

# 01 bet

The truth: You're really not that far behind 95% of the poker players in the world. And you don't need to be the foremost expert on the game to become a winning poker player. In fact, a relatively small amount of basic poker principles can produce massive improvements in your results almost immediately. The first step to becoming a good poker player: simply figuring out how to stop sucking at it. One of the ways to do so is to start playing fewer hands. Here's what we mean and how to put it into practice.

Play Fewer Hands

Learn how to play like Phil Ivey

In Texas Hold'em there are 169 different possible starting hands you

can be dealt (this is ignoring specific suits). Out of all these possible hands, there are only five hands that are considered "premium."

AA KK QQ AK (Suited) JJ

Regardless of your position at the table, a premium hand should always be played if there is no raise ahead of you. If there is a raise ahead of you - especially if there are callers or re-raises - sometimes it can even be a mistake to play anything below Aces or Kings. When you think about Texas Hold'em starting hands this way, you'll realize you should be folding around 80% more hands.

Naturally, the hands you play, and how you play them, will change depending on thousands of different variables at the table. But at the very core of the game there are very few hands that are considered playable. If there has been no player to open the pot (meaning no one has ) Tj T\* BT

of potential value.

Once someone has raised ahead of you, your hand selection should be narrowed down to only the hands that can give you the nuts, and help keep you out of any situation which has you dominated.

For example: you should never play KQ into a raise, as AA, KK, QQ, AK, and AQ all have you dominated. Unless you have a very good reason to do so, as a beginner poker player you should stick to playing only the top 10 to 15 hands, period.