

Glossary of Poker Terms

Ante

A predetermined contribution to the pot by all players before any cards are dealt in a hand

Bet

A player's wager

Betting Round

A complete cycle of betting from the first person to bet to the last person to call

Blind

A designated bet placed before the first card is dealt. The blind is a live bet which can win the pot if not called or raised.

Dealer Button

An object on the table which designates the theoretical dealer or the last person to act in a round. The button is moved one position in a clockwise rotation at the conclusion of each hand.

Call

Placing a bet equal to the highest bet in that round, or going "all in" if your remaining chips are less than the size of that bet.

Check

Not initiating a bet or surrendering a hand, but retaining all rights to act in the event a bet is made. A check shall only be an option if no blind is placed or bet made.

Check Raise

Initially checking in a betting round and then raising a bet that is subsequently made.

Community Cards

Cards that are dealt face upward in the centre of the table which can be used by all players to complete their best possible hand.

Fold

To surrender a hand or refuse to call a bet.

Hole Cards

A player's concealed cards.



Glossary of Poker Terms (continued)

Raise

A bet with-in the table limits that is an implicit call plus an amount in excess of the previous bet or raise by at least as large an amount.

Showdown

The revealing of each players hand still legally in contention for the pot after the completion betting to determine the winner of the pot.

Playing No-limit Texas Hold'em

Texas Hold'em uses a dealer button to indicate the theoretical dealer. After each hand is complete, the button moves clockwise to the next active player. This player is referred to as "the button" and is considered to be "the dealer" for that hand.

The First Round

The player to the left of the button is required to post the small blind. The small blind is usually equal to half the amount of the big blind. The player to the left of the small blind is required to post the big blind. All blinds in hold'em poker are considered live bets and the players who posted them have the option of checking, calling, raising or folding when the betting returns to their position.

After the blinds have been posted, two hole cards are dealt to each active player, after which the first betting round begins with the player to the left of the big blind. There is no limit to the number, or quantity, of raises that a player may make in any round.

A player who does not have enough chips to call a bet is declared "All-In". That player is eligible for the portion of the pot to the point of his final wager, the "main pot". All further betting action involving other players takes place in a "side pot", which is unavailable to the player who has already gone All-In.

The Second Round

After the first round of betting, the dealer burns one card and turns three community cards (The Flop) face-up on the table. The community cards are common to all the players participating in the hand. The second betting round begins with the first active player to the left of the button.

The Third Round

After the second round of betting, the dealer burns one card and turns the fourth community card (The Turn) face-up on the table. The third betting round begins with the first active player to the left of the button.

Playing No-limit Texas Hold'em (continued)

The Fourth Round

After the third round of betting, the dealer burns one card and turns the fifth community card (The River) face-up on the table. The fourth, and final, betting round begins with the first active player to the left of the button.

The Showdown

After the final round of betting, there is a card showdown. Each player displays their cards and one or more winners are declared. All five cards must be shown to win. A combination of any of the following may be used:
Both hole cards and three community cards. One hole card and four community cards. All five community cards (playing the board).

The last player to bet or raise, or to check first if no one else bets, is required to show their cards first at the showdown. The remaining players may or may not show their cards as they wish.

If two or more hands are the same ranking, the winner is the one having the higher cards. If the hands are tied, the highest card not being held in common (the kicker) determines the winner. The suit order of the cards is not taken into account while determining the winning hand(s). Should poker hands be absolutely identical in ranking, the pot will be split evenly between the winning players. If there is an odd chip, the winning player to the left of the button will receive it.