# personal english

# Poker

## CARD SUITS AND POKER HAND RANKINGS:

**SPADES**

**HEARTS**

**DIAMONDS**

**CLUBS**

ROYAL FLUSH   STRAIGHT FLUSH

FOUR OF A KIND   FULL HOUSE   FLUSH   STRAIGHT

THREE OF A KIND   TWO PAIRS   ONE PAIR   HIGH HAND

Poker is a family of **gambling** card games. All poker variants involve **betting** and determine the winner of each hand according to the combinations of players' cards, at least some of which remain hidden until the end of the hand. Poker games vary in the number of cards dealt, shared (a.k.a. 'community cards') and hidden, as well in the betting procedures. In most modern poker games, the first round of betting begins with one or more of the players making some form of a forced bet (the **blind** and/or **ante**). In standard poker, each player bets according to the rank they believe their hand is worth as compared to the other players. The action then proceeds clockwise as each player in turn either matches, or '**calls**', the maximum previous bet or **folds**, losing the amount bet so far and all further interest in the hand. A player matching a bet may also '**raise**', or increase the bet. The betting round ends when all players have either matched the last bet or folded. If all but one player folds on any round, the remaining player **collects the pot** without being required to **reveal their hand**. If more than one player remains in contention after the **final betting round**, the hands are revealed, and the player with the **winning hand** takes the pot. With the exception of initial forced bets, money is only placed into the pot voluntarily by a player who either believes the bet has positive expected value or who is trying to **bluff** other players for various strategic reasons. Thus, while the outcome of any particular hand involves chance, the long-run expectations of the players are determined by their actions chosen on the basis of probability, psychology, and game theory.