

In poker, players form sets of five playing cards, called *hands*, according to the rules of the game.^[1] Each hand has a rank, which is compared against the ranks of other hands participating in the showdown to decide who wins the pot.^[2] In high games, like Texas hold 'em and seven-card stud, the highest-ranking hands win. In low games, like razz, the lowest-ranking hands win. In high-low split games, both the highest-ranking *and* lowest-ranking hands win, though different rules are used to rank the high and low hands.^{[3][4]}

Each hand belongs to a category determined by the patterns formed by its cards. A hand in a higher-ranking category always ranks higher than a hand in a lower-ranking category. A hand is ranked within its category using the ranks of its cards. Individual cards are ranked, from highest to lowest: A, K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2.^[5] However, aces have the lowest rank under ace-to-five low or ace-to-six low rules, or under high rules as part of a five-high straight or straight flush.^{[6][7]} Suits are not ranked, so hands that differ by suit alone are of equal rank.^[8]


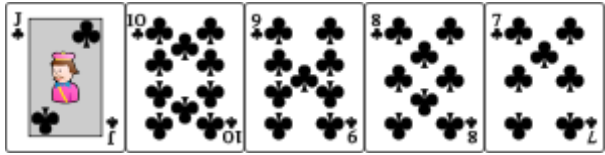
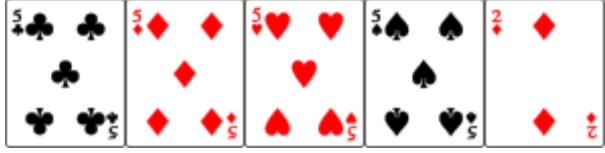


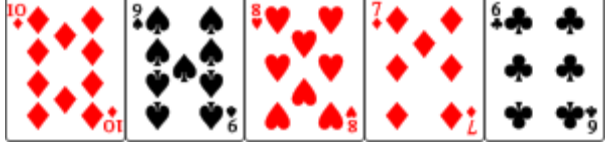

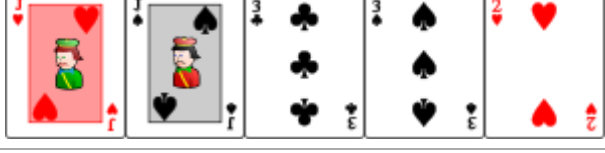


There are nine categories of hand when using a standard 52-card deck, except under ace-to-five low rules where straights, flushes and straight flushes are not recognized. An additional category, five of a kind, exists when using one or more wild cards. The fewer hands a category contains, the higher its rank.^[9] There are $\frac{52!}{(52-5)!} = 311,875,200$ ways to deal five cards from the deck but only $\frac{52!}{(52-5)!5!} = 2,598,960$ distinct hands, because the order in which cards are dealt or arranged in a hand does not matter.^[10] Moreover, since hands differing only by suit are of equal rank, there are only 7,462 distinct hand *ranks*.^[11]



An ace-high straight flush, commonly known as a *royal flush*, is the best possible hand in many variants of poker.

Hand-ranking categories

*	Only possible when using one or more wild cards
**	Category does not exist under ace-to-five low rules

	Name	Example
1	<u>Five of a kind*</u>	
2	<u>Straight flush**</u>	
3	<u>Four of a kind</u>	
4	<u>Full house</u>	
5	<u>Flush**</u>	
6	<u>Straight**</u>	
7	<u>Three of a kind</u>	
8	<u>Two pair</u>	
9	<u>One pair</u>	
10	<u>High card</u>	

Five of a kind

Five of a kind is a hand that contains five cards of one rank, such as $3\heartsuit 3\spadesuit 3\clubsuit 3\spadesuit 3$ ("five of a kind, threes"). It ranks above a straight flush but is only possible when using one or more wild cards, as there are only four cards of each rank in the deck.^[6] Five of a kind, aces, $A\heartsuit A\spadesuit A\clubsuit A\spadesuit \text{Jkr}$, becomes possible when a joker is added to the deck as a bug, a form of wild card that may act as a fifth ace.^[5] Other wild card rules allow jokers or other designated cards to represent any card in the deck, making it possible to form five of a kind of any rank.^[12]

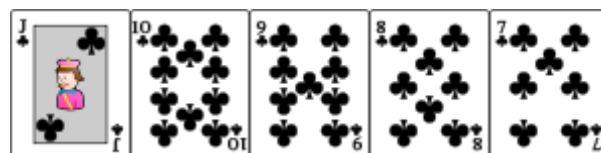


Five of a kind, aces

Each five of a kind is ranked by the rank of its quintuplet. For example, $Q\spadesuit Q\heartsuit Q\clubsuit Q\spadesuit Q$ ranks higher than $6\clubsuit 6\spadesuit 6\diamondsuit 6\heartsuit 6$.^{[6][13]}

Straight flush

A **straight flush** is a hand that contains five cards of sequential rank, all of the same suit, such as $Q\heartsuit J\heartsuit 10\heartsuit 9\heartsuit 8\heartsuit$ (a "queen-high straight flush").^[4] It ranks below five of a kind and above four of a kind.^[5] Under high rules, an ace can rank either high (as in $A\heartsuit K\heartsuit Q\heartsuit J\heartsuit 10\heartsuit$, an ace-high straight flush) or low (as in $5\diamondsuit 4\diamondsuit 3\diamondsuit 2\diamondsuit A\diamondsuit$, a five-high straight flush), but cannot simultaneously rank both high and low (so $Q\clubsuit K\clubsuit A\clubsuit 2\clubsuit 3\clubsuit$ is an ace-high flush, but not a straight).^{[6][13]} Under deuce-to-seven low rules, an ace always ranks high (so $5\spadesuit 4\spadesuit 3\spadesuit 2\spadesuit A\spadesuit$ is an ace-high flush). Under ace-to-six low rules, an ace always rank low (so $A\heartsuit K\heartsuit Q\heartsuit J\heartsuit 10\heartsuit$ is a king-high flush).^[14] Under ace-to-five low rules, straight flushes are not possible (so $9\clubsuit 8\clubsuit 7\clubsuit 6\clubsuit 5\clubsuit$ is a nine-high hand).^[7]



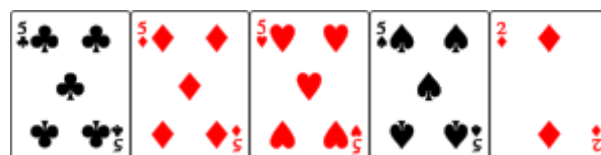
A jack-high straight flush

Each straight flush is ranked by the rank of its highest-ranking card. For example, $10\clubsuit 9\clubsuit 8\clubsuit 7\clubsuit 6\clubsuit$ ranks higher than $8\heartsuit 7\heartsuit 6\heartsuit 5\heartsuit 4\heartsuit$, which ranks higher than $6\spadesuit 5\spadesuit 4\spadesuit 3\spadesuit 2\spadesuit$. Straight flush hands that differ by suit alone, such as $7\diamondsuit 6\diamondsuit 5\diamondsuit 4\diamondsuit 3\diamondsuit$ and $7\spadesuit 6\spadesuit 5\spadesuit 4\spadesuit 3\spadesuit$, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

An ace-high straight flush, such as $A\diamondsuit K\diamondsuit Q\diamondsuit J\diamondsuit 10\diamondsuit$, is called a *royal flush* or **royal straight flush** and is the best possible hand in ace-high games when wild cards are not used.^{[5][15][16]} A five-high straight flush, such as $5\heartsuit 4\heartsuit 3\heartsuit 2\heartsuit A\heartsuit$, is called a **steel wheel** and is both the best low hand *and* usually the best high hand of the showdown in ace-to-five high-low split games.^[4]

Four of a kind

Four of a kind, also known as *quads*, is a hand that contains four cards of one rank and one card of another rank (the kicker), such as $9\clubsuit 9\spadesuit 9\diamondsuit 9\heartsuit J\heartsuit$ ("four of a kind, nines"). It ranks below a straight flush and above a full house.^[5]



Four of a kind, fives

Each four of a kind is ranked first by the rank of its quadruplet, and then by the rank of its kicker. For example, $K\spadesuit K\heartsuit K\clubsuit K\diamondsuit 3\heartsuit$ ranks higher than $7\heartsuit 7\diamondsuit 7\spadesuit 7\clubsuit Q\heartsuit$, which ranks higher than $7\heartsuit 7\diamondsuit 7\spadesuit 7\clubsuit 10\spadesuit$. Four of a kind hands that differ by suit alone, such as $4\clubsuit 4\spadesuit 4\diamondsuit 4\heartsuit 9\clubsuit$ and $4\clubsuit 4\spadesuit 4\diamondsuit 4\heartsuit 9\diamondsuit$, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

Full house

A **full house**, also known as a *full boat* or a *tight* or a *boat* (and originally called a **full hand**), is a hand that contains three cards of one rank and two cards of another rank, such as $3\clubsuit 3\spadesuit 3\diamondsuit 6\clubsuit 6\heartsuit$ (a "full house, threes over sixes" or "threes full of sixes" or "threes full").^{[17][18]} It ranks below four of a kind and above a flush.^[5]



A full house, sixes over kings

Each full house is ranked first by the rank of its triplet, and then by the rank of its pair. For example, $8\spadesuit 8\diamondsuit 8\heartsuit 7\diamondsuit 7\clubsuit$ ranks higher than $4\diamondsuit 4\spadesuit 4\clubsuit 9\diamondsuit 9\clubsuit$, which ranks higher than $4\diamondsuit 4\spadesuit 4\clubsuit 5\clubsuit 5\diamondsuit$. Full house hands that differ by suit alone, such as $K\clubsuit K\spadesuit K\diamondsuit J\clubsuit J\spadesuit$ and $K\clubsuit K\heartsuit K\diamondsuit J\clubsuit J\heartsuit$, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

Flush

A **flush** is a hand that contains five cards all of the same suit, not all of sequential rank, such as $K\clubsuit 10\clubsuit 7\clubsuit 6\clubsuit 4\clubsuit$ (a "king-high flush" or a "king-ten-high flush").^[19] It ranks below a full house and above a straight.^[5] Under ace-to-five low rules, flushes are not possible (so $J\heartsuit 8\heartsuit 4\heartsuit 3\heartsuit 2\heartsuit$ is a jack-high hand).^[7]



A jack-high flush

Each flush is ranked first by the rank of its highest-ranking card, then by the rank of its second highest-ranking card, then by the rank of its third highest-ranking card, then by the rank of its fourth highest-ranking card, and finally by the rank of its lowest-ranking card. For example, $K\diamondsuit J\diamondsuit 9\diamondsuit 6\diamondsuit 4\diamondsuit$ ranks higher than $Q\clubsuit J\clubsuit 7\clubsuit 6\clubsuit 5\clubsuit$, which ranks higher than $J\heartsuit 10\heartsuit 9\heartsuit 4\heartsuit 2\heartsuit$, which ranks higher than $J\spadesuit 10\spadesuit 8\spadesuit 6\spadesuit 3\spadesuit$, which ranks higher than $J\heartsuit 10\heartsuit 8\heartsuit 4\heartsuit 3\heartsuit$, which ranks higher than $J\clubsuit 10\clubsuit 8\clubsuit 4\clubsuit 2\clubsuit$. Flush hands that differ by suit alone, such as $10\diamondsuit 8\diamondsuit 7\diamondsuit 6\diamondsuit 5\diamondsuit$ and $10\spadesuit 8\spadesuit 7\spadesuit 6\spadesuit 5\spadesuit$, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

Straight

A **straight** is a hand that contains five cards of sequential rank, not all of the same suit, such as $7\clubsuit 6\spadesuit 5\spadesuit 4\heartsuit 3\heartsuit$ (a "seven-high straight"). It ranks below a flush and above three of a kind.^[5] Under high rules, an ace can rank either high (as in $A\diamondsuit K\clubsuit Q\clubsuit J\diamondsuit 10\spadesuit$, an ace-high straight) or low (as in $5\clubsuit 4\diamondsuit 3\heartsuit 2\heartsuit A\spadesuit$, a five-high straight), but cannot



A ten-high straight

simultaneously rank both high and low (so Q♠ K♠ A♠ 2♥ 3♦ is an ace-high hand).^{[6][13]} Under deuce-to-seven low rules, an ace always ranks high (so 5♥ 4♠ 3♥ 2♣ A♦ is an ace-high hand). Under ace-to-six low rules, an ace always ranks low (so A♣ K♠ Q♠ J♦ 10♠ is a king-high hand).^[14] Under ace-to-five low rules, straights are not possible (so 10♥ 9♠ 8♣ 7♣ 6♦ is a ten-high hand).^[7]

Each straight is ranked by the rank of its highest-ranking card. For example, J♥ 10♥ 9♣ 8♠ 7♥ ranks higher than 10♠ 9♠ 8♠ 7♥ 6♠, which ranks higher than 6♣ 5♠ 4♥ 3♠ 2♦. Straight hands that differ by suit alone, such as 9♣ 8♠ 7♣ 6♦ 5♦ and 9♠ 8♠ 7♠ 6♥ 5♥, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

An ace-high straight, such as A♣ K♣ Q♦ J♠ 10♠, is called a **Broadway straight**,^[20] while a five-high straight, such as 5♠ 4♦ 3♦ 2♠ A♥, is called a **baby straight**,^[21] *bicycle* or *wheel* and is the best possible hand in ace-to-five low games (where it is a high card hand, not a straight).^{[22][23]}

Three of a kind

Three of a kind, also known as *trips* or a *set*, is a hand that contains three cards of one rank and two cards of two other ranks (the kickers), such as 2♦ 2♠ 2♣ K♠ 6♥ ("three of a kind, twos" or "trip twos" or a "set of twos"). It ranks below a straight and above two pair.^[5]



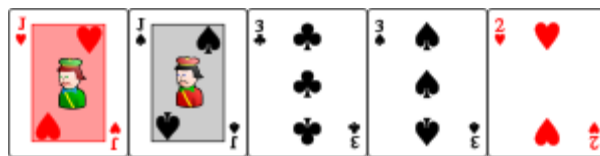
Three of a kind, queens

Each three of a kind is ranked first by the rank of its triplet, then by the rank of its highest-ranking kicker, and finally by the rank of its lowest-ranking kicker. For example, 6♥ 6♦ 6♠ Q♣ 4♠ ranks higher than 3♦ 3♠ 3♣ K♠ 2♠, which ranks higher than 3♦ 3♠ 3♣ J♠ 7♥, which ranks higher than 3♦ 3♠ 3♣ J♠ 5♦. Three of a kind hands that differ by suit alone, such as 9♠ 9♥ 9♦ 10♦ 8♥ and 9♣ 9♠ 9♥ 10♦ 8♦, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

In community card games, such as Texas hold 'em, three of a kind is called a *set* only when it comprises a pocket pair and a third card on the board.^[24]

Two pair

Two pair is a hand that contains two cards of one rank, two cards of another rank and one card of a third rank (the kicker), such as J♥ J♣ 4♠ 4♠ 9♥ ("two pair, jacks and fours" or "two pair, jacks over fours" or "jacks up").^{[17][25]} It ranks below three of a kind and above one pair.^[5]



Two pair, jacks and threes

Each two pair is ranked first by the rank of its higher-ranking pair, then by the rank of its lower-ranking pair, and finally by the rank of its kicker. For example, 10♦ 10♠ 2♠ 2♣ K♠ ranks higher than 5♠ 5♠ 4♦ 4♥ 10♥, which ranks higher than 5♠ 5♠ 3♠ 3♦ Q♠, which ranks higher than 5♠ 5♠ 3♠ 3♦ J♠. Two pair hands that differ by suit alone, such as K♦ K♠ 7♦ 7♥ 8♥ and K♣ K♠ 7♣ 7♥ 8♠, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

One pair

One pair, or simply a *pair*, is a hand that contains two cards of one rank and three cards of three other ranks (the kickers), such as 4♥ 4♠ K♠ 10♦ 5♠ ("one pair, fours" or a "pair of fours"). It ranks below two pair and above high card.^[5]



One pair, tens

Each one pair is ranked first by the rank of its pair, then by the rank of its highest-ranking kicker, then by the rank of its second highest-ranking kicker, and finally by the rank of its lowest-ranking kicker. For example, 9♣ 9♦ Q♠ J♥ 5♥ ranks higher than 6♦ 6♥ K♠ 7♥ 4♣, which ranks higher than 6♦ 6♥ Q♥ J♠ 2♣, which ranks higher than 6♦ 6♥ Q♠ 8♠ 7♦, which ranks higher than 6♦ 6♥ Q♦ 8♥ 3♠. One-pair hands that differ by suit alone, such as 8♠ 8♦ 10♥ 6♣ 5♠ and 8♥ 8♣ 10♣ 6♠ 5♣, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

High card

High card, also known as **no pair** or simply *nothing*, is a hand that does not fall into any other category, such as K♥ J♥ 8♣ 7♦ 4♠ ("high card, king" or "king-jack-high" or "king-high").^{[17][26]} Note that under ace-to-five low rules, straights, flushes and straight flushes are not possible, so such hands are instead high card hands.^[7] It ranks below one pair.^[5]



High card, king

Each high card hand is ranked first by the rank of its highest-ranking card, then by the rank of its second highest-ranking card, then by the rank of its third highest-ranking card, then by the rank of its fourth highest-ranking card, and finally by the rank of its lowest-ranking card. For example, K♠ 6♣ 5♥ 3♦ 2♣ ranks higher than Q♠ J♦ 6♣ 5♥ 3♠, which ranks higher than Q♠ 10♦ 8♠ 7♦ 4♠, which ranks higher than Q♥ 10♥ 7♣ 6♥ 4♠, which ranks higher than Q♣ 10♣ 7♦ 5♣ 4♦, which ranks higher than Q♥ 10♦ 7♠ 5♠ 2♥. High card hands that differ by suit alone, such as 10♣ 8♠ 7♠ 6♥ 4♦ and 10♦ 8♦ 7♠ 6♣ 4♣, are of equal rank.^{[6][13]}

Under deuce-to-seven low rules, a seven-five-high hand, such as 7♠ 5♣ 4♦ 3♦ 2♣, is the best possible hand.^[27] Under ace-to-six low rules, where aces have the lowest rank, a six-four-high hand, such as 6♣ 4♠ 3♥ 2♥ A♦, is the best possible hand.^[28] Under ace-to-five low rules, where aces have the lowest rank *and* straights, flushes and straight flushes are not possible, a five-high hand, such as 5♣ 4♠ 3♥ 2♥ A♦ or 5♠ 4♠ 3♠ 2♠ A♠, commonly known as a *bicycle* or *wheel*, is the best possible hand.^{[7][22]}

See also



[Games portal](#)

- [Glossary of poker terms](#)
- [List of playing-card nicknames](#)
- [Non-standard poker hand](#)


- Poker probability

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