

Published based on [Best Poker Online Tournament Guide To How To Start Playing On A New Poker Table](#)

# **Best Poker Online Tournament Guide To How To Start Playing On A New Poker Table**

Often new players especially in [free online poker games](#) simply sit right down at a table and immediately test their luck as much as their skill. The a smart thing to do is simply to watch a table before sitting and learn how to win at that table. But what should you look for?

Firstly, quickly scan the player names in search of younger and more aggressive names. Names usually translate into style of play.

Then, take a look at the money balances for each player. If you see wide variations it could mean there are large differences in experience, luck or time at the table involved but generally it is a very good skill level indicator. More experienced players do not go all in every time they have pocket aces.

The more experienced players will look to have a reasonably strong hand before betting, and over time the sizes of their bets will reflect how good their hand is. They bet progressively, and protect their money as much as possible - never risking a lot, especially for a little gain.

So try to figure out how many experienced players are at the table so that you can gauge how competitive the table is going to be. Also, if there are lots of inexperienced players the pots may vary greatly, as these folks have a tendency to bet bigger and go all-in more. Watch a minimum of 5 or 6 hands to find out if the lay reflects the difference in balances.

After checking names and balances, begin watching the play. Do a lot of them bet in order to see the flop or do they fold fast? Do some players often try to build a pot preflop? Such games can be costly as they can kill players without a large bankroll fast.

Who's regularly betting, and how aggressively? And most importantly, when cards are shown try and keep track of who had a legitimate chance to win the pot and who really should have folded. You will be amazed at how often some players hang in with little or no chance. And particularly on small pot games, you aren't likely to bluff anyone.

The flow of the game is extremely important, and you need to understand it as much as possible before jumping in. This will save you a lot of chips.

To [learn how to play poker](#) and practice observing it's wise to [play free poker](#) to test and figure things out before risking real money.

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