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## The Advantages Of Learning Blackjack Strategies

By Joe Goertz

Many people play blackjack, but they don't really call it that way, and they only play it for fun,

without worrying about winning, losing or putting any thought into the skills involved in the game, since it is "only" a game.

However, there are some people who play blackjack in casinos, and they do worry about winning, since their money is on the line. So they can learn the lesson the easy way or the hard way: losing all their money or realizing they need some techniques before they go to a casino. Then they know that they have to learn more, instead of relying only on their luck.

If you're new to gambling, you might question why blackjack strategies are so important. The concept of the game is straightforward: beat the dealer's point total without going over 21. Sounds simple, but if it was that easy you can guarantee that it wouldn't be a casino game. There are some things that you can do though to improve your chances of coming out with a positive result.

Of course it's a game played with cards, but take a deeper look into the mechanics of the game and you'll find it's fundamentally a mathematical challenge. There is an element of chance to the fall of the cards but at the same time there is a limited number of cards that can be dealt. If you play your cards right you can gain an advantage over the house.

When I first started researching these strategies there was little published information available. Like any other topic now, there are numerous websites outlining blackjack strategies so I am able to keep abreast of the very latest trends in the game. The internet has not only changed the amount of information available on the game, it has also transformed how the game is played. Today you don't even need to leave home to indulge in the blackjack experience. This game along with many others is playable online.

Just as playing the game differs from home to being in a casino, the strategies that you would employ when playing these games will be different. It may seem like the same game but you'll need to make slightly different decision on certain card combinations. If you intend on playing online ensure that the strategies you research and use relate to that mode of play.

## The Advantages Of Learning Blackjack Strategies

As with any form of gambling, there can be no guarantee that you will be a winner. There is a very real chance you could lose. The aim of understanding the strategy behind the game is to allow you to make informed decisions that will increase your odds of success. Proven strategies can make a difference.

More from this author at:

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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 Quarante', 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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