

no.4

Classic and Line Slots

The most common slot machines have three symbols on one reel, and are also known as single line/reel slots where the aim is simply to line up these symbols in order to win.

The more advanced versions of these have 3 reels and 3 lines, and are known as multi-reel/line slots and have 1 to 3 paylines, but still work on the same principle of getting symbols to line up, but just across the reels.

Video Slots

Video Slots are usually 5 reel slots, which are built for those with a real love for the classics but with big time action, these as their name suggests, have 5 reels and 5 to 21 paylines. These often feature some kind of special effects not found on regular classic slots

Although slots are based solely on luck, the more reels a machine has, the greater number of winning combinations are possible across the payout lines, so you can increase your chances of winning by playing multi-reel line slots.

Multiplier Slots

You may have been taught that you should always play "Max bet" on slots, but this is not always the case. If you prefer not to do this, then regular multiplier slots are for you. These types of slots don't offer additional incentives or bonuses for playing the maximum bet per spin like the others and still provide some fairly good payouts.

Bonus Feature Slots

Bonus Feature Slots are a great deal of fun as they offer a game within a game. Bonus features are triggered in the base game when a specific combination of symbols is hit, transporting you into a new screen and the possibilities are endless, often yielding extra cash or free spins in the process. The down side is that you may not hit the combination all that often, although you'll still have a great time trying.

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Blackjack

Blackjack is the most played card game at casinos, so it is definitely no surprise that there are numerous variations of the game with new customised versions being brought out by different casinos on a regular basis.

The most widely found Blackjack variations are European, Atlantic City and Vegas Blackjack; however there are a number of other games which we have detailed for you below. The most important place to start when choosing a game that you intend to win your bets on is to look at the odds, or house edge before proceeding. This is essential as the higher the house advantage, the less chance you have of winning on a regular basis:

| TYPE OF BLACKJACK | HOUSE EDGE |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Atlantic City Blackjack | 0.35% |
| Bonus Blackjack | 0.39% |
| Double Exposure Blackjack | 0.69% |
| European Blackjack | 0.39% |
| Spanish Blackjack | 0.38% |
| Vegas Downtown Blackjack | 0.38% |
| Vegas Strip Blackjack | 0.34% |

It is important to note though, that the house edge can vary on these games depending on where you play and due to certain rules, so make sure you check up on this too once you have chosen a casino.

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Atlantic City Blackjack

This enjoyable variation of the classic blackjack game offers both single and multi-hand options at most casinos and both versions have the same rules and strategies for game play. Although on multi-hand versions you will definitely spend more!

Atlantic City Blackjack usually has one of the lower house edges at casinos. While it is very similar to Classic Blackjack, it is an American Hole Card game played with 8 decks of cards. The dealer has two cards at the beginning of the game and checks for blackjack and if he has it, the game is over before you can lose money by doubling. The dealer also stands on soft 17 in this game.

In this game, you may double on any of the first two cards, and a double after a split is permitted. You are also able to then re-split cards into 3 hands and late surrender is allowed.

Bonus Blackjack

This Blackjack game is the same as European Blackjack, but features an added bonus option which means that this game usually pays out a great deal more than the other games at a casino.

Blackjack is played with 2 decks of cards, according to original blackjack rules and if you bet on the "bonus" option on the table, hands of "Blackjack" featuring a Jack and an Ace of Spades pay out at 50:1, with Jacks of any other suit accompanied by an Ace payout at 25:1.

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Anyone who plays at online casinos will tell you that the first time they played for "Real Money" they were quite apprehensive about making the deposit and putting their banking information or Credit Card details at risk.

This is a very common concern amongst everyone transacting on the net, and so we have put together this guide to give you more information on the security measures at online casinos, as well as things that you can do to help protect yourself.

Online Casino Security

The online casino industry is a multi-billion dollar industry and it is in the best interest of the various casinos to do everything in their power to ensure that patrons feel comfortable when depositing and playing at their establishments.

You will find that reputable casinos share 3 very important characteristics, namely licensing by external regulation bodies such as eCogra, hi-tech banking and security systems that ensure the encryption of your personal and banking details, and finally Fraud detection and prevention departments that monitor transactions to protect both the casino and its clients. These aspects should be published on the casino's website, and will be evident in the checks that follow your transactions.

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Is Online Casino Gambling Legal?

This is a complicated question to answer as it depends on the player's location. Whilst most countries do not have specific laws banning people from playing online, there have been moves by some jurisdictions to ban online play.

This is particularly true of the United States of America where the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act was passed in September 2006. Whilst this Act did not make online gambling illegal per se, it did make it illegal for financial institutions to process gambling transactions. As such, this effectively made it difficult for many US players to deposit or withdraw winnings.

However, a number of casinos are still willing to accept players regardless of their location. Similarly, alternative payment solutions are regularly set-up to offer players the opportunity to move money in and out of online casinos.

Ultimately, the answer to this question is therefore 'check the laws where you live'. Whilst a casino may still be willing to accept a player's bets, it is that player's responsibility to make sure they are still abiding by any state or country laws under which they are governed. Having said that, the likelihood of a person actually being pursued by legal bodies for online gambling is remote.

Casinos that do have a policy of disallowing play from certain geographic locations often have safeguards built in to their software to stop players registering if they are from a banned country. However, a player should still check themselves before signing up and depositing that there are no casino rules that ban them from playing.

Why Gamble Online?

Many people enjoy gambling every now and again whether it be to unwind, to try their luck at hitting a jackpot or simply because they enjoy playing games of chance. Historically, to play casino games players would have to travel to their nearest casino and for many this is not an easy task- Vegas or Atlantic City may be once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for many people.

As such, online casinos allow people to play the games they enjoy from the comfort of their own home. In fact, playing online may actually be better than travelling to a 'real' casino for several following reasons.

Pros of online gambling

- Players have the ability to choose from a huge range of games- as the cost of running games online is minimal, casinos can offer a huge selection
- Every game is available- unlike in a real casino where a favorite machine may be taken, online there is no problem with fighting off other people
- Because the cost of running games for online casinos is so low, many offer a much wider range of betting limits online. Some casinos, for example, offer 1 cent Blackjack games.
- Many online casinos want to entice players to sign up so offer a range of bonuses. This 'free money' gives a player an incentive to sign up, although often attached wagering conditions make winning with this money difficult.
- Competition is fierce meaning players are often able to take advantage of numerous bonuses, prize draws and competitions that are regularly won. Generally, better odds are also available online particularly with reference to slot machines. Again this is down to low operating overheads and competition.