Blackjack basic strategy: Dealer STANDS on soft 17 (S17)

4 to 8 decks, double after split allowed, blackjack pays 3:2. If the table has no surrender, play the letter after the R. Find your hand on the left and the dealer's up card along the top.

H hit · **S** stand · **D** double, or hit if you can't · **Ds** double, or stand if you can't · **P** split · **R** surrender, or hit if you can't · **Rs** surrender, or stand · **Rp** surrender, or split

Hard totals

You	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
17+	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	R	R	R
15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	R	H
14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
5–8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

Soft totals (ace counted as 11)

You	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
A,9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A,8	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A,7	S	Ds	Ds	Ds	Ds	S	S	H	H	H
A,6	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,2	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H

Pairs

You	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
A,A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10,10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
9,9	P	P	P	P	P	S	P	P	S	S
8,8	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
7,7	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H
6,6	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H	H
5,5	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
4,4	H	H	H	P	P	H	H	H	H	H
3,3	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H
2,2	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H

Rules to learn first

- Always split aces and 8s.
- Never split 10s or 5s.
- Double 11 against 2 to 10; hit it against an ace. Double 10 against 2 to 9.
- Stand on 13 to 16 against 2 to 6; hit them against 7 or higher.
- Hit 12 against 2 or 3; stand against 4 to 6.
- Soft 18: double against 3 to 6, stand against 2, 7 and 8, hit against 9, 10 and ace.
- Basic strategy cuts the house edge to about 0.5% at 3:2 tables. A 6:5 payout adds about 1.4%.

Last checked: 24 October 2026. Sources: chart checked against Wizard of Odds (4 to 8 decks, S17) and Wikipedia (H17); house edges from Las Vegas Advisor and Wikipedia.
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Blackjack basic strategy: Dealer HITS soft 17 (H17)

4 to 8 decks, double after split allowed, blackjack pays 3:2. If the table has no surrender, play the letter after the R. Find your hand on the left and the dealer's up card along the top.

H hit · **S** stand · **D** double, or hit if you can't · **Ds** double, or stand if you can't · **P** split · **R** surrender, or hit if you can't · **Rs** surrender, or stand · **Rp** surrender, or split

Hard totals

You	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
17+	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	Rs
16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	R	R	R
15	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	R	R
14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
13	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
5–8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

Soft totals (ace counted as 11)

You	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
A,9	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
A,8	S	S	S	S	Ds	S	S	S	S	S
A,7	Ds	Ds	Ds	Ds	Ds	S	S	H	H	H
A,6	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,5	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,4	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,3	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
A,2	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H

Pairs

You	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
A,A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10,10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
9,9	P	P	P	P	P	S	P	P	S	S
8,8	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Rp
7,7	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H
6,6	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H	H
5,5	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
4,4	H	H	H	P	P	H	H	H	H	H
3,3	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H
2,2	P	P	P	P	P	P	H	H	H	H

Rules to learn first

- Always split aces and 8s (H17 with surrender: surrender 8,8 against an ace).
- Never split 10s or 5s.
- Double 11 against every dealer card. Double 10 against 2 to 9.
- Stand on 13 to 16 against 2 to 6; hit them against 7 or higher.
- Hit 12 against 2 or 3; stand against 4 to 6.
- Soft 18: double against 2 to 6, stand against 7 and 8, hit against 9, 10 and ace.
- Basic strategy cuts the house edge to about 0.5% at 3:2 tables. A 6:5 payout adds about 1.4%, and H17 about 0.2%.

Last checked: 24 October 2026. Sources: chart checked against Wizard of Odds (4 to 8 decks, S17) and Wikipedia (H17); house edges from Las Vegas Advisor and Wikipedia.

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