

The DUMMY **Proof Guide to** **Winning At** **Online Poker**



2018 Edition

**Increase Your Winning
Percentage Overnight!!!!!!!**

This Ebook is a collaboration of a group of online pro's who want to share their beginner's guide to online poker with tips to give you an edge. It features advice written specifically for the poker player new to the online poker and prepare you for the online poker world.

This EBook will cover subjects concerning why poker is so popular and why the correct strategy is so crucial in the virtual poker room. Along with useful advice avoiding the mistakes that many new online players routinely make.

Read,Learn,Practice

and

Enjoy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Beginners' Guide to Online Poker

Online poker is going through another boom right now, and it's never been a better time to play on the web for [real money](#)

Sites have come and gone, the scandals have largely gone away, and some sites are pulling out of unregulated jurisdictions around the world.

That's why it's never been safer or easier for beginners to get playing [Texas Hold'em](#), [Stud](#) or [Omaha](#) online.

On this page, we list a few of the key things you'll need to do to get you up and running, from setting up an account and choosing the right games to depositing and brushing up on your strategy.

Hopefully, with this easy-to-follow beginners' guide you'll be able to register for your first online account and get playing in no time

1 Getting Started: Choosing a Site

More important than bankroll, skill or what username you choose is which site you end up playing at.

Choose a site carefully and make sure the online room works for you. Every player is different, but some sites are better suited to beginners than others.

These may have a lot of easy cash games, plenty of freerolls which offer free daily cash, and perhaps a lot of casual players filling up the tables. You don't want to play at a site where you're going to struggle for a game or get eaten up by sharks.

Pick a reputable site with a good track record of paying out fast to players and one that has reliable security. You can find the best sites listed right here on [OnlinePoker.com](#).

2 Downloading and Setting Up An Account

Poker rooms are divided between download and no-download sites. Download clients save onto your desktop and will work with PCs (some work on Macs too). [No-download](#), "instant play" rooms are accessed via your web browser. These can be good options if you're [playing on a Mac](#) or you want to log-in to a poker account from a variety of mobile devices and other machines.

Whichever format you choose, you'll have to pick a username and password when registering for an account.

There's more information on our 'Opening an Account' page but there are some simple tips to choosing a log-in: make sure the username and password are hard to guess (warding off any hackers), and pick an on-screen Alias (different to your username) that stands out. Some sites also let you upload an image to accompany your username at the tables.

3 Making a Deposit

Unless you've won a bunch of cash via freerolls (see below), real-money players will have to make an initial deposit.

Banking options vary from site to site, and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction depending on where you live, but choose a method that works for you. If you want to find out more about deposit options, visit one of our dedicated pages on this site.

Making a quick deposit is as easy as selecting the banking method from the Cashier, entering your card number or e-Wallet log-in, and clicking the deposit button.

First-time depositors may have to go through a verification process first in order for the funds to be processed, but this is normally quick and just requires sending scans of your ID documents to the poker site.

4 Picking The Right Games For You

It's easy to be dazzled by the bright lights and big-stakes games in the lobby. They're so accessible there's often no fear in just clicking on a high-stakes game and sitting down. You would never do it in a land-based casino, so why do it online?

Poker is all about mastering the level you're on at that moment. So start off low, understand and **regularly** crush the micro-stakes levels, and find sites with the most fish.

If you're a tournament player, the low buy-in Hold'em tourneys will have lots of casual players just dying to give their money away.

Top Tip: Try Out Freerolls

Every top site (check our dedicated page on finding the best freerolls) will run daily and weekly freerolls offering free cash or player points. There's no fee to enter (some may require player points as a 'buy-in') and they can be a good way to learn the mechanics of an online poker table or to get used to a new poker site.

Don't see freeroll tournaments as a way of making long-term profits or improving your game; most freerolls are packed with players either from countries where real-money poker is outlawed or bored players with a couple of hours free.

That means you're more likely to see lots of loose, crazy play during tournaments: players may open bets with terrible hands, go all-in with garbage and bluff crazily with marginal holdings.

But if you employ a sensible, solid ABC game, there's no reason why freerolls can't prepare you for the more serious real-money action later on.

5 Learn Your Way Around The Screen

OK, so you've set up an account, you've chosen an alias, and you've picked a friendly \$0.05/\$0.10 cash game to sit down at. Now you need to get your bearings at the table.

There can be so much going on at an online game you can sometimes lose your way when all you want to do is play.

Most sites have different software to one another but essentially the layout is the same: a chatbox in the bottom corner to follow the action and talk to other players, links to the Cashier and Hand History at the top, and a betting adjuster in the bottom-right corner.

Have a play with where everything is before you've even started a hand (you can always select the 'Sit Out' option to remove yourself from the game temporarily) and make sure you're familiar with all the jargon.

The Hand History tab can be helpful if you want to review past hands or see a hand an opponent mucked at showdown. If you hover the cursor over your opponents' screen names you will also find information on where the player is from and their stack size.

6 Learn the Basic Rules: Texas Hold'em

Although you don't need to become a World Series of Poker-conquering legend to succeed in poker, it's good to learn a few moves like bluffs, continuation bets and decent hand selection.

Check out our in-depth guides on OnlinePoker.com for solid Texas Hold'em tips to get you started. However, to get you started, here are a few decent beginners' tips for Hold'em players.

Texas Hold'em is the most popular form of poker in the world. And it's easy to see why: the game is fun, fast and easy to pick up. But even new starters can do with a few pointers.

Hold'em is a poker variant played with 2-10 players on a table. Each player receives two cards 'in the hole' which are hidden to everyone else.

The players must make the best five-card hand formed of ANY 5 of their two hole cards and five 'community cards' dealt face up in the middle of the table - the 'board'. Betting rounds take place before the first three cards are dealt (pre-flop), after the flop (post-flop), after the fourth card (the turn) and a final round after the fifth card has been dealt (the river).

If there are two or more players left in a hand at the end, a showdown takes place and the best hand takes the pot.

Bets run clockwise from the Dealer (Seat 1) and start with two forced bets - the Small Blind and Big Blind. The Seat 3 player (Under the Gun) is next and bets proceed on from there.

The blinds will increase during a tournament to keep the action progressing to a conclusion, but always stay the same in a cash game.

Hand Selection & Betting Size

Next, learn to gauge your bets. You'll see a bar at the bottom of the screen where you can size your bets. Some sites let you programme these in automatically (quarter-pot, third-pot, half-pot, 3x BB etc) to make your decisions easier. This is particularly helpful if you're playing multiple tables.

With basic Hold'em, especially in cash games, it's good to stick to betting amounts. This makes both your decision-making easier and your opponents' ability to gauge your play harder.

A raise of 3x the big blind when holding strong hands is a good play as it's not too high you'll be forced to make a decision for all your chips, and not too low so as to attract lots of players.

A 3x raise usually forces out the majority of players in a hand; then you can concentrate on taking on one or two players after the flop.

Perhaps one of the most important tips a beginner player can learn is knowing when to fold. There's never any harm in tossing your hand into the muck if you think you're beat; many players have kept their money by knowing when it's a good time to fold.

You will see many more hands in a game of online poker than you will in a live game; there's always another hand around the corner. Learn a patient approach and stick to it.

Hand selection is key for all poker players, but most important when you're starting out. A strict range of hands will keep you disciplined in cash games and tournaments, and ensure you don't go broke.

A tight, solid strategy is good for beginners. In a game of Texas Hold'em, you need to be raising with strong pocket pairs like 10-10, J-J, Q-Q, K-K, and A-A, plus suited connectors like Q-J, K-Q and A-K.

While hand selection and ranges can alter depending on the opponents, the general aggressiveness of the table, and the chip-stacks, maintaining a basic, [strong hand selection](#) is a good strategy for beginners.

7 Learn to Multi-Table

After you've become adept at the basics, consider [multi-tabling](#). The beauty of online poker is that, unlike live poker, you aren't restricted to playing just one table at a time.

All online sites let you play multiple tables at once. If you can handle it, load up two cash games, Sit 'n' Gos or tournaments, and play them simultaneously. Once you've got those mastered without losing concentration, add another. And once you can comfortably crack three, add a fourth.

Making long-term profits in online poker is all about volume: the more hands you fit in per hour, the more money you can make, and the more hands you can play, the more you can handle the variance (long-term swings in luck).

Remember, all players (even the pros) go through periods when the cards just aren't with them. It's important to play enough poker to ride out the bad times. And if you're having a bad time of it, take a break from all poker for a week to recharge the batteries.

8 Hit the Tables and Earn Bonus Points

Start low: load up a micro-stakes cash game like .02/.04 and choose a game like No Limit Hold'em that most casual players will know.

Now it's time to start getting used to the site, the software and the opponents and work up those levels.

Eventually, you'll be in a position to start taking advantage of a deposit bonus. These can be earned just for accruing frequent player points and exchanged for cash.

Rakeback and sponsor deals also exist for solid online poker players who are able to rack up a lot of time at the tables. These deals provide you with a bankroll and coaching to help improve your play

Open Several Poker Accounts

If you think online poker is about picking out just one site and opening an account, think again.

No two poker rooms are alike: some have a wide range of micro-stakes cash games but the tournaments suck, while another room might have good online qualifiers to live tournaments but the cash games have no traffic.

It's easy to set up more than one account, so do it. Download about 4 or 5 clients to your desktop, or open a couple of no-download accounts, and shop around to find a good weekly schedule

Then, fill your diary with the best guaranteed midweek tournaments, a top-quality Sunday Major offering millions in prize money, and a room with lots of fishy cash players.

Online poker rooms are fighting for your money, so make them work for you.

Online Poker and Online Strategy – Learning the Game

On the best of days, poker is a difficult game to wrap your head around at the highest levels. There are a number of different terms and some terminology that can confuse or even push people away from online poker.

5 Ways to Improve Your Bankroll Management

As any gambler will tell you, aiming too high too soon will eventually see your entire poker bankroll disappear faster than you can load up a Sit 'n' Go.

There's so much choice today in online poker that it can be easy to get carried away and try games that you don't understand at levels you can't comfortably beat.

Employing and understanding simple bankroll management is key to a happier real-money poker life. Managing your bankroll means you can handle the wins as well as the losses, and you'll be well-placed if you have any big swings in variance.

1 - What is Bankroll Management?

Essentially, bankroll management is having a strict betting structure in place when you choose what games to play.

If you're a cash player it means having a set amount of big blinds or buy-ins in your roll, and if you're a tournament or SNG player having enough buy-ins ready so that you can spread your cash wisely without going bust.

Playing within your bankroll, or playing within the correct limits, is essential if you want to be a profitable long-term player.

2 - How to Manage a Good Bankroll

Managing your funds is all about having the right buy-in to bankroll ratio. While there are no set-in-stone figures involved, you can follow a fairly simple plan for online poker.

For cash game players, it's good to have 20x the MAXIMUM buy-in at one table. If your level is .25/.50 No Limit Hold'em, and the maximum buy-in is 100 big blinds - or - you should have 20x that, or ,000.

Of course, if you want to crush online cash games and earn rakeback or trigger a welcome bonus, you'll want to be raking as much as possible. And that means multi-tabling.

So, as you improve, you might decide to add one or two more tables. For each extra table, add ,000 to your bankroll. The figures start adding up, don't they?

The same applies to Sit 'n Gos or MTTs (Multi-table tournaments). If you are playing SNGs, consider having 50x the buy-in in your account, or ,100. (And yes, include the tournament fees in your roll.)

3 - Choosing Your Stakes and Games

While basic bankroll management levels are fairly straightforward, having a big roll doesn't mean you're going to win; you also have to choose the right games.

There's no point loading up a .25/.50 NLHE table with ,000 if you don't know how to play cash poker.

Bankroll management is all about managing your skill level too. So, your roll acquires a lot more 'value' if you're comfortably crushing .02/.04 cash games rather than you seeing a lot more variance at the .25/.50 levels and above.

4 - Moving Up and Down the Levels

Everyone has bad periods of poker, even skilful players. Variance is one of those things about poker and shows that the game isn't all skill.

Good bankroll management makes sure you can handle the swings and if you are on a massive downswing you won't go bust.

Keep an eye on your bankroll and work out what you have left after a bad session. Re-calculate your funds; if your entire roll drops below 10 buy-ins (e.g. at a .25/.50 NLHE table) consider dropping down to the .10/.20 tables to build up your money again. Once you've recouped your losses, move back to the highest level you're comfortable at.

Similarly, if you're on a good run and you are regularly crushing games at your level, consider moving up. Let's say you have a healthy roll of ,000 and are winning at the .25/.50 cash games, take a shot at the .50/.00 levels.

True, the skill levels will be slightly higher at most sites, but not so much that you will be struggling. Plus, you're still employing sensible bankroll management as your winnings are in safe territory.

5 - Making Your Bankroll Go Further

The great thing about online poker is that sites are fighting for your custom, so why do all the hard work when they can help you with your roll?

Look for good, regular promotions at the top sites like rake races, reload bonuses and big-money guaranteed tournaments.

Bonuses like these can add lots of value to your account and help you make extra cash over the long-term. Making the sites work in your favor is a strategy every serious online player should be mastering.

Tilt Can Kill Your Bankroll

While some sensible bankroll management is important, discipline is also key to maintaining your cash levels.

Online poker is so readily available, it can be easy to load up a table when you're tired or bored, and there's nothing to stop you trying the big levels that are out of your league.

Filter out your lobby (many online sites allow this) to only display the games your bankroll will allow. Next, switch off all distractions like a second monitor with a web browser/Netflix/sports, etc. And never drink while playing; you will lose sight of not only your ability but also your bankroll.

Finally, going on tilt can result in you making bad decisions, taking a "gamble", and siphoning off valuable bankroll to a game you shouldn't be in. Avoid tilt and you will [avoid](#) decimating your bankroll.

Six Top Poker Bluff Tips

It would be great to win every poker hand by holding the best hand every time. Unfortunately, poker doesn't work like that.

Poker is a game of bluffs and deceptions; constantly "telling stories" about your hand and forcing players out of pots they are probably ahead in.

While beginners can struggle with pulling off successful bluffs and making them seem natural, with a few tips anyone can force anyone else out of a big pot.

1. Whittling The Field Down

If you're thinking of pulling off an audacious bluff, you have to consider two things: the type of player you're up against, and the number of players. Before bluffing, assess your table over a few hands. A table full of weak-passive players who regularly fold to aggressive raises will be easier to bluff than a table packed with aggressive players who love to re-raise and won't lay a hand down.

Secondly, bluffing is easier to do when you're up against fewer players. You want to isolate one or two players ideally as it's much harder to force out more than that, and your marginal hand is more likely to be behind anyway.

2. The Continuation Bet

In low-stakes SNGs and cash games, the Continuation Bet, or c-bet, can be a very useful weapon in your armoury.

Effectively, the c-bet is an opening bet on the flop after you've raised pre-flop, regardless of what your hand is.

In micro-stakes cash games and Sit 'n' Gos, the c-bet will often get past opponents who've missed the flop. They will think as far as seeing that they missed the flop and are happy to fold to any bet. While the pots are often small, c-bets can accumulate to add valuable chips to your stack.

3. The False Tell

Reading tells is an essential skill to assess your opponents' hand range or state of mind. However, giving off false tells to observant opponents is perhaps the greatest bluff you can pull off at a live table.

False tells can include agonizing over a decision (or even running the clock down) before making a re-raise with the absolute nuts, or making table talk. For example, saying something like, "If I fold, will you show me your hand?" is a good way of bluffing an opponent into thinking you have a semi-strong hand that requires some thought before calling.

4. Don't Be Scared to Show the Bluff

Bluffing is as much about gauging what your opponent is holding as well as over-representing your own hand.

But if your bluff comes off, don't be afraid of showing your hand at showdown. Not only do you earn some bragging rights over your opponent for stealing a pot, but the rest of the table can see what kind of hand you're happy to bluff with.

Now, your "story" is set up going into the next hand and an image is set for the rest of the table

5. Stay Consistent

Successful bluffs are about being consistent throughout a hand. There's no point checking a flop and turn, then betting strong on the river to steal a pot. Canny opponents will sense a bluff straight away and your "smart" bet on the river will turn out to be anything but. If the hand is no good on the flop and turn, don't try to "turn your hand into a bluff" come the final card. It can be the fastest way to lose valuable chips.

In addition, never get attached to a bluff that's going nowhere. If your bluff is being called down to the river and your opponent isn't buying the deception, let the hand go.

6. The Semi-Bluff

The semi-bluff is a hand that has potential to become the best hand once you get to the river but probably isn't the best hand at the start. While a straight bluff with a poor hand can be pulled off if you're up against a weak player prone to easy laydowns, a "semi-bluff" can win you a hand in two ways.

First, the semi-bluff can win by forcing weak players off a pot; secondly, the semi-bluff may actually connect with your outs to form the best hand.

For example, you may have raised in late position with 3h 2h and connected with a heart board like Ah Qh 4s. You can continue your bluff with a terrible hand but you have the potential to complete your heart flush by the river and win the hand that way.

Bluffing Online

When playing online, you'll find a lot more bluffing than you will in a live cardroom. Because your opponents can't see you, they won't be giving away physical or verbal tells and they will therefore feel more comfortable firing off crazy bets.

The best way to combat bluffs online is to take notes on your opponents, and if they laid a hand down at showdown, revisit the hand histories to see what they held.

Without doubt, the most effective bluff online is the semi-bluff, so make sure you're in late position with those marginal hands that have connected with the board and bet strongly.

Online Poker Bonuses

[Bonuses](#) at Internet poker sites are great for you as you can earn yourself some free cash, and good for the poker room as they keep you playing on their site.

Bonuses differ from room to room, and the dollar figures involved can vary dramatically, but essentially they work in the same way: make a real-money deposit, play as much poker as you can in a set time period (e.g. 30-60 days) and earn enough 'player points' to clear the bonus cash. Some sites will even pay your welcome bonus into your poker account as soon as you make your first deposit.

Most sites will tempt newbies in with big-money offers, but the really good sites will keep players there with regular bonus promotions and special limited-period offers. The trick, of course, is to know when and where to play, and what games are best for clearing the bonus.

Getting Started

First, make a [real-money](#) deposit at your chosen site. The minimum and maximum deposit amounts for the bonus will be clearly displayed on the poker site, as well as the percentage amount the room will pay back (look for 100% as minimum, so if you deposit \$500 you can aim to earn a free \$500 back from the site).

Once you've made your deposit and entered the promo code, you're ready to go.

How Are Poker Bonuses Calculated?

Whether you're a new player depositing for the first time or a seasoned player making your 100th reload, bonuses work in the same way.

The more cash games and tournaments you play, the more 'points' you will earn, and the more points you earn, the faster you will unlock that bonus cash.

For playing cash games and tournaments, points ('player points', 'frequent player points', 'VIP player points' etc) are earned for every tournament/SNG fee you pay or every dollar of rake you contribute to a cash pot.

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