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The rise of online poker has contributed to it becoming one of the most popular card games in the world, but there are so many different types of poker that it can seem daunting to the beginner. Here, Telegraph Betting introduces you to the broad concepts that unite all forms of poker and shows you how they fit together to play one of the game's most popular variants, Texas Holdem. We'll also discuss the four main types of poker under which all poker games can be categorised. Then, once you've got to grips with the basics, you'll find our guides to the specifics of how to play the most popular types of poker at the bottom of this piece.

How to play poker: concepts common to most types of poker

Poker-hand rankings

All games of poker are based around common poker-hand rankings which are used to decide which player's hand wins in a game of poker.

Some poker game types will use the common hand ranking in different ways, such as making the lowest value hand the most desirable (low-ball poker).

Learn the order of strength of poker hands on our poker-hand rankings page.

Bluffing

It's possible to win poker hands without holding the best hand by bluffing your opponents.

Bluffing usually involves projecting confidence in your hand by betting in a manner that suggests your hand is better than it is, in the hope that your opponents will believe you and fold rather than risk taking you on in the showdown.

Forced bets

Most forms of poker require some form of compulsory bet at the beginning of a hand usually referred to as the ante or blind.

Many forms of the game feature a small blind and a big blind, with the latter generally twice the size of the former.

The dealer

Whether you're playing physical poker at home, at a bricks-and-mortar casino, or an online casino the role of the dealer determines the order in which the blinds are put up and players make their bets.

The game usually unfolds in a clockwise direction starting with the de