

Glossary of Poker Terms

Texas Hold'Em has its own unique language and you need to be familiar with the poker jargon before sitting down to play.

ACES FULL

A poker hand with three Aces and a pair. Also known as a full house

ACES HIGH

A combination of five cards that failed to make a poker hand and an Ace is the top card

ACES UP

Any two-pair combination of which one pair is Aces

ACTIVE PLAYER

A player still involved in the pot

ADD-ON

Buying extra chips in a tournament at the end of the Re-buy period

ADVERTISE

To bluff with the intention of being caught by other players in order to get them to call a future bet that is not a bluff

AGGRESSIVE

Player with an aggressive playing style

ALL-IN

Putting all your chips into play during a round of betting

AMERICAN AIRLINES

A pair of Aces

ANTE

Money that comes into play and must be put into the pot

AUTOMATIC BLUFF

A bluff made in a certain circumstance regardless the players hand or the value

BABY

A small card – less than five

BABY SHOES

A pair of two's

BACKDOOR

When a player makes a hand he wasn't originally drawing at

BACKDOOR FLUSH

When you have three of the five cards to make a flush, and hoping to make the flush on the turn or the river

BACKDOOR STRAIGHT

When you have three of the five cards to make a straight, and hoping to make the straight on the turn or the river

BACK INTO HAND

To draw for a hand such as a flush, but catch a straight or top pairs instead

BAD BEAT

Losing a hand in a rough fashion that was favourite pre-flop

BANKROLL

The amount of money you have put aside to play poker with

BATTLE OF THE BLINDS

When all players have folded and the last two players, being the small and big blind, do battle

BEAT THE BOARD

Having a hand that can beat any other hand in sight

BET

Placing money or chips into the pot that becomes in play

BET INTO

To take the initiative in betting action knowing your opponent has a stronger hand

BETTING THE POT

To bet the total amount currently in the pot

BIG BLIND

Player sitting left of the small blind and has the largest ante on the table

BIG DOG

Underdog who has little chance of winning the hand

BIG FULL

The highest possible full house

BIG SLICK

Pre-flop hand where the two hole cards are A-K

BIG STACK

Player at the table with the largest stack of chips in front of him

BLANK

A card that was to no use for any player at the table who entered a pot

BLIND

Two players who are forced to put money into the pot, and are referred to as the small and big blinds

BLUFF

A type of play representing something you have but don't have, forcing your opponents to fold

BOARD

The cards that are face-up in a poker game

BUBBLE BOY

The player who goes out in a tournament with no money. The last position before the pay out positions

BULLY

Player with a large stack of chips who puts pressure on the smaller stacks with aggressive play

BUST OUT

To miss your hand completely or to loose all your money

BUTTON

The dealer and sits to the right of the small blind

BUY-IN

The minimum amount of money needed to enter a tournament or poker game

CALL

To put money in the pot equal to the previous bet or raise

CALLING STATION

A player who will almost call any bet

CASE CARD

The last card of a particular rank

CATCH PERFECT

A situation where only one or two cards will win the pot

CATCH-UP

To improve a hand that is nearly equal or better than an opponent

CHANGING GEARS

Adjusting play from loose to tight or vice versa

CHASE

Trying to beat a hand in superior value

CHECK

Not increasing the bet by a raise

CHECK-BLIND

To check a hand without looking

CHECK-RAISE

To check and then raise in the same round of betting when the action returns

CHIP

A plastic token used in place of money

CHIP LEADER

A player in a tournament leading with the most chips

COLD CALL

When a player with no money invested in the pot besides the ante, calls a raise or a re-raise

COLD DECK

When a player is going through a long period without any good cards

COMMUNITY CARDS

The 5 cards dealt face upwards on the board, also known as the flop, turn and river

COMPLETE BLUFF

A bluff made with a completely worthless hand

CONCEALED PAIR

A pair where both cards are face down

CONNECTERS

Two cards that follow upon each other

COURTESY BET

A bet where it is fairly certain that the opponent will call or raise

COWBOY

A king

CRIPPLED DECK

A deck with almost nothing left that can help a hand

CRYING CALL

To call with an inferior hand

CUT

To separate the deck into portions after it has been shuffled

DEAD CARD

A card no longer in play

DEAD HAND

A misdealt hand that is not valid

DEAD POT

When there is no way for a player to win the pot

DUECE

A two

DOORCARD

The first up card in a stud game

DOUBLE-UP

The double your stack or chips in a single betting round

DOUBLE BELLY-BUSTER

A two-way inside straight

DOUBLE-POP

When you raise a raise with a re-raise

DOWN CARD

A card dealt facedown. Also called hole card

DRAWING DEAD

Drawing to a hand that would be impossible to win with

DRAW OUT

To improve and beat an opponent who originally had a better hand

DRIVER'S SEAT

When a player has an advantage, he is in the driving seat

EARLY POSITION

The first three positions to act at an eight, nine or ten player table

EXPOSED PAIR

A pair on the board

FACECARD

Jack, queen or king

FAVOURITE

The player with the best chance of winning a hand

FIFTH STREET

The last community card to be dealt in Texas Hold'Em

FILL

To draw a card to complete the straight or flush

FISH

New and inexperienced weak players

FIXED LIMIT

Where you can only bet or raise a fixed set amount

FLAT CALL

To call a bet without raising

FLOP

The first three community cards that are turned simultaneously

FLOPPING A SET

When a player forms three-of-kind or a trip with one or two of the community cards

FLUSH

A hand with five cards of the same suit

FOLD

To discontinue play and forfeit the pot

FOUR-FLUSH

To have four cards of the same suit

FOUR-OF-KIND

Four cards of the same rank with a side card

FOURTH STREET

The card dealt after the flop also known as the turn card

FREE CARD

A card received without any money being put into the pot

FREEZE-OUT

A game where there is an entry fee, but no re-buy or add-on's are allowed

FULL HOUSE

Three cards of the same rank and one pair

GUT SHOT

A draw to a hand where there is only one card in the deck that can make a winning hand

HEADS UP

When there are only two people left in a hand

HOLE CARDS

The two face-down cards dealt to each player at the beginning of a round

HAND

Can refer to a specific betting round or the cards you hold

JAM

A pot where several players are raising and re-raising

KICKER

Your other card when making a pair with one of your hole cards

LATE POSITION

The last two players to act before the blinds at a nine or ten seater table

LAY DOWN

To fold what started out as a good hand

LIMP IN

To call the minimum bet in order to see the flop

LIVE CARD

A card that has not yet been dealt or seen

LOOSE PLAY

A player who stays in the pot when he should be folding. Plays a lot of hands

MAIN POT

All bets are placed in a specific betting round

MIDDLE POSITION

Positions for, five and six at a nine or ten player table

MISS THE FLOP

When a player's starting cards are not improved by the three flop cards

MONSTER

A very strong hand

MUCK CARDS

To fold or throw away your cards in a face-down manner so nobody knows what your cards were

NO LIMIT

Where there is no limit how much you want to bet or raise in chips

NUT FLUSH

The highest flush possible

NUT FLUSH DRAW

A drawing hand to the best possible flush

NUTS

To be holding the best hand and can not be beaten

ODDS

Your chances of making a hand

OFFSUIT

Cards that are not in the same suit

OPEN-END STRAIGHT

A four card hand where a straight is possible on either end

OUTDRAW

Catching cards that allowed an inferior hand to win

OUTS

Number of cards available to help you improve your hand

OVER THE TOP

Someone raises and you re raise

OVER-BET

Betting much more than what is a realistic bet to get a call

OVERCARD

A downcard in a player's hand that's higher than any other card showing

OVERPAIR

A pair in the pocket that is higher than any card on the board

PAINT

Same as a facecard. A jack, queen or king

PAIR

Two of the same rank of cards

PASS

Fold your hand and not continue play

PASSIVE

A player who does not raise and makes no moves. Can be seen as scared

PEDDLE THE NUTS

To bet the winning hand hoping the opponent will call

POCKETS

The two facedown cards a player gets at start of play – also hole cards

POCKET ROCKET'S

Two Aces

POSITION

Your position at the table in a round of betting. Changes every betting round

POT

Where all the blinds, bets, and raises are accumulated until a winner is established

POT-LIMITS

The maximum bet cannot be more than the total of the pot

POT ODDS

A calculation of your percent chance to make your draw in relation to the amount you stand to win

PREMIUM HANDS

The top starting hands in a game

PROTECT A HAND

To call a potential bluffer or raiser, hoping to protect what was at one time a strong hand

QUADS

Another name for four-of-kind

RAGS

Worthless cards that you hold

RAILBIRD

A spectator

RAISE

Putting an additional amount of money in the pot than what your opponent put in

RAKE

The percentage extracted from the pot by a house dealer

READ

To make an educated guess on what an opponent holds in his hand

RELEASING A SET

To throw away trips when you think they are beat

REPRESENT

To make it appear you have a hand that you don't have

RE-RAISE

After a player has raised, you re-raise by making a bigger bet. Also known as going over the top

RIGHT PRICE

To get good pot odds on a bet or a raise

RIVER

The last community card to hit the table

ROCK

A solid and tight player that does not take many chances

ROUNDER

A person who makes a living playing poker

ROYAL FLUSH

10, J, Q, K, A of the same suit. The highest hand in poker

RUSH

A hot streak when nothing goes wrong

SANDBAG

Checking the probable best hand with the intention of raising

SEMI-BLUFF

A bet meant to make your opponent fold

SET

When the hole cards are paired and you make a trip with one of the community cards

SHARK

An experienced player looking to win money from weaker players also known as fish

SHORT CALL

To call a bet with an insufficient amount of money and having to go all-in

SHORT-STACKED

The smallest chip count at the table

SIDE POT

Occurs when three or more players have called a bet of someone who is all-in. The all-in player can only win the maximum amount he went in with and these chips go into the side pot

SLOW PLAY

To have a strong hand but play as if you have a weak hand

SMALL BLIND

The player to the immediate left of the button

SPLIT POT

A pot that is split amongst players who have the same hole cards or when the community cards make the best hand

STRAIGHT

Five cards in a sequence

STRAIGHT FLUSH

Five cards in a sequence that are all of the same suit

STEAL

To win a pot on a bluff

SUCKER

A player who thinks he is good but really has no chance of winning

SUITED

Two hole cards of the same suit

SUITED CONNECTERS

Two hole cards of the same suit and they follow up upon each other

TELL

A habit a player has where you can decide if he is bluffing or not, or to put him on a hand

THREE-OF-A-KIND

Three cards with the same value. Also known as trip

TIGHT

Also known as a rock. Tight and solid player who does not make many mistakes

TIP YOUR DUKE

To reveal the quality of your hand

TILT

When someone plays reckless after suffering some bad luck

TOP KICKER

The highest side card when two or more players have identical hands and the highest side card wins the pot

TOP PAIR

When one hole card matches the highest card on the table

TRIP

Three cards with the same value. Also known as three-of-kind

TURN

The fourth community card

UNDER THE GUN

The first player to bet in a round

UPCARDS

The exposed cards in a poker game

VALUE BET

Placing a bet hoping your opponents will call. Trying to get maximum profit with a winning hand

WALK

Letting the blind win unchallenged

WHIPSAW

The caller between two players who are raising

WIRED PAIR

Hole cards are of the same value. Also known as a pocket pair.
