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Strategies Casinos Use To Keep A Person Playing

By Adel Awwad

When entering a casino, you are usually overcome by the lights and the noises of tokens dropping

into the bottom of the slot machine; tokens for the latest winner to scoop up into their bucket. Did you ever stop to notice that there are no clocks or windows? Once you enter a casino, you are on casino time and their goal is to make you lose track of time. Casinos are hoping that the less you worry about the outside world, the longer you will put your tokens into their slots.

Have you noticed that casinos are quick to change your money into tokens or chips as soon as possible? Once you are no longer looking at the actual money, the chips, tokens or credits seem to lose their monetary value. The less you have to dig into your wallet for the cold hard cash, the less likely you are to associate the excitement that casino play offers with the expenses that can be incurred in a loss.

When you enter a casino, have you ever felt like you were getting a good buzz or a sudden burst of energy? Don't just chalk it up to the bustle of the environment or the kind gesture you think you are getting from a free drink. It could be that the casino is actually piping in oxygen. Some casinos use the oxygen to keep you from getting weary therefore enabling you to play the tables or slots longer. The casinos are hoping that the longer your stay at a black jack table or a slot machine, the more chance of a profit for them.

One of the biggest strategies that the casinos use that should be avoided at all costs is the complimentary beverages that are offered to you. Of course, it is hard to turn down a free drink especially when it is being they are free, but those free drinks could end up costing you much more in the long run. We all know that the more we drink, the less inhibited we become and sometimes lose our sense of judgment. When the drinks are flowing freely, the casinos are hoping that your money will be as well. Be it a lack of clocks or the free drinks, the casinos job is to keep you there spending your money and these are just a few of the strategies that casinos are using to keep you playing.

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The Origin Of Blackjack

By Adel Awwad

The game of Blackjack was introduced to the United States in the 19th century but the origin of the game is still much in dispute. Blackjack can be traced back to several European card games including the French `Vingt-Un' (21), `Trente et Quarente', and `Chemin de Fer' (Railroad), as well as the Spanish `One and Thirty', Italian `Baccara' and `Seven and a half' which all have similarities to modern Blackjack.

When gambling was legalized in Nevada in 1934, Blackjack screamed into popularity and was most commonly played with one or two decks of cards. Roger Baldwin published a paper in 1956 which explained how to reduce the house advantage based on probability and statistics which was quite confusing for those who were not mathematicians.

In 1962, Dr. Edward O. Thorp used an IBM 704 computer to refine the mathematical strategy in Baldwin's paper and also developed the first card counting techniques. Dr. Thorp wrote a book called "Beat the Dealer" which outlined card counting techniques and the strategies for reducing the house advantage.

This spawned a huge increase in Blackjack players at the US casinos who were trying to implement Dr. Thorp's strategies, much to the consternation of the casinos. The system was difficult to understand and hard to implement and thusly increased the profits for the casinos as more and more people took to playing Blackjack.

Blackjack is the most popular table card game in the United States today which was transformed from the one table game that used to be stuck in the corner of most casinos. The term Blackjack comes from the `natural hand winner' of the earlier versions of the game when a player was dealt the Jack and Ace of Spades in his initial two card hand. The player was declared an automatic winner and was paid a bonus. In today's version of Blackjack, any ace combined with any ten point value card—10, jack, queen and king, counts as a natural Blackjack, except after a split.

Blackjack is a widely popular game around the world and has only seen an increase in players as the years progress. What once was a game that was not popular and seemingly too difficult to play with `strategies' and `counting cards' it is now the most popular card game to play at a casino in most of the world.

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