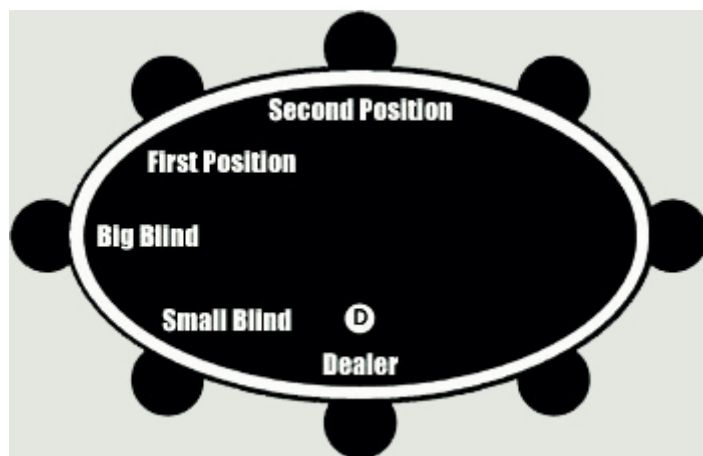




Texas Hold'em is my favorite card game. I have learned a lot over the past two years, which is good because I have probably played over a million hands. Between online poker, and playing at the casino, I will always prefer the casino. The cards do play a big part of the game, but some of it is skill. Here are the instructions to play Texas Hold'em.

1. The table is set up like this.



The blinds are forced bets to encourage betting. Everyone is dealt two cards face down. First position is the first to act, which can either call the big blind, raise, or fold. After everyone calls or folds, the “**Flop**” is dealt. Three cards face up.

This is the flop. Another round of betting, then another card is flipped over. That is called the “**Turn**” finally, the last card is called the river. The river is one of the most important cards. It is especially important for a flush or straight draw. After the five cards are on the table, it's time to bet or show your hand. The best five card hand wins.

Below is a Ranking of the Hands



Royal Flush

Ten, Jack, Queen, King, Ace of the same suit.



Straight Flush

Straight with all five cards in the same suit.



Four of a Kind

Four cards of the same number or face value ("quads").



Full House

Three cards of one number or face value and two cards of another number or face value. If more than one player has a full house, the full house with the highest ranking three of a kind ("trips") wins.



Flush

Five cards of the same suit. If there is more than one flush, the hand with the highest card(s) wins.



Straight

Five cards in sequence. Cards can be in any suit. An Ace can be used in the highest straight (10, J, Q, K, A) and the lowest straight (A, 2, 3, 4, 5).



Three of a Kind

Three cards of the same number or face value ("trips").



Two Pair

If two players have two pair, the hand with the highest pair wins. If they have the same high pair, whoever has the second highest pair wins. If they have the same two pair, whoever has the highest fifth card ("kicker") wins.



One Pair

Two cards of the same number or face value. If two players have the same pair, the highest outside card(s) wins.



High Card

The hand with the highest card(s) wins.