

The Poker Guidebook

- a useful chart you can use time and time again -

- ✓ In any poker game, the first assessment that needs to be done involves the cards you were dealt. There is no denying that a pair of Aces – pocket Aces - is one of the strongest hands you can hope to get, while holding a 2 and 3 are amongst the worst possible cards. Keep this image in mind and play your strongest cards with confidence!

	A	K	Q	J	T	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
A	85%	68%	67%	66%	66%	64%	63%	63%	62%	62%	61%	60%	59%
K	66%	83%	64%	64%	63%	61%	60%	59%	58%	58%	57%	56%	55%
Q	65%	62%	80%	61%	61%	59%	58%	56%	55%	55%	54%	53%	52%
J	65%	62%	59%	78%	59%	57%	56%	54%	53%	52%	51%	50%	50%
T	64%	61%	59%	57%	75%	56%	54%	53%	51%	49%	49%	48%	47%
9	62%	59%	57%	55%	53%	72%	53%	51%	50%	48%	46%	46%	45%
8	61%	58%	55%	53%	52%	50%	69%	50%	49%	47%	45%	43%	43%
7	60%	57%	54%	52%	50%	48%	47%	67%	48%	46%	45%	43%	41%
6	59%	56%	53%	50%	48%	47%	46%	45%	64%	46%	44%	42%	40%
5	60%	55%	52%	49%	47%	45%	44%	43%	43%	61%	44%	43%	41%
4	59%	54%	51%	48%	46%	43%	42%	41%	41%	41%	58%	42%	40%
3	58%	54%	50%	48%	45%	43%	40%	39%	39%	39%	38%	55%	39%
2	57%	53%	49%	47%	44%	42%	40%	37%	37%	37%	36%	35%	51%

- ✓ If the cards you were dealt happen to be in the bottom right corner of this table, you fold. In poker, you DON'T have to play the cards you were dealt. So, fold and fold some more!
- ✓ The BEST position at the table is the DEALER position – the last player to act after the flop.
- ✓ The WORST position is the SMALL BLIND – the player who must act right after the flop.



✓ Let's not forget the best poker hands:



✓ Keep one eye on the pot and the other on the size of your stack!

Quick Poker Tips

1. Don't play every hand you're dealt, because it's only a matter of time before you waste your stack of chips – fortune does not always favor the bold. Not every hand is worth it! Keep your opponents wondering what's your next move, by disguising the true strength of your cards – be aggressive with few - but strong - hands!
2. You never want to be the first player to call the big blind before the flop! The main reason is that you might be feeding the pot to another opponent, who might hold a better hand. Calling the blind before the flop is also known as *limping*.
3. In making money while building the pot, you must play your strongest hands and do it as fast as possible. Do not hesitate in going after your opponents. Nobody likes the guy who check/raises with a pair of aces – why not put them to good use?
4. When you're in the Big Blind position, you are the very last player to act before the flop. As such, you have the opportunity of calling at a reduced cost (you already have money invested in the pot). This will give you a better perspective of the table and the chance to crush your competition should your cards be strong enough.
5. Fold every time you are not 100% sure with the cards **you're** holding. A great poker player will control his emotions, natural curiosity or greed and will not throw himself blindly at the pot without being absolutely sure he's got a solid chance at winning it! It would be worth it, in the long run, to keep track of the hands you folded, just to analyze if you made the right call!
6. Show no mercy to a player who is weakened by either position or pot size. When you spot a pattern in an opponent's bluffing attempt or if you suspect he's got nothing to bluff with, add his chips to your collection – there is no mercy at the poker table!
7. When you decide to partake in a poker tournament, you should always remember that such an event is no place to be worrying about your chip size or staying on the table for the most amount of time. Your only focus should be on playing this game to perfection.
8. In building up to the fun experience that a poker game is, one should not force himself or herself to sit down at the table. If you don't feel like playing, don't do it! Walk away if you feel tired, angry or just upset after a long day at the office – for example!
9. You have a ton of choices at your disposal to select a game or an event that right for you – and that can mean two things. It can mean a table or a tournament with extremely flexible blinds or a table with players that are below your level of experience.