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00:00:05,080 --> 00:00:08,720

In Blackjack, everyone's goal at the table is to beat the dealer's hand - by

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00:00:08,720 --> 00:00:14,280

getting as close to '21' as possible.

Everyone who does, wins! If you go over,

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00:00:14,280 --> 00:00:19,240

or "bust" – you lose the hand. Highest winning hand possible is 'BLACKJACK',

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00:00:19,240 --> 00:00:26,280

which is a ten-value card and an ace as the first two cards you're dealt.

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00:00:26,280 --> 00:00:32,000

After bets are placed, the dealer will deal

each player two cards – both facing up.

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00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:37,240

Here's something you'll need to know: Cards  
two through ten are taken at face value.

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00:00:37,240 --> 00:00:44,320

Face cards – Jacks, Queens and Kings – are each  
worth ten. And aces are worth one OR eleven,

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00:00:44,320 --> 00:00:49,000

depending on how you want to use them.  
Now to playing Blackjack...Blackjack is

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00:00:49,000 --> 00:00:53,800

a game of strategy, and by applying it  
you can improve your odds of winning.

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00:00:53,800 --> 00:00:59,200

It can help you with decisions on whether  
to hit, stay, split or double down –we'll

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00:00:59,200 --> 00:01:03,600

explain these actions in a moment.

Remember, you can always ask your dealer

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00:01:03,600 --> 00:01:10,840

as you play or go to [playsmart.ca](http://playsmart.ca)

to learn more Blackjack strategy.

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00:01:10,840 --> 00:01:14,440

If you have an eight and a king.

That's eighteen. Pretty close to

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00:01:14,440 --> 00:01:20,040

21. The odds suggest that you 'stay'.

Let's get back to aces and explain how

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00:01:20,040 --> 00:01:25,800

they work...let's say you have sixteen in your

hand and, using basic strategy, you decide to

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00:01:25,800 --> 00:01:31,840

hit to get another card, and you get an ace.

Knowing that the ace has two values, counting

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00:01:31,840 --> 00:01:39,120

it as 11 would put you over 21, or “bust” your hand, which means you lose the round. Instead,

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00:01:39,120 --> 00:01:44,920

by assigning a value of one, you’ll have seventeen and still have a pretty good chance of winning!

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00:01:44,920 --> 00:01:50,200

Now if the dealer gets “Blackjack” right off the bat then everybody automatically loses,

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00:01:50,200 --> 00:01:54,200

unless of course, the other players have Blackjack. If this happens,

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00:01:54,200 --> 00:01:59,840

they keep their bets. Actually, any time a player ties the dealer, they get to keep their bets.

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00:02:00,880 --> 00:02:04,920

Now let's talk about 'hitting'. After the initial deal, players can ask for

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00:02:04,920 --> 00:02:11,800

an extra card, say, if they have a ten or less. To "hit" you would do this.

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00:02:11,800 --> 00:02:16,240

Let's say you have 17 or over and you are satisfied with your total, you would want to

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00:02:16,240 --> 00:02:23,800

'stay'. To 'stay' you would go like 'this'.

That means no more cards.

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00:02:23,800 --> 00:02:27,440

If you have a pair, like eights,  
you may want to split them. You

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00:02:27,440 --> 00:02:32,440

indicate you want to split by doing this.  
'Splitting' your hand gives you a better

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00:02:32,440 --> 00:02:38,680

chance to win as you are now playing two hands,  
but keep in mind it forces you to double your bet.

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00:02:38,680 --> 00:02:42,880

Finally, there's another play called 'doubling  
down'. After you've been dealt your first two

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00:02:42,880 --> 00:02:48,640

cards, you have an option of doubling your initial  
bet — but you only get one additional card.

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00:02:48,640 --> 00:02:52,040

The best time to double down is when  
the dealer is showing a 'bust card',

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00:02:52,040 --> 00:02:56,400

typically a five or a six. This is because  
there's a pretty good chance the dealer's

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00:02:56,400 --> 00:03:03,520

other card is a ten or face card, increasing the  
odds that the dealer will bust on their next draw.

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00:03:03,520 --> 00:03:08,280

Blackjack is super fun and, unlike a lot of  
other games, it requires decision making that

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00:03:08,280 --> 00:03:12,840

can impact the outcome. But at the end  
of the day, it's all up to the cards.

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00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:21,560

Now that you're up to speed on the basics

it's time to have fun and Play Smart!