

Poker has a language somewhat to itself. Party Poker provides with a glossary to familiarize yourself with poker terms. Many of the poker terms in this glossary are linked to one another. If you click a link within a definition, click your browser's "back" button to return to the definition you just left.

## ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

### A

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aces Full         | A <a href="#">full house</a> with three aces and any <a href="#">pair</a> .                                                                                                       |
| Ace-High          | A five card <a href="#">hand</a> that contains one Ace, with no <a href="#">straight</a> or <a href="#">flush</a> or a hand with no pair in it.                                   |
| Aces Up           | A <a href="#">hand</a> that contains two <a href="#">pairs</a> , one of which is Aces.                                                                                            |
| Action            | Checking/Betting/Raising. A game in which players are playing a lot of pots is considered an "action" game.                                                                       |
| Active Player     | Any player who is still in the <a href="#">hand</a> .                                                                                                                             |
| Add-on            | A purchase of more chips (optional) at the end of the re-buy period in a tournament.                                                                                              |
| All-In            | When a player <a href="#">bets</a> all his/her chips.: In <a href="#">online poker</a> , you may be deemed "All-in" when you are disconnected (even if you have chips remaining). |
| American Airlines | Two Aces.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Ante              | Money placed in the <a href="#">pot</a> before the <a href="#">hand</a> is begun.                                                                                                 |

### B

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bad Beat     | When a <a href="#">hand</a> is beaten by a lucky draw.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Belly Buster | A draw and/or catch to an <a href="#">Inside Straight</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Bet          | To place chips into the <a href="#">pot</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Bet the Pot  | When a player bets the amount of the <a href="#">pot</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Bicycle      | A straight that is A-2-3-4-5.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Big Blind    | A designated amount that is placed by the player sitting in the second position, clockwise from the dealer, before any cards are dealt. (Players joining a game in progress must post a Big Blind, but may do so from any position.)                                                               |
| Big Slick    | A hand that contains an A-K.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Blind        | The bet(s) that must be made by the two players sitting directly to the dealer's left which will start the action on the first <a href="#">round of betting</a> . The blinds are posted before any cards are dealt. (A "Blind" bet is one that is made in the dark without looking at your cards.) |
| Blind Raise  | When a player <a href="#">raises</a> without looking at his hand.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Bluff        | To make other players believe that one has a better <a href="#">hand</a> than he/she might otherwise have by <a href="#">betting</a> or <a href="#">raising</a> when they do not have the best hand.                                                                                               |
| Boardcards   | The cards that are dealt face-up in a <a href="#">poker game</a> for all players to see. In <a href="#">flop games</a> , five cards are dealt face-up in the center of the table. In <a href="#">Seven Card Stud</a> , four cards are dealt face-up in front of each player.                       |
| Bottom Pair  | When a player uses the lowest card on the <a href="#">flop</a> to make a <a href="#">pair</a> with one of his own cards.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Broadway     | An Ace high <a href="#">straight</a> (A-K-Q-J-10).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Bring-In     | The forced bet made on the first round of betting by the player who is dealt the lowest card showing in <a href="#">Seven Card Stud</a> and Stud 8 or Better. In <a href="#">Razz</a> (Lowball) it is the highest card showing                                                                     |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bring It In       | To start the betting on the first round.                                                                                                                                                       |
| Broomcorn's Uncle | A player who antes himself broke.                                                                                                                                                              |
| Bullets           | A <a href="#">pair</a> of Aces.                                                                                                                                                                |
| Bump              | To <a href="#">raise</a> .                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Button            | Also known as the dealer button, it is a small round disk that is moved from player to player in a clockwise direction following each hand, to theoretically indicate the dealer of each hand. |
| Buy-In            | The minimum amount of money required by a player to sit down in a particular poker game.                                                                                                       |

## C

|                 |                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Call            | When a player chooses to match the previous bet.                                                                                             |
| Call Cold       | To call both a bet and <a href="#">raise(s)</a> .                                                                                            |
| Cap             | To take the last of the maximum amount of <a href="#">raises</a> allowed per round of betting.                                               |
| Cardroom        | The room or space in a casino where poker is played.                                                                                         |
| Case Chips      | A player's last chips.                                                                                                                       |
| Cash Out        | To leave a game and convert your chips to cash.                                                                                              |
| Check           | When it's a player's turn to act and there has been no action in front of them and he opts not to bet, he "checks."                          |
| Check-Raise     | When a player first checks and then raises in a betting round.                                                                               |
| Chop            | To return the blinds to the players who posted them and move on to the next hand if no other players call. It also means to "split the pot". |
| Collusion       | When two or more players conspire to cheat in a <a href="#">poker game</a> .                                                                 |
| Community Cards | Cards that are face-up and used by all players.                                                                                              |
| Cowboys         | Two Kings.                                                                                                                                   |

## D

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dead Man's Hand | Two pair – Aces and Eights (Wild Bill Hickock was shot in the back while playing this hand).                                                                          |
| Door Card       | This is the first exposed card, or "up" card, in a player's hand in Stud games.                                                                                       |
| Down Card       | <a href="#">Hole</a> cards. Cards that are dealt face down.                                                                                                           |
| Doyle Brunson   | It's a Holdem hand consisting of a 10-2 (Brunson won the world championship two years in a row on the final hand with these cards).                                   |
| Draw Lowball    | Form of <a href="#">poker</a> where each player is dealt five cards with the option of discarding one or more and replacing them with new ones and the low hand wins. |
| Draw Poker      | Form of poker where each player is dealt five cards down with the option of discarding one or more and replacing them with new ones to attempt to make a better hand. |
| Drop            | <a href="#">Fold</a> .                                                                                                                                                |
| Ducks           | A pair of Twos.                                                                                                                                                       |
| Deuces          | A pair of Twos.                                                                                                                                                       |

## E

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Early Position | Position on a round of betting where the player must act before most of the other players at the table. (It's considered the two positions located to the left of the <a href="#">Blinds</a> .) |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## F

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fifth Street   | Also known as the “ <a href="#">river</a> ” card. In <a href="#">flop games</a> , this represents the fifth <a href="#">community</a> card on the table and the final round of betting. In <a href="#">Stud games</a> , this is the fifth card dealt to each player and represents the third round of betting. |
| Five-card Draw | A poker game in which the player is dealt five cards down. They have one draw to replace them and the best high hand wins the pot.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Five-card Stud | A poker game in which each player is dealt five cards, one down and four up, with betting after 2, 3, 4, & 5 cards.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Flat Call      | <a href="#">Calling</a> a bet without <a href="#">raising</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Flop           | In <a href="#">Hold'em</a> and <a href="#">Omaha</a> , the first three <a href="#">community</a> cards that are dealt face-up in the center of the table all at one time. The “flop” also indicates the second round of betting.                                                                               |
| Flop Games     | <a href="#">Poker games</a> ( <a href="#">Hold 'em</a> and <a href="#">Omaha</a> ) that are played using <a href="#">community</a> cards that are dealt face up in the center of the table.                                                                                                                    |
| Floorman       | An employee of the cardroom who makes rulings and decisions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Flush          | Any five cards of the same suit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Flush Draw     | When a player has four cards in his hand of the same suit and is hoping to draw a fifth to make a flush.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Fold           | To throw your hand away when it's your turn to act.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Forced Bet     | A required bet that starts the action on the first round of a <a href="#">poker hand</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Four of a Kind | Four cards of the same number or face value (“quads”).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Fourth Street  | In <a href="#">flop games</a> , it is the fourth <a href="#">community</a> card dealt (also known as “the turn”) and represents the third round of betting. In <a href="#">Stud games</a> , it is the fourth card dealt to each player and represents the second round of betting.                             |
| Full House     | Any three cards of the same number or face value, plus any other two cards of the same number or face value.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## G

Gut Shot To draw to and/or hit an inside straight.

## H

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hand       | A player's best five cards.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| High-Card  | To decide the first dealer in the flop tournaments each user is dealt a single card and the player with the highest card (based on the card and the suit order – of spades, hearts, diamonds & clubs) becomes the theoretical dealer. |
| High-Low   | Split pot games.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Hold 'em   | Also known as Texas Hold 'em, where the players get two <a href="#">down</a> cards and five <a href="#">community</a> cards. See our complete <a href="#">Hold 'em</a> rules in our <a href="#">Game Rules</a> section.               |
| Hole Cards | These are the <a href="#">Down Cards</a> in front of the players.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| House      | The casino or cardroom that is hosting the poker game.                                                                                                                                                                                |

[Back to top](#)

## I

**Inside Straight** Four cards which require another between the top and the bottom card to complete a [straight](#). Players who catch this card make an Inside Straight.

## J

**Jackpot Poker** A form of poker in which the cardroom or casino offers a jackpot to a player who has lost with a really big hand (usually Aces full or better).

**Jacks-or-Better** A form of [poker](#) in which a player needs to have at least a pair of jacks to open the betting.

## K

**Kansas City Lowball** Form of [lowball](#) poker in which the worst poker hand (2, 3, 4, 5, 7 of different suits) is the best hand. It's also known as Deuce to Seven.

**Keep Them Honest** To call at the end of a hand to prevent someone from bluffing.

**Key Card** A card that gives you a big draw or makes your [hand](#).

**Key Hand** In a session or tournament, the one hand that ends up being a turning point for the player, either for better or worse.

**Kicker** The highest unpaired side card in a players' hand.

**Kick It** [Raise](#).

**Kill Pot** A method to stimulate action. It is a forced bet by someone who has just won a pot(s).

**Knock** [Check](#).

**Kojak** A hand that contains a K-J.

## L

**Ladies** Two Queens.

**Late Position** Position on a round of betting where the player must act after most of the other players have acted (usually considered to be the two positions next to the [button](#)).

**Lay Down Your Hand** When a player [folds](#).

**Lead** The first player to bet into a [pot](#).

**Limit Poker** A game that has fixed minimum and maximum betting intervals along with a prescribed number of raises.

**Limper** The first player who calls a bet.

**Limp In** To enter the [pot](#) by calling rather than [raising](#). (The usual concept of "Limp In" is when the first person to speak just calls the Big Blind.)

**Live Blind** An instance where the player puts in a dark bet and is allowed to [raise](#), even if no other player raises. It's also known as an "[option](#)".

**Live Card(s)** In [Stud Games](#), cards that have not yet been seen and are presumed to still be in play.

**Live Hand** A [hand](#) that could still win the [pot](#).

**Live One** A not so knowledgeable player who plays a lot of hands.

**Look** When a player calls the final bet before the [showdown](#).

**Loose** Is a player who plays a lot hands.

**Lowball** Is a form of [draw poker](#) in which the lowest hand wins the pot.

[Back to top](#)

## M

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Main Pot        | The center pot. Any other bets are placed in a <a href="#">side pot(s)</a> and are contested among the remaining players. This occurs when a player(s) goes <a href="#">all-in</a> . |
| Make            | To make the deck is to shuffle the deck.                                                                                                                                             |
| Maniac          | A very aggressive player who plays a lot of hands.                                                                                                                                   |
| Middle Pair     | In <a href="#">flop games</a> , when a player makes a pair with one of his/her <a href="#">down cards</a> and the middle card on the <a href="#">flop</a> .                          |
| Middle Position | Somewhere between the early and late positions on a round of betting (the fifth, sixth and seventh seats to the left of the <a href="#">button</a> ).                                |
| Muck            | To discard or throw away your <a href="#">hand</a> . It's also a pile of cards that are no longer in play.                                                                           |
| Minimum Buy-In  | The least amount you can start a game with.                                                                                                                                          |
| Monster         | A very big <a href="#">hand</a> . In a tournament, a player who begins to accumulate chips after having a small stack is considered to be a monster.                                 |

## N

|          |                                                                                                                       |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No Limit | A game where players can bet as much as they like (as long as they have it in front of them) on any round of betting. |
| Nuts     | The best possible <a href="#">hand</a> at any point of the game. A hand that cannot be beat.                          |

## O

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Odds                | The probability of making a <a href="#">hand</a> vs. the probability of not making a hand.                                                                                          |
| Offsuit             | Cards of a different suit.                                                                                                                                                          |
| Omaha               | A game in which each player is dealt four <a href="#">down cards</a> with five community cards. To make your hand, you must play two cards from your hand and three from the board. |
| Open                | To make the first bet.                                                                                                                                                              |
| Open-ended Straight | Four consecutive cards whereby one additional (consecutive) card is needed at either end to make a <a href="#">straight</a> .                                                       |
| Open Card           | A card that is dealt face-up.                                                                                                                                                       |
| Open Pair           | A <a href="#">pair</a> that has been dealt face-up.                                                                                                                                 |
| Option              | An option is a <a href="#">Live Blind</a> made in the dark before the cards are dealt. If no one raises, the "option" player may raise the pot.                                     |
| Out Button          | A disc placed in front of a player who wishes to sit out a hand(s) but remain in the game.                                                                                          |

## P

|               |                                                                                                             |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paints        | Face or picture cards (Jack, Queen and King).                                                               |
| Pair          | Two cards of the same face or number value.                                                                 |
| Pass          | To <a href="#">fold</a> .                                                                                   |
| Pay Off       | To <a href="#">call</a> on the final round of betting when you may or may not think you have the best hand. |
| Picture Cards | Face cards (Jack, Queen and King).                                                                          |
| Play Back     | To <a href="#">raise</a> or re-raise another player's bet.                                                  |

[Back to top](#)

|                   |                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Playing the Board | In <a href="#">flop games</a> when your best five card hand is all five of the <a href="#">community</a> cards.             |
| Pocket            | The <a href="#">down cards</a> or <a href="#">hole cards</a> .                                                              |
| Pocket Rockets    | A pair of Aces in the <a href="#">pocket</a> or <a href="#">hole</a> .                                                      |
| Position          | Where a player is seated in relation to the dealer, therefore establishing that player's place in the betting order.        |
| Post              | When you post a bet, you place your chips in the <a href="#">pot</a> . (You must post the <a href="#">Blinds</a> .)         |
| Pot               | The money or chips in the center of a table that players try to win.                                                        |
| Pot Limit         | This is a game where the maximum bet can equal the <a href="#">pot</a> .                                                    |
| Prop              | A person hired by the cardroom to work as a <a href="#">skill</a> .                                                         |
| Push              | When the dealer pushes the chips to the winning player at the end of a hand. It's also when dealers rotate to other tables. |
| Put Down          | To <a href="#">fold</a> a hand.                                                                                             |

## Q

|           |                                                                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quads     | Four of a kind.                                                                               |
| Qualifier | In <a href="#">High-Low</a> games, it is a requirement the Low hand must meet to win the pot. |

## R

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rack             | A tray that holds 100 poker chips in five stacks of twenty chips each.                                                                                                                           |
| Rail             | The rim of a poker table or a barrier outside a poker area.                                                                                                                                      |
| Railbird         | Someone who hangs around a <a href="#">poker room</a> who watches the games and/or is looking to get into action.                                                                                |
| Raise            | To increase the previous bet.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Rake             | Chips taken from the <a href="#">pot</a> by the cardroom for compensation for hosting the game.                                                                                                  |
| Rank             | The value of each card and hand.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Rap              | When a player knocks on the table indicating that he/she has <a href="#">checked</a> .                                                                                                           |
| Razz             | Seven Card Stud where the lowest five cards win the pot.                                                                                                                                         |
| Re-buy           | The amount of money a player pays to add a fixed number of chips to his/her stack in a tournament.                                                                                               |
| Re-raise         | To raise a <a href="#">raise</a> .                                                                                                                                                               |
| Ring Game        | A "live" game that is not a tournament.                                                                                                                                                          |
| River            | This is the last card given in all games. In <a href="#">Hold'em</a> and <a href="#">Omaha</a> , it is also known as 5th street. In <a href="#">Stud games</a> , it is also known as 7th street. |
| Round of Betting | This is when players have the opportunity to <a href="#">bet</a> , <a href="#">check</a> or <a href="#">raise</a> . Each round of betting ends when the last bet or raise has been called.       |
| Rounders         | Guys who hustle for a living. This is also the name of a popular poker movie starring Matt Damon and Ed Norton.                                                                                  |
| Royal Flush      | This is an Ace high straight (A-K-Q-J-10) of the same suit. It is the best possible hand in poker.                                                                                               |

[Back to top](#)

## S

|              |                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Satellite    | It is a mini-tournament to gain an entry into a larger tournament.                                                              |
| Scoop        | To win the entire <a href="#">pot</a> .                                                                                         |
| Seating List | A waiting list. A player would put his or her name on this list if there were no seats at the table at which they wish to play. |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Second Pair     | In <a href="#">flop games</a> , when you pair the second highest card on the board.                                                                                                           |
| See             | To call.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Seven-card Stud | A well-known poker game in which players get three down cards and four up cards. You play the best five of those seven cards. Click here for information on <a href="#">Seven-card Stud</a> . |
| Seventh Street  | This is the final round of betting in Seven Card Stud and Stud 8 or Better.                                                                                                                   |
| Skills          | Skills are paid <a href="#">props</a> who help start and maintain poker games.                                                                                                                |
| Showdown        | At the end of the final betting round, it's when all active players turn their cards faceup to see who has won the <a href="#">pot</a> .                                                      |
| Side Pot        | A separate pot(s) which is contested by remaining active players when one or more players are all-in.                                                                                         |
| Sixth Street    | In <a href="#">Seven-card Stud</a> , this is the fourth "up" card dealt to the player (their 6th card). It is also the 4th round of betting.                                                  |
| Solid           | A fairly tight player (and reasonably good).                                                                                                                                                  |
| Small Blind     | The amount put in the pot by the person immediately to the left of the dealer "button" prior to the cards being dealt.                                                                        |
| Speed Limit     | A pair of fives.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Split           | Tie.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Stack           | A pile of chips.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Stay            | When a player remains in the game by <a href="#">calling</a> rather than <a href="#">raising</a> .                                                                                            |
| Steel Wheel     | A five high straight (A-2-3-4-5) of the same suit.                                                                                                                                            |
| Straddle        | A straddle is a Blind bet which is usually double the size of the Big Blind\ (and that player may raise when the action gets to him).                                                         |
| Straight        | Five consecutive cards of any suit.                                                                                                                                                           |
| Straight Flush  | Five consecutive cards of the same suit.                                                                                                                                                      |
| Structure       | The limits put on the <a href="#">blinds/ante</a> , <a href="#">bets</a> , and <a href="#">raises</a> in any particular game.                                                                 |
| Stud Games      | Games in which players get down cards and up cards.                                                                                                                                           |
| Stuck           | A player who is losing in a game.                                                                                                                                                             |

## T

|                 |                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Texas Hold'em   | This is also the name for <a href="#">Hold'em</a> , the most popular form of poker.                                           |
| Third Street    | In <a href="#">Seven Card Stud</a> and Seven Card Stud 8 or Better, this is the first betting round on the first three cards. |
| Thirty Miles    | Three tens.                                                                                                                   |
| Three of a Kind | Three cards of the same number or face value ("trips").                                                                       |
| Tight           | A player who doesn't play many pots. A tight game is one that doesn't have much action.                                       |
| TOC             | Tournament of Champions.                                                                                                      |
| Top Pair        | In <a href="#">flop games</a> , when the player pairs one of his <a href="#">down cards</a> with the highest card on board.   |
| Treys           | A pair of threes.                                                                                                             |
| Trips           | Three of a kind.                                                                                                              |
| Turn            | In <a href="#">flop games</a> , this is the fourth card dealt. It is the third round of betting.                              |
| Two Pair        | A hand consisting of two different pairs.                                                                                     |

[Back to top](#)

## U

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| Up Card | A card that is dealt face-up. |
|---------|-------------------------------|

## Poker Lingo

### V-W

Walking Sticks

Wild Card

Worst Hand

WSOP

A pair of sevens.

A card that can be played as any value.

A losing hand.

[World Series of Poker.](#)