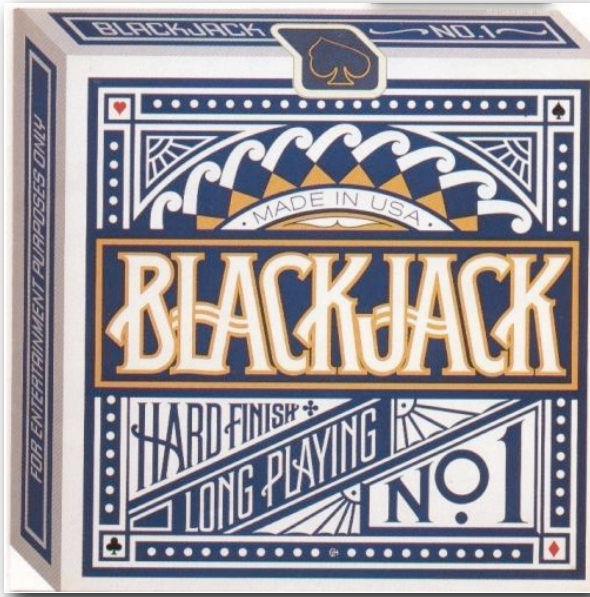
- ♣ In which the dealer has the fewest chips (hopefully this means that they have been given out to winning players).
- ♣ With a lot of smiling faces. Happy players could mean a winning table.
- ♣ Where the players are NOT eyeing other tables. We like to call this “the felt is always greener at the other table”.
- ♣ With players holding lots of chips - it’s good to play with winner’s. Maybe their luck and skill will rub off on you.

Hopefully while cruising the Blackjack pit, one of the tables has “called out to you” and you are ready to take a seat and be dealt a hand. If you forgot to stop at the bar to pick up your drink - don’t worry, we’ll be stopping by to pick up your order.

If you are ready to get dealt in at the [Big “M” Casino](#), then [reserve your spot](#) today. If you feel you need more information to get your game face on, then read on to review the Blackjack Deck and Card Values or come on board for our [Free Blackjack training class](#).

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 5: The BlackJack Deck & Card Values



“Ventiuna”... “Pontoon”... “Vingt-et-un”... “Twenty-One”... various names, but all the same game --> **BLACKJACK!**

Now that you can call out the game “BlackJack” in 4 languages, it’s time to learn about the BlackJack deck and what the card values mean so you can get down to betting.

Each deck has 52 cards, Ace through 10, and then King, Queen, and Jack, for each suit (clubs, spades, hearts, and diamonds). In BlackJack the suits means nothing, you are simply keeping track of your card values.

The values are as follows:

- ♠ Face cards like the King, Queen, and Jack are valued at 10 each.
- ♠ Cards 2-10 are valued at that card’s number.
- ♠ Aces are special cards that can be valued either at 11 or 1.

What makes the Ace special, is that you get to pick the value of the Ace - the choice is up to you. In certain situations it is appropriate to use the Ace as a 1.

For example, if you’re playing BlackJack on the Big “M” Casino Cruise and you’re dealt a King and an Ace.

If you count the Ace as a one, you’re only at a total value of 11 (which is not a great hand). If you count the Ace as an 11, you’ve got 21 and you’re a winner!

Are you getting the hang of the game?

If you want more tips you can [book a cruise](#) on [The Big “M”](#) and get a [FREE BlackJack Class!](#)

Or...keep reading “How to Play BlackJack - Tip # 6 Placing your Bet”.

How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 6: Placing Your Blackjack Bet

How much you bet is up to you and your budget. A good rule of thumb is to only bet what you can afford.

Another way to look at betting is best stated by a poet whose pseudonym is Sumner A. Ingmark:

A gambler who bets small parts of his poke,
Will neither get rich nor go away broke.



In other words - you gotta be IN IT to WIN IT and here's how you do it:

Getting Your Chips:

- ♥ Put your money on the table and ask the dealer for chips (Purple \$500, Black \$100, Green \$25, Red \$5, Pink \$2.50, and White \$1). *Do not hand your money directly to the dealer.*
- ♥ Organize and Stack your chips in front of you, small to large denominations so you know exactly how much money you have in chips. This makes for easy betting.

Making Your Bets:

Place your bet in front of you, making sure to not exceed the minimum or maximum for that table. Make sure to make your bet before the the dealer starts dealing. NO more bets can be accepted once the dealer has started. If you miss this, you are basically sitting out this hand and you will not be dealt any cards.

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Once the cards are dealt, review your cards and the dealer's face-up card. Based on your strategy, you will need to make the decision to:

- ♥ Hit (Get another card, no additional betting required.)
- ♥ Stand (Hold with no more cards, no additional betting required.)
- ♥ Double Down (Double your bet and get only one card. Place your doubled bet amount to the left of your first bet.)
- ♥ Split (Can only be done when you have pairs. Double your bet and split the pairs up, thus playing 2 BlackJack hands. The dealer will deal you 2 new cards to go with your split pairs, then the follow the same betting strategy for each BlackJack hand. Place your doubled bet amount to the left of your first bet.)

Once everyone has had a chance to Hit, Stand, Double, and Split - the dealer will take his hidden face-down card and reveal it to all the players. As long as you beat the dealer or the dealer goes bust - YOU'RE A WINNER! If you tie the dealer this is called a "Push" you neither win nor lose, at which point you can either take back your bet or use it for the next hand.

If you find yourself at a Casino that offers side betting, then you have the option of betting on the dealer's or another player's hand in addition to your own hand.

Are you ready to place your bets? Come [join us](#) on the [Big "M" Casino](#) or read on for more information about "BlackJack Surrender".

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 7: BlackJack Surrender



Some Casinos offer a “BlackJack Surrender”, there are two ways this can be played:

- ◆ The first option takes place after the cards are dealt but before the dealer has looked at his cards. This is called an Early Surrender.
- ◆ The second option takes place after the dealer has looked at his cards to reveal if a BlackJack hand was dealt. This is called a late surrender.

In both circumstances the dealer takes your surrendered cards along with half of your bet.

Determining if this type of play is right for you will greatly depend on your strategy and the house rules of the casino.

The basic strategy for using the Surrender options are when your hand values are:

- ◆ Hard 16 versus dealer 9
- ◆ Hard 15 or 16 versus dealer 10
- ◆ Hard 16 Versus dealer A

When the surrender is not allowed, then the strategy would change to Hit on all but the Hard 16 Versus 10, you would stand.

If you are ready to surrender to the fun of the [Big “M” Casino](#) Gambling Cruise, then [make your reservation](#) today.

Still want to learn more, read our next tip “BlackJack Splitting and Doubling Down”.

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 8: BlackJack Splitting & Doubling Down

You already understand how to bet when you split a pair and double down, but let's delve deeper on when is the right time to use these player options.

Double Down:

The best time to utilize a Double Down situation, is when you were dealt a hard 10-11 and the dealer shows a 4, 5, or 6.

By doubling down you are gambling that the dealer will draw and go bust. This is why you only want to do this when the dealer only is showing a 4, 5, or 6.

Splitting Up Pairs:

When the first two cards dealt are pairs, you can split them and play two hands. This increases your gambling opportunity, as you now have 2 hands to bet from.

You now need to analyze each of your new hands against that of the dealer's to determine your next move. You can hit, stand, re-split, and double-down after splitting.

There is one situation to make sure you are aware of, and that's when you have split aces. After the aces are split, some casinos have a rule that will only allow you to be dealt one card for each split ace hand. This needs to be taken into consideration before you split aces.

It's important to check the house rules before you sit down at the table, so you have all the facts you need to make the right choices.



Ready to make your move? [Come on board](#) the [Big "M" Casino](#) to learn more at our [FREE BlackJack Training](#) class or read on to learn about BlackJack odds.

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 9: BlackJack Odds

Odds are “You will win some, and you will lose some”.

You gotta know when to hold em, know when fold em, know when to walk away, and know when to run.

Determine how much you will be gambling with, set a winning goal and losing limit. Take all winnings and bank it.

Know the game, study, and read all you can about the game. You have already started by reading this eBook “How To Play BlackJack - 21 Winning Tips”.

Find the strategy that works for you and discipline yourself to stick to it!

- ♣ Keep your emotions in check.
- ♣ Don't drink too much. It can adversely affect your judgment.
- ♣ If you feel tired, take a break, walk around, and get refreshed.
- ♣ Start with small bets.

Casino odds vary from anywhere between 6:5 - 3:2 odds. The odds are determined by the house rules like the amount of decks in use and dealer play rules.

In most casino BlackJack games, the Dealer or House advantage is approximately 8%. This advantage is due to the fact that the Dealer is the last player to act. Since all other players have made their decisions, they are more likely to bust before the Dealer has taken his turn. However, with proper strategy, you can increase your odds of winning, and can decrease the house advantage.

To find out more [about Big “M” House rules](#) [come aboard](#) for our [FREE BlackJack Classes](#).



How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 10: Blackjack Rules For the Dealer

Believe it or not, the Blackjack Dealer actually plays by a different set of rules than the player. The Dealer must always play by the Casino rules. However, this does not give an advantage or disadvantage.

A Blackjack Dealer must play his hand in a specific way...no choices allowed. There are two popular rule variations that dictate what total the dealer must draw to.



The Blackjack tabletop should be labeled to let you know which rule is played. The two most common rules used by Blackjack Dealers among most casinos are the following:

Dealer Stands on All 17's:

With this rule, if a Dealer's hand total is less than 17, they must continue to "hit". For example, if you have a hand totaling 12, and the dealer's hand is 14, even though it beats your hand they cannot "stand". This may increase the Dealer's odds of going over or "busting".

- ♠ The dealer must continue to take cards, or "hit" until his total is 17 or greater
- ♠ If cards total 17 or greater, the dealer must stop drawing cards, or "stand"
- ♠ An Ace in a dealer's hand is always counted as 11, if possible, without the dealer going over 21

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

OR

Dealer Hits Soft 17:

Under this rule, a dealer must hit if they get a “soft 17” The house advantage is slightly increased when this rule is used.

A hand that contains an Ace counted as 11 is called a “soft hand”

- ♠ The following hands are examples of “soft 17” (Ace, 6); (Ace, 5, Ace); (Ace, 2, 4).
- ♠ Dealer “hits” these hands, and “stands” on soft 18, hard 17, or higher.

Dealer Does Not Have the Option of “Doubling” or “Splitting”

You, as the player, may choose actions of “Doubling” or “Splitting”, but the Dealer may not do this.

Doubling refers to placing an additional bet equal to your original bet after seeing your cards, and subsequently drawing one and only one additional card. This move may only be used on the first two cards.

Splitting is an option if a player is dealt two cards of the same rank. They can choose to play each of them separately, putting up a bet for each one.

Ready to try your hand against the Dealer’s? [Book your cruise](#) on the [Big “M” Casino](#) today! Not sure yet if you’re ready? Take the Big “M”s [Free BlackJack class](#) and polish your skills!

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 11: BlackJack Strategies

[BlackJack](#) is a combination of luck AND strategy. That's what makes it so popular! Once you've gotten the hang of the basic fundamentals of the game, it's time to work on your strategies.

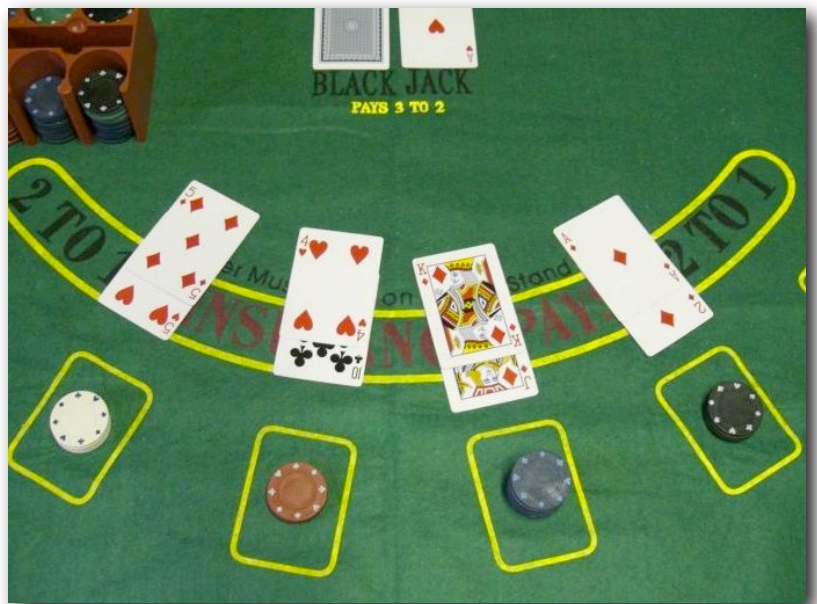
BlackJack is one of the few games in which you are actively involved in determining your own fortune...or misfortune.

Basic Strategy - this is a mathematically proven formula indicating the best decision (hit, stand, double, split, or surrender) a player can make in any situation.

Intermediate Strategy - Instructs a player how to wager in a manner that could increase his winnings over the course of many hands.

Advanced Strategy - Enables a player to take advantage of profitable situations by placing large wagers on hands he is likely to win.

Here are a few popular strategies that are a good place to start when you begin trying to increase your odds:



Easy Plays - Hit on Card values up to 9 & Stand on card values of 17 or higher (as long as neither are an Ace)

More strategic plays -

- ♥ If card values are between 12-16, look at the dealers up-card. If it is a 6 or lower STAND, 7 or higher HIT.
- ♥ If you have a 10 or 11 and that's higher then the dealers card, DOUBLE DOWN.
- ♥ If you have pairs of 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 and the dealer's up-card is a 6 or lower, then SPLITTING them up is the way yo go.
- ♥ If you have pairs of 8 or 9 then SPLIT them depending on what the dealer's card is. If the dealer's up card is 9, just split the 9. Dealer's up-card 10: never SPLIT!

Want to see some of the strategies in action? Or, want to try some out for yourself? [Come aboard](#) the [Big "M" Casino](#) and test your skills!

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 12: Understanding Blackjack Insurance

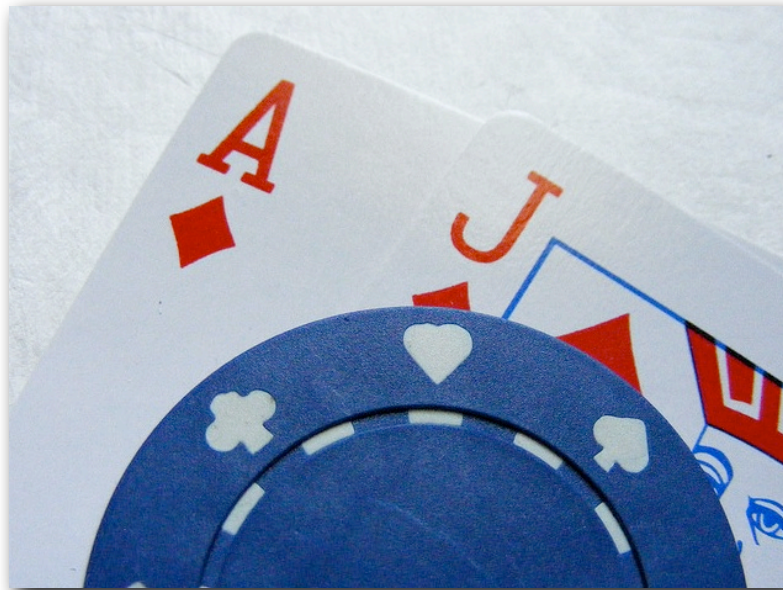
BlackJack Insurance is a bet on the odds of probability. When the dealer's up-card is an ace, player has the option to "take insurance" before the dealer checks the "hole card". (Thus the expression, "Ace in the hole")

Insurance is a side bet, and can be up to half the original wager.

Blackjack insurance pays 2-to-1 when the hole card is a 10 and the dealer has blackjack...otherwise it loses.

Playing the odds of probability:

- ◆ Dealer's second card has a nearly **one-third probability** of having a ten-value, giving the dealer a blackjack.
- ◆ Odds are high that the player will lose, so insurance bets can be attractive.
- ◆ Insurance bet is lost if dealer does not have a Blackjack, but player can still win or lose on original bet.



When player has Blackjack and dealer has an ace, insurance bet may be offered as "even money".

Even money means player's Blackjack is paid immediately at 1:1 before checking the dealer's hand.

Is "insurance" a good bet?

Well, although the odds are higher that you will lose the bet, some prefer to take the 1 out of 3 odds of winning 2-to-1 instead of losing their bet.

So, is it a good bet? Sometimes yes, sometimes no. Unless you've perfected your strategies, and taken into account the number of decks being played, you definitely have a higher chance of losing this bet. However, you also have a high chance of losing the original bet anyway if the Dealer has an Ace, so some like to take their chances and walk away with a 2-to-1 win.

The one bet you'll always win is that you'll have FUN playing on the [Big "M" Casino](#), so take the safe bet and [book your cruise](#) today!

How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 13: Blackjack Hand Signals

Blackjack hand signals are as important to know as the rules of the game! Most casinos will not acknowledge verbal instructions, so proper hand signals are essential.

Hand signals assist the “eye in the sky” (person or video camera located above the table) in resolving disputes or identifying mistakes.

Signals vary depending on type of game:

Face Up Game

- ♣ **“Stand”** - wave hand from left to right over cards, without moving your arm, and hand parallel to table
- ♣ **“Hit”** - point at your cards or tap the table
- ♣ **“Double Down”** or **“Split”** - place additional bet next to original bet.
- ♣ Don't place additional bet on top of original wager!
- ♣ If you have two 4's or two 5's, hold up one finger to double and two to split.



Face Down Game

- ♣ **“Stand”** - Put cards underneath your bet
- ♣ **“Hit”** - Scrape the table with your hand
- ♣ **“Double Down”** or **“Split”** - Turn your cards face up, then place additional bet next to original wager.
- ♣ Hold up one finger to double and two to split.

Ready to try it out?? [Come aboard](#) the [Big “M” Casino](#) and give it a go! Need a little more coaching? Take our [FREE Blackjack class](#)...or, keep reading to find out more tips!

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 14: What Is A “BlackJack” or A “Natural”?

You now know the history of BlackJack, and are hopefully getting the hang of the game...but what exactly IS a BlackJack?

A “BlackJack” is a total of 21 in your first two cards. It may also be called a “Natural”.

This refers to a hand with an Ace and any ten-valued card. The requirement in order to have a BlackJack are that these must be your **first two cards**. (For example, if you split a pair of Aces, then draw a ten-valued card on one of the Aces, this is **not** a BlackJack, just a total of 21.)



What’s the difference between a BlackJack and a 21?

♠ A 21 is win the total of the cards in your hand are exactly 21. However, this is not considered a BlackJack unless they are the first two cards you are dealt.

♠ A BlackJack pays the player odds of **3 to 2**, while any other winning hand, including a 21, pays even money.

♠ A player BlackJack beats any dealer total other than BlackJack, including a dealer’s three or more card 21.

♠ If both player and dealer have BlackJack, the hand is a tie, or “push”. In the case of a push, no one wins. Your bet is returned, so you don’t win or lose anything.

Want to see if you’re a “natural”? [Make a reservation](#) on the [Big “M” Casino](#) and test your skills...or, just test your LUCK and see if you’re dealt a [BlackJack!](#)

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 15: How to Become A BlackJack Dealer

Now that you're the expert on all things BlackJack...maybe you're thinking "I should become a BlackJack Dealer!" Well, if you go through the right steps, the odds are in your favor.

Are You Cut Out for the Job?

In order to be a successful BlackJack Dealer, you need to possess certain qualities that may not be able to be taught.

- ♥ **Be a "people person"** - If you're going to be successful at dealing BlackJack, it is important to possess good people skills since you are dealing with people throughout your shift.
- ♥ **Be good with numbers** - Needless to say, you must be able to count quickly and have excellent math skills...it's imperative! A BlackJack dealer must be able to count out chips, handle money, and deal the game quickly and accurately.
- ♥ **Be dexterous** - If you don't possess a high level of dexterity with your hands, dealing BlackJack is probably not the job for you. You must be able to smoothly and quickly deal cards and handle chips with confidence and ease.



How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

BlackJack Dealer Job Requirements

Casino requirements for their BlackJack Dealers may vary. However, most casinos will require the following:

- ♥ **Study!** - You've already taken the first step by reading through the tips in this eBook. The next step should be to further educate yourself through studying in more detail. The [Big "M" Casino](#) has a free BlackJack class, so it is definitely a good place to start! You may also find many helpful resources online or in BlackJack reading material. (See our suggested reading in Tip #21!)
- ♥ **Go to Casino school** - most casinos will require that their BlackJack Dealers have attended a casino school. Some casinos may even have their own school.
- ♥ **Apply with a Casino** - Once you've had proper training, you will typically need to apply for the casino you would like to work for and follow their application requirements. It may be to your advantage to apply for other positions if they don't have any positions available for BlackJack Dealers. Those who already work for the Casino in another capacity will likely have an advantage when a position for a BlackJack Dealer becomes available.
- ♥ **Take an In-House Training Session** - Most Casinos will have an in-house training session that is specific to their Casino rules. The length of this session may vary from one Casino to the next, but is typically about two weeks long.
- ♥ **Audition** - Many Casinos require a sort of "audition" before they will hire you as a BlackJack Dealer. This may involve dealing at a live action game. If you pass the test...then you're an official BlackJack Dealer!!

You can check out some [BlackJack Dealers](#) in action...just [come aboard](#) the Big "M" Casino and see what it's all about! Or...if you think you're ready to work at a Casino, check out the [Employment Opportunities](#) at the Big "M"!

How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 16: Winning a FREE Blackjack Dinner Cruise

Feeling lucky yet?? You should be! Now that you have these Blackjack tips in your pocket, it's time to get on The Big "M" and test your skills!

If you're still hesitating about hitting the casino, then maybe it's time for a taste of the fun! The Big "M" Casino has a virtual slot machine on their website, that's guaranteed to hit! Try it out, and you're on your way to winning a [FREE night](#) of Vegas style fun, cruising, and dining!

How to Play - Step by Step:

1. Go to <http://www.bigmcasino.com/myrtle-beach/win-a-cruise/>
2. Play the slot machine on the web site by clicking "spin" to pull the lever.
3. Pull the lever until you get three Big "M" Casino logos across the reels.
4. New winner will be drawn at the beginning of every month from entries received.
5. Only one entry per e-mail address per day will qualify.

Good Luck!!!

If you don't win the free cruise, it's o.k. You still have the chance to win huge aboard the ship!

A few things to expect when you [step aboard](#) South Carolina's only & most luxurious 186' Gambling Ship...

- ◆ **Vegas style FUN** - Enjoy Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Let-It-Ride, 3 Card Poker, Texas Hold'em & the "LOOSEST SLOTS IN THE STATE"
- ◆ **Dining** - All casino gambling cruises feature a superb "[All you can eat](#)" buffet
- ◆ **Entertainment** - Enjoy fantastic LIVE entertainment on select cruises



How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 17: Online BlackJack



If you've done an internet search of "BlackJack", you are bombarded with sites offering online BlackJack. With the rising popularity of online games, BlackJack is definitely no stranger to the world of virtual gaming.

Is online BlackJack legal in the U.S.?

In 2006, a bill was signed making it illegal to transfer funds from banks and similar institutions to online gambling sites. Since this, the subject of online gambling's legality has been in question.

Online BlackJack, for **recreational purposes only**, is currently legal within the U.S. as long as you **don't play for real money**.

Playing Online BlackJack Recreationally:

Many beginners use online BlackJack to practice before they hit the casino. If you do this, be careful to choose a reliable web site! There are many fraudulent web sites out there, especially when it comes to online gambling. To avoid this, you should never use web sites that offer the option to play for real money.

BlackJack Apps

If you have an iPhone, Blackberry, Droid or other Smartphone, there is a plethora of BlackJack Apps that you may download so you can pass the time honing your skills!

Bottom line...

Recreational online BlackJack is fine for practicing. But, if you want the [full experience of BlackJack](#)...and the opportunity to actually WIN money, [book a cruise on The Big "M" Casino](#) and try the **real deal!**

How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 18: Why People Love Blackjack

Blackjack is one of the world's most popular games...among professional gamblers and amateur players. But, what makes it so attractive?

- ♣ **Basic rules are pretty simple!** You don't have to be a card shark to enjoy this game. In a few hours, even a child can learn to play Blackjack. Because you don't get hung up on learning the fundamentals, you can spend your time playing and learning the many strategies to improving your game.
- ♣ **Challenging to Master**
Although the basic rules of BlackJack are simple, mastering the advanced strategies behind the game can be quite challenging. Because there is always a bit of a challenge to truly mastering BlackJack, it never becomes stagnant.
- ♣ **Blackjack offers a perfect combination of strategy and luck.**
Certain games, such as roulette or craps, are entirely games of chance. However, Blackjack requires a bit more strategy and smart choices. This puts a lot of the winning power in the player's hands.
- ♣ **New strategies increase your level of success.** Because the fundamentals are easy to learn, you can spend your time mastering strategies to improve your chances of winning!
- ♣ **Blackjack never gets boring!** Even though there is strategy involved, you are still subject to the cards that you are dealt, and are excited by the luck of the draw. A great Blackjack player can work with any hand, but there is no way for even the best player to become so good that it becomes dull. The better you are, the more exciting it becomes!



[Come aboard](#) the Big "M" and find out what it's all [about](#). See firsthand why so many people are "hitting" the [BlackJack tables](#)!

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 19: BlackJack Groups and Specials

Hitting the BlackJack table is more fun when you make it into a party! Find fellow BlackJack enthusiasts, [come aboard](#) The Big “M” Casino as a [group](#), and receive special rates! A great place for:

- ♠ Corporate Events
- ♠ Group Outings
- ♠ Office Parties
- ♠ Holiday Parties
- ♠ Tour Groups

If you can't find a group of friends or co-workers who share your love of BlackJack, you may find BlackJack groups on social media sites such as [Meetup.com](#) or [Facebook](#). You can use this forum to discuss BlackJack strategies, training, favorite places to play, and steep in the culture of BlackJack players! (However, you should always use caution and common sense when corresponding with people you don't know on social media sites.)

BlackJack lovers are always looking for a “good deal”

Once you've found a group of people to join you, you will all benefit from a nice savings! If you have a group of 10 or more, you qualify for The Big “M” Casino “Savings Book”, which includes:

- ♠ Boarding Fee
- ♠ Port Fee & tax
- ♠ All You Can Eat Buffet
- ♠ Casino Cash or Match Play
- ♠ Free Souvenir
- ♠ Free Slot Play
- ♠ Complimentary Drinks
- ♠ & much more!

[Other Specials](#)

[Player's Club](#) - You can join the Player's Club FREE and earn points for CASH BACK!

Senior Specials - The Big “M” Casino offers Senior Day specials on certain days that include FREE Boarding & FREE All You Can Eat Buffett for those players 55 and over.

Exclusive Email Offers - Sign up for e-mail offers and receive exclusive coupons, discounts, and specials!



How to Play Blackjack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 20: Blackjack from A–Z

Last but not least is learning the [BlackJack](#) Language lingo.

- ♥ **Blackjack** - A card game in which players attempt to approach 21 but not exceed it. The best possible hand in blackjack, made up of an ace and a card valued at 10 (namely, 10, J, Q, K). A “Blackjack” hand is when your first two cards total 21.
- ♥ **Bust** - Having a total over 21.
- ♥ **Double, Double Down** - After seeing his hand, a player can double by placing an additional bet equal to his original bet and subsequently draw one and only one additional card. This move may only be used on the first two cards.
- ♥ **Even Money** - When the dealer shows an ace and the player has a blackjack, the player can opt for even money and is paid immediately at 1:1. This is just a version of insurance, not a different bet. If the dealer has blackjack, the hand is a push, but the player receives two times the value of the insurance, which is the same as the original bet. If the dealer does not have blackjack, the player wins 1.5 times the value of the original bet but loses the value of the insurance, and still ends up with the value of the original bet.
- ♥ **Hit** - To ask for another card. If that extra card makes the total over 21, then the player busts.
- ♥ **Insurance** - When the dealer shows an ace, the player can choose to place a side bet of half the value of the original bet. If the dealer has blackjack, the player gets his wager back plus the value of the original bet. If the dealer does not have blackjack, the player loses his wager.
- ♥ **Push** - A tie; the player and dealer have hands with the same total.
- ♥ **Soft Hand** - A soft hand is a hand that includes an ace valued as 11, as opposed to 1.
- ♥ **Hard Hand** - a hard hand is a hand that does not include an Ace values at 11.
- ♥ **Splitting** - If a player is dealt two cards of the same rank, he can choose to play each of them separately, putting up a bet for each one.
- ♥ **Standing** - To stop asking for more cards.
- ♥ **Up-card** - The card that the dealer is showing.
- ♥ **Hole Card** -The Face-down card that is part of the dealers hand.
- ♥ **Layout** - Layout is what you do with your cash or chips on the table, dealers are not allowed to directly take money or chips from the customers.

<http://www.homepokergames.com/bjdictionary.php>

http://www.gamblingdictionary.net/Double_down

[Book a cruise](#) on the [Big “M” Casino](#) today and test your new vocabulary!

How to Play BlackJack – 21 Winning Tips

Tip 21: Keep Learning!

BlackJack Books - Recommended Reading

Of course, the best of the best BlackJack players know that you should never stop learning! Although these tips will be helpful in your quest for 21, they are only the tip of the iceberg. There is SO much more to know if you're going to play like the pros. So...here's our recommendation.

Take a break from reading for now, pick up the phone, and call The [Big "M" Casino](#) to book a cruise and a free BlackJack class! Then, once you've seen BlackJack in action, go back home and study up for your next cruise.

Here is some recommended reading that will teach you to play BlackJack like the pros!

Click the titles below to link directly to Amazon.com:

[Blackjack: Play Like The Pros](#)

[The World's Greatest Blackjack Book](#)

[Blackbelt in Blackjack: Playing 21 as a Martial Art](#)

[Professional Blackjack](#)

[Fun to Know - Blackjack Made Simple](#)

**[Reserve your spot](#) and come aboard The Big "M" TODAY!
[Attend a FREE Blackjack Class!](#)**

Our Table Games are ready and waiting for you!

**Call (877) 250-LUCK or visit
www.BigMCasino.com/Myrtle-Beach**