

Here are some guidelines for how to play your blackjack hand:

You have...	Dealer shows...	You should...
8 or less	Doesn't matter	Always hit
9	3,4,5, or 6 2 or 7 and up	Double down Hit
10	2 through 9 10 or Ace	Double down Hit
11	2 through 10 Ace	Double down Hit
12	2, 3, or 7 and up 4 through 6	Hit Stand
13 to 16	7 and above 2 through 6	Hit Stand
17 to 21	Doesn't matter	Always stand

An ace can make things a bit more complicated. Here's what to do if one or both of your cards is an ace:

You have an ace and...	Dealer shows...	You should...
Another ace	Doesn't matter	Always split
2 or 3	5 or 6 Anything else	Double down Hit
4 or 5	4, 5, or 6 Anything else	Double down Hit
6	3 through 6 Anything else	Double down Hit
7	3 through 6 2, 7, or 8 9 and up	Double down Stand Hit
8 or 9	Doesn't matter	Stand
10 and up	Doesn't matter	Stand (You have blackjack!)

Another tricky situation occurs when you are dealt two of the same card initially. The chart below shows what to do in that instance:

You have a pair of...	Dealer shows...	You should...
2s or 3s	4, 5, 6, or 7 Anything else	Split Hit
4s	Doesn't matter	Never split
5s	2 through 9 10 and up	Never split; double down Never split; hit
6s	3, 4, 5, or 6 Anything else	Split Hit
7s	2 through 7 8 and up	Split Hit
8s	Doesn't matter	Always split
9s	2 through 6 7 8 or 9 10 and up	Split Stand Split Stand
10s, jacks, queens, or kings	Doesn't matter	Never split; stand