

**Title:**

Video Poker: How to Play the Game

**Word Count:**

510

**Summary:**

Here is an introduction to the basics of video poker. Here, you can learn how to play the game and find tips to improve the way you play video poker online.

**Keywords:**

video poker, slot machines, draw poker, poker, casino, casinos

**Article Body:**

If you are looking for a fun and challenging alternative to playing slot machines, video poker is the game for you. Instead of simply pulling the machine handle and hoping that you will be lucky enough to meet a row of identical icons, in video poker your moves would rule whether you win or lose. Moreover, the house edge in video poker is much lower than at slots.

Playing video poker is similar to playing draw poker on a slot machine. It enables you to enjoy the action of poker without having to face other players who may be more experienced and skilled than you are. In addition, in video poker, there are no dealers, no rakes, no bluffing, no cheating; it is all about you and your poker skills.

**How to Play Video Poker:**

There are several variations to video poker. Some of the video poker variations are played with standard 52 card decks while others are played with additional wild cards. All the variations are based on the traditional card game of poker. Therefore, a basic knowledge of poker hand ranking is necessary.

You start by choosing the coin value you wish to play and then pick the number of coins that you want to bet. Afterwards, you click on deal and five cards will appear on your screen. You can discard some or all of the cards and replace them with new ones. After pressing hold on the cards you wish to keep, you push the deal button and the machine replaces your discarded cards with new ones.

The outcome of the second draw determines whether you win or lose. Each video poker machine displays its payout table, which details the number of coins the machine pays for each five card poker hand. The payout table differs from one

video poker variation to the other and so is the minimum hand that qualifies for a payout.

Video poker odds are the same as in regular card poker. A 52 card deck produces more than 2.5 million hand combination. Each video poker machine is set by a random number generator, which simulates the probabilities of drawing any of the poker hand combinations. While in regular card poker, the casino ensure its profits by collecting a rake, in video poker the casino ensure its profits by setting each machine pay table differently.

#### Video Poker Tips:

- 1) Learn the basics of draw poker before you start playing video poker at <a href="http://www.gambling-portal.com">online casinos</a> or at a casino nearby.
- 2) Know the machine payout of the table you have decided to play at by selecting the machine that offers the highest return.
- 3) Adjust your strategy to the specific video poker variation you intend to play.
- 4) Use a mathematical strategy to play the game correctly.
- 5) Do not keep cards that cannot be used to form a winning hand.
- 6) Hold on to any pair instead of keeping a high card.
- 7) Keep any pair rather than draw into a straight or a flush.
- 8) Practice playing online video poker in a play money mode.