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In this free poker article is a [how to poker bet guide](#) .

Simply put, a bet in poker is a declaration that either:

A) You have the best hand and will wager money on it. Or, B) You have a weak hand and will fold if you are forced to wager on it.

Poker theory says that players should bet if they have a strong hand. Players who don't have good hands are supposed to fold. Naturally reality is very different and the vast majority of players act play contrary to this in order to try and be a deceptive player.

Don't fall into this trap when you are just learning to play. Your betting strategy should be built upon this simple idea, but you must know when to stray and bet in situations when you otherwise wouldn't.

Here are some example poker betting types and tactics:

Stealing Blinds

You are in the dealer's position with only the blinds left in the game, if you raise here it is called "blind stealing". This is because the blinds may fold, whereas if you didn't raise but simply called, the blinds would simply check. It is an easy way to make a quick win but is not a big cash winning play. But it is a good way to close a hand down fats and get into a new hand with more players and therefore money.

The steal-raise

A Steal Raise is where you're last to act and the other players have all checked to you, you bet to limit the number of players or scoop the pot. Don't use this exclusively, as better players will be onto you quickly and begin check-raising against your (most likely) poor hand. The Steal Raise is good when you have an good draw hand like a nut flush draw. Players tend to check to the raiser. Should you draw to your hand, you get a bigger pot to win. If you don't, you can always check, and hope the fifth card makes your hand.

The check-raise

This is where you check to an opponent with the aim of getting them to bet so that you can raise them back. Your hope to give them a false sense of security so you increase the pot size by your raise.

The opener

Reckless and often done by people who bluff. It is when the person first to act raises, making all the other players call two bets at once. The aim is to limit the number of players in the hand. Basically, this move amounts to a backwards steal-raise. It will force a lot of folds but those left in are going to be aggressive or have a strong hand. The Opener is also known as betting for information. This tactic is best used with few players in on the hand.

Squeezing

Squeezing is a tactic only used in a short-handed game. It is a bet when you have a decent hand and think another player or more might be on a draw. For example, you have top pair with the best kicker. Most likely they will not make their draw. Your goal is to limit their pot odds.

The above examples are really just examples of bets. In no limit or limit Holdem there is further complexity in betting to consider.

When you're dealt Aces, Kings, or AK suited, you can raise and even re-raise before the flop, no matter your position.

A pair of queens or jacks you have to be a bit more careful with, but the chances are still huge that you are top hand before the flop. You should raise to force out the draw hands, if there aren't any raises in front of you.

With strong cards (paint suited), look to raise in middle or late position, only if no one has raised before you. Should you raise from mid position and a late position player reraises, be cautious.

If they're a strong player they probably have you beat in card strength unless they're bluffing to try and take the blinds and antes.

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