How to play Texas Hold'em

One hand, start to finish. No Limit Hold'em is the game at every US poker room.

ONE HAND IN EIGHT STEPS

1 Blinds
The two players left of the dealer button post the small and big blind before any cards are dealt.

2 Hole cards
Everyone gets two cards face down. Only you see yours.

3 Pre-flop
Betting starts left of the big blind. Fold, call the big blind, or raise.

4 The flop
Three shared cards are dealt face up. A second betting round follows.

5 The turn
A fourth shared card, then a third betting round.

6 The river
The fifth and last shared card, then the final betting round.

7 Showdown
Players still in show their cards. The best five-card hand wins the pot.

8 Next hand
The button moves one seat left and the blinds move with it.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ON YOUR TURN

ACTION	MEANING	WHEN
Fold	Give up your cards and the pot	Any time it is your turn
Check	Pass without betting	Only if nobody has bet this round
Call	Match the current bet	When someone has bet
Bet	Put chips in first	When nobody has bet this round
Raise	Increase the current bet	When someone has bet
All in	Bet every chip you have	Any time, in No Limit

THE BOARD



Your hand 

makes a pair of aces with a king kicker: A A K Q J. Use both, one or neither of your own cards.

HEADS-UP IS DIFFERENT

With two players, the button posts the small blind and acts first before the flop, then last on every later round.

BETTING RULES

- A raise must be at least the size of the last bet or raise.
- A round ends when everyone left has put in the same amount.
- If all but one player folds, that player wins without showing.

POSITION

- Acting last is an advantage: you see what the others do first.
- The button acts last after the flop, so it is the best seat.
- The blinds act first after the flop, the hardest seats to play.

BEFORE REAL MONEY

- Learn the hand rankings by heart.
- Play practice hands with nothing at stake.
- Decide what you can afford to lose before you sit down.

SCAN ME

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