* **When should I use overbets on the flop?**
* Overbets on the flop are most effective on "dynamic wet boards" where opponents are likely to raise their strong hands and call with their weak hands. This forces them to put in more money with hands you've "cooled" (e.g., set over set) and entices them to continue with hands you dominate. Conversely, on "static dry boards" (where the nuts don't change much and there are few draws), small bets don't encourage opponents to raise strong hands or call with weak ones. In such situations, an overbet or check strategy is recommended, where you overbet your strong hands and bluff with hands that block your opponent's strong holdings (e.g., having a deuce or seven in your hand on an A72 flop to bluff as it reduces their combinations of two pair or sets).
* **How does the concept of a "capped" opponent influence overbetting on the turn?**
* On the turn, an overbet is ideal when your opponent is "capped," meaning their range of strong hands is limited because they would have likely raised those hands on the flop. For instance, if the flop was dynamic and you bet small, and your opponent check-called, and then the turn is a blank, your opponent is likely capped to top pair hands (like Ace Jack or King Jack) since two pair or sets would have raised on the flop. In this scenario, a very large overbet is effective for value, as your opponent is unlikely to fold their strong-but-not-the-nuts hands. The same big sizing applies to bluffs in this situation, as opponents are "inelastic" and less likely to fold.
* **When is an opponent NOT capped on the turn, and how does that affect my betting strategy?**
* An opponent is not capped on the turn if there are still strong hands they could hold that they didn't raise on the flop. A common example is when a flush card comes on the turn. In live poker, players often play their flush draws passively on the flop and don't raise them. Therefore, if a flush card hits the turn, your opponent might now have a strong flush draw or even a completed flush, and they are not "capped" to weaker hands. In these situations, a more moderate or small sizing is preferred, similar to the flop strategy of getting them to raise strong hands or call with weaker ones.
* **What are the primary goals for value bets and bluffs on the flop and turn, and how do they relate to overbetting?**
* On both the flop and turn, the goal for both value bets and bluffs is essentially the same: to get your opponents to put in as much money as possible by the time you reach the river. For value, this means extracting maximum chips from their strong hands and enticing calls from their weak hands. For bluffs, it means building a large pot that can be won with a decisive river shove if they show weakness. Overbetting helps achieve this by creating a large pot early, making later bets more impactful and increasing the potential profit from both strong hands and successful bluffs.
* **How does river overbetting strategy differ for value bets versus bluffs?**
* On the river, the overbetting strategy diverges for value and bluffs, depending on your opponent's perceived hand strength:
* **Value Bets:** Use a "big boy overbet" (very large) when your opponent **can** have strong hands that you beat. This is designed to extract maximum value from their strong-but-second-best holdings.
* **Bluffs:** Use a "big boy overbet" when your opponent **cannot** have very strong hands. This aims to get them to fold hands like top pair that might otherwise call a smaller bet, exploiting their perceived weakness.
* **Can you provide an example of a river overbet for value?**
* If you overbet the turn and the river is an Ace, and you hold a strong hand like pocket nines, your opponent can now have many two-pair combinations (e.g., Ace Jack, Ace Deuce, Ace Four) that they would not fold. In this scenario, using a "big boy overbet" with your value hand is appropriate to extract maximum chips from those strong-but-beatable hands.
* **Can you provide an example of a river overbet for a bluff?**
* If you overbet the turn with a bluff (e.g., 76 of diamonds) and the river is a blank, your opponent is unlikely to have very strong hands (as they were capped on the turn). In this situation, a "big boy overbet" with your bluff is highly effective, as you can realistically get hands like King Jack, Queen Jack, or Jack Ten to fold at a high frequency.
* **When would you choose a smaller bet size on the river with a bluff, despite having overbet the turn?**
* If you overbet the turn with a bluff (e.g., 76 of diamonds) and the river brings a card that significantly improves your opponent's potential hand (like an Ace on an A72 board), you would likely choose a smaller bet size for your bluff. In this scenario, your opponent *can* have a lot of strong hands (like two pair). The goal would then be to get hands like King Jack, Queen Jack, or Jack Ten to fold, which might not require a very large bet, rather than trying to bluff off two-pair hands that are unlikely to fold.