

A Practical Guide

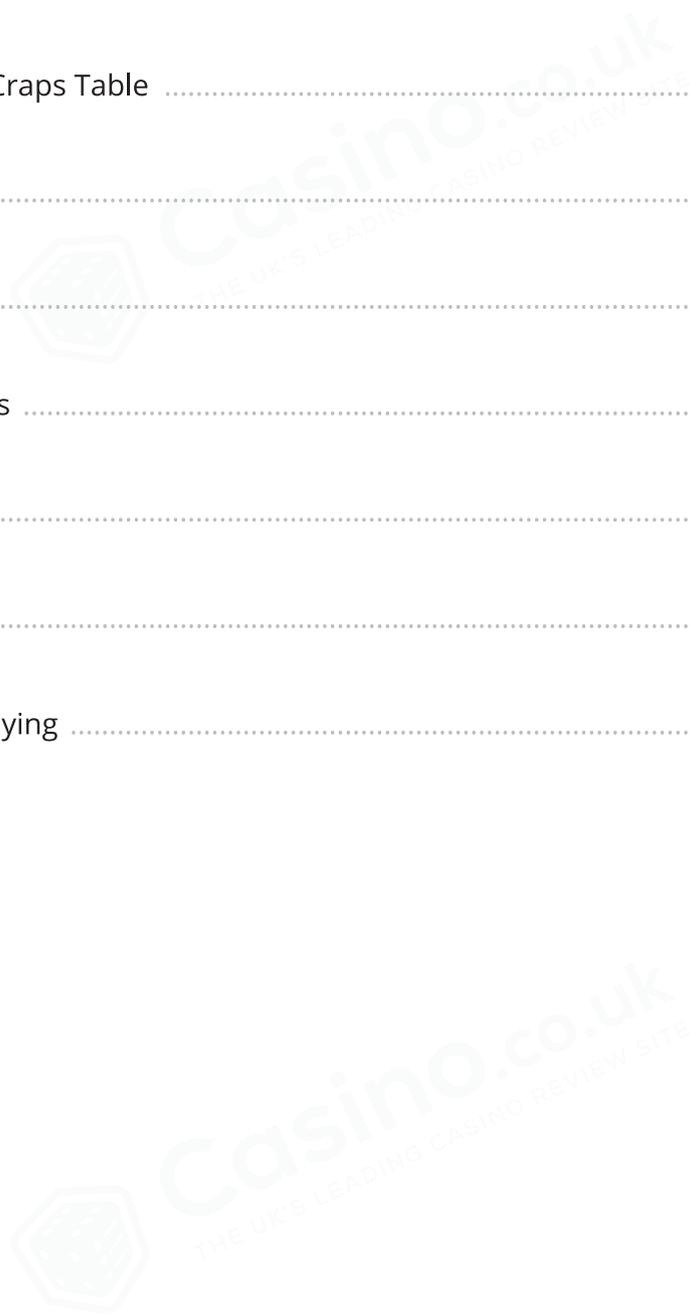
# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO PLAYING CRAPS



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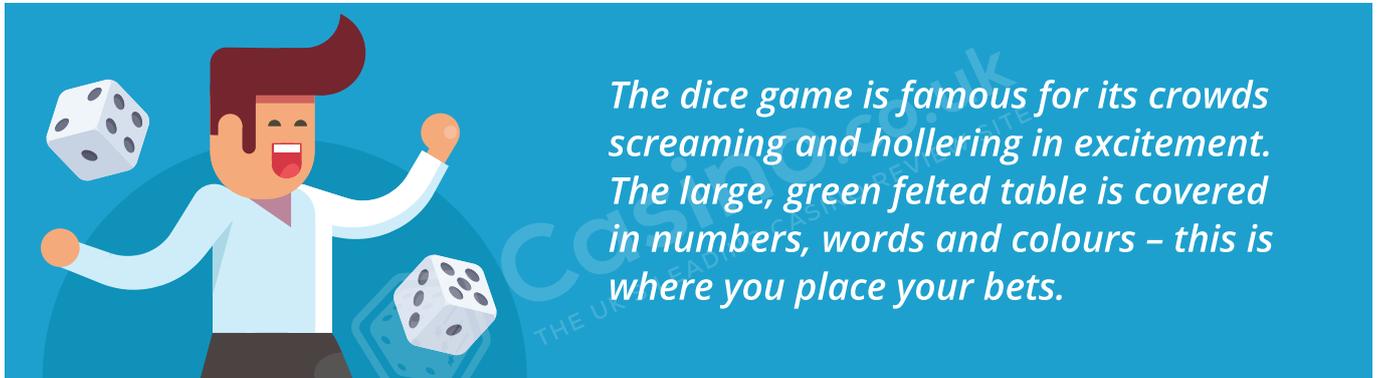
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# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CRAPS

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Craps is one of the most recognisable games in a casino. Online craps is no different. The game has the ability to attract players from all over the UK and the rest of the world.



At first glance craps might seem like a massive maths textbook, but it is much simpler to play than it looks.

**In reality craps is actually one of the most fun games at the casino. And by the time you finish this guide, you'll be able to join in the craps action, safe in the knowledge that you understand how the game works.**

## A NAME IN THE MAKING

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The name craps was said to have been coined by the French after one of the lowest possible scores in Hazard, 1+1. As the lowest value in the game, it was called 'crabs'.

The French brought Hazard to their Quebec colony known as Acadia. This became an English colony called Nova Scotia. The French moved south to Louisiana after being kicked out of Acadia, but they retained part of their culture which included the game of craps.

Once settled in the bayou, it became creps.

Other historians claim this account is inaccurate and say craps was brought to America with settlers on the Mayflower ship.

It was the English language which caused the name craps to override other popular names. Of course it is also possible that both stories are true.

# THE EVOLUTION OF CRAPS



Craps has a colourful, rich history behind it. Unlike being created by an inventor, as is the case with slots (William Fey) or by a protégé trying to discover inertia only to develop roulette (Blaise Pascal), craps goes all the way back to The Holy Roman Empire.

During this time, it is said that Roman soldiers of the Crusades would play with pig knuckles (yes, you read that right) by tossing them onto their shields. This action led to the famous saying 'roll the bones'.



In 1125 AD. English noble, Sir William of Tyre, and his knights were waiting to siege Hazarth and took note of the knuckles being tossed. This led him to create the game of Hazard.



Played with two dice, and for money, it was mentioned in the Canterbury Tales and remained popular up until the 18th century, despite being known for its complex rules.

Throughout English gambling houses, royalty and noblemen surrounded the Hazard tables and engaged in social conversations and real money betting.



*In the 19th century, craps was created as an offshoot of Hazard, but the rules were simplified.*

# THE 20TH CENTURY

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By the 20th century, craps had become a popular game and developed deep roots within the American culture. It branched out into two different forms, street craps and casino craps.

The primary difference between the two is that street craps has no dealer, no one to handle the money, no table and it's illegal.

In 1907, craps was revolutionised by a man named John H. Winn. Considered to be the Father of modern day craps, he made important changes to the game which led to players being able to bet right or wrong.

He also improved the layout and developed the Don't Pass betting section.

By 1930, craps was in almost every major Vegas casino.



# 21ST CENTURY CRAPS

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Today, thanks to Winn, the layout and bets of craps remains largely the same. The game has been featured in countless movies and is known to players and non players alike.

Due to it being a game with little skill and a lot of action, craps is one of the most preferred casino games in the world.

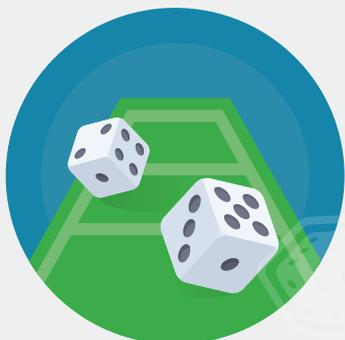
Now for the first time, technology has made it possible for gamblers to play craps online. Free or real money wagers enable people to learn the game, develop a strategy, and have a good time.

**HAVE A GOOD TIME**



# A BREAKDOWN OF THE CRAPS TABLE

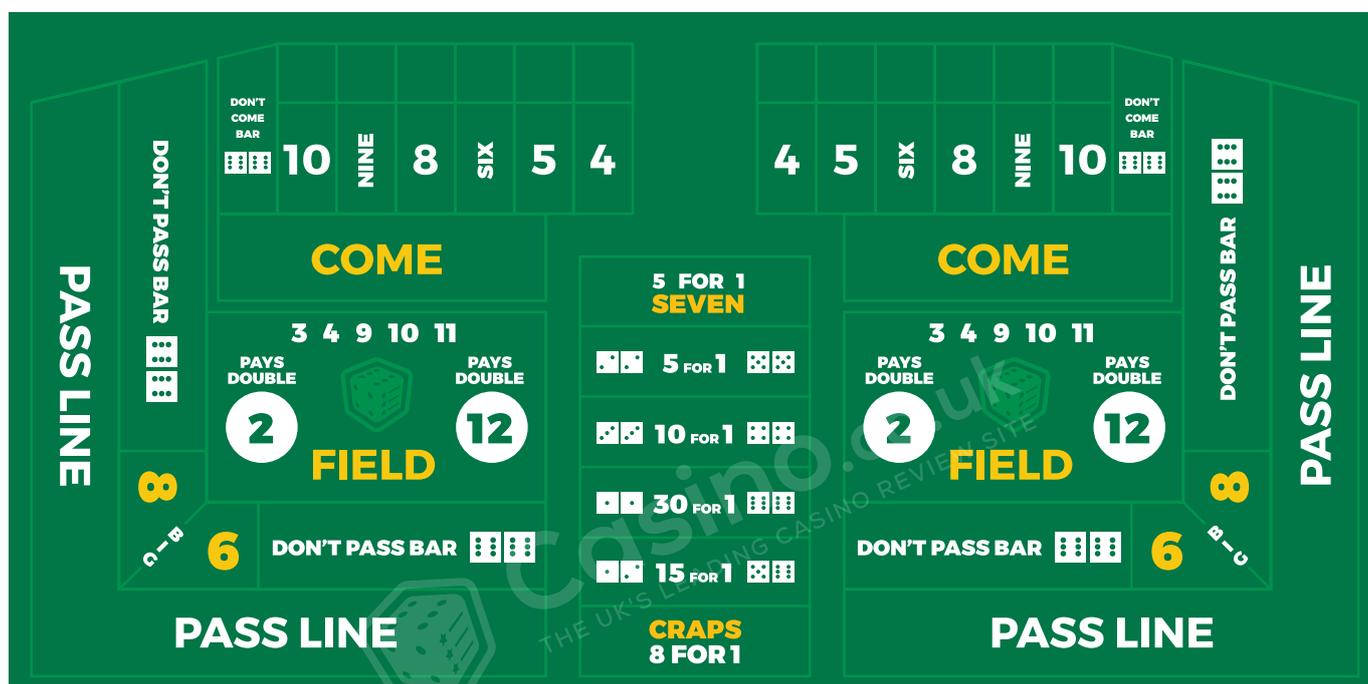
The craps table is considered to be one of the most intimidating features in a casino game. However, it is easy to understand when broken down and explained in sections.



We must point out that the table has been designed in such a way as to make players tempted to make large wagers.

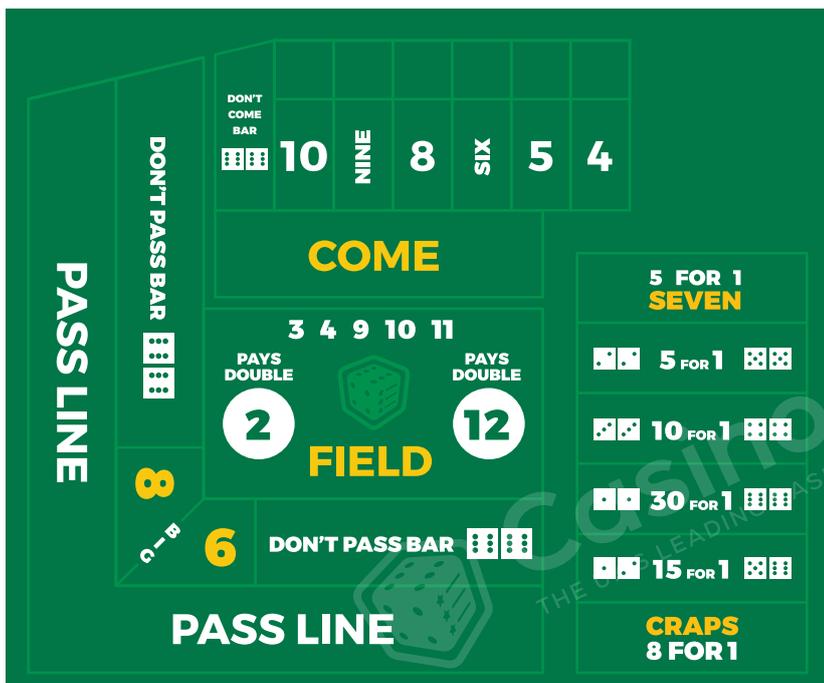
Proposition bets (which will be discussed below) are located in the centre of the table.

For the most part these types of bets are meant to favour the house. The best bets for players are the Pass Line and Free Odds betting areas.



## 1. SIDE AND CENTRE SECTION OF CRAPS

In a standard game of craps, the table has two types of sections, the side section (one on each side of the table) and the centre section.



The side sections are each managed by a dealer and are identical to one another. The centre section is managed by a stickman.

When you play craps online, there will be no actual human dealers, just a computer managing the betting sections. The exception to this is live dealer craps games.

The only part of the table that applies to the player is the side being played at and the centre.

## 2. SIDE SECTION

In the side section, there will be two areas. These are called the self service area, also known as the player's area, and the dealer's area.

The blank space is called the apron. Within these areas are the different bets you can place.

Inside the self service area are different bets including the: Come, Don't Come, Pass Line, Don't Pass, and Field. Players will handle all bets within this area.

In the field section, one roll bets on numbers can be made.



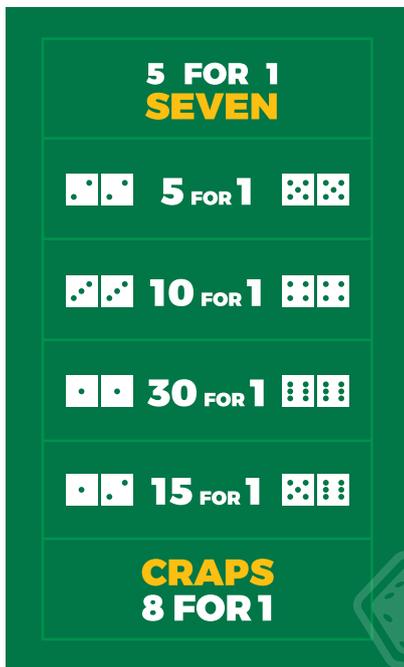
The boxes that read 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 are for Place and Buy bets. In the corners on both ends of the table, you may see Big 6 or Big 8. These are only on certain tables and are special side bets.

### 3. THE DEALER'S SECTION

The dealer's area contains six 'point boxes' which feature the numbers 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. When the player wins, a puck will be placed by the dealer in the middle of a point box which corresponds to the point number. Players cannot use this area to bet in.

Also in every point box are two small rectangles and a wider rectangle. The small rectangles of each point box are the areas in which Place bets are set by the dealer. Likewise in the wide rectangle, the dealer can place the Lay and Don't Come bets. Inside the square point box, Buy and Come bets are placed.

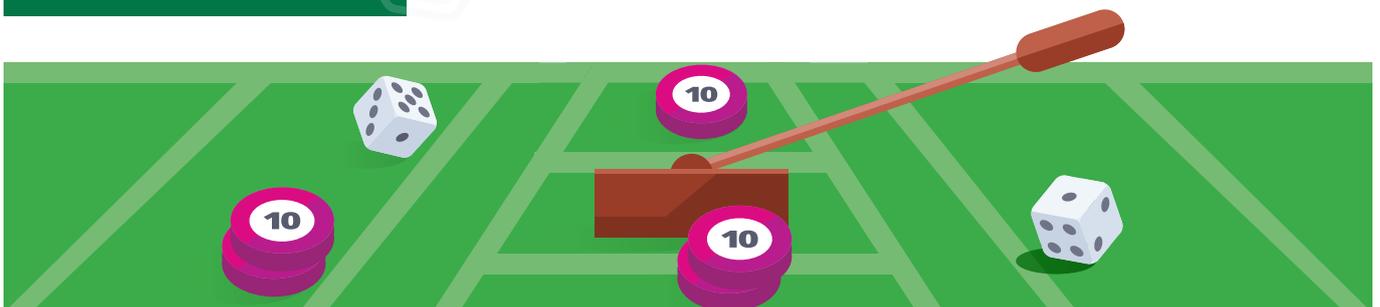
### 4. CENTRE SECTION



All players at the craps table will share the centre section. Bets placed in this area are maintained by the stickman. Players cannot operate within this area and will need to go through the stickman in order to place bets.

In a land based casino, players can toss a chip into the centre and tell the stickman where the bet should be placed. If he or she is preoccupied with another player, the chip is placed in the apron and the player will announce their proposition, or one-roll, bet to the dealer.

Also in the centre is a section for hard way bets. These are for bets such as, that a 7 will come before an 8.



# CRAPS LINGO



Yo, Snake eyes, Boxcars or Midnight. Did you catch that? If you're going to saunter up to a game, there is a good chance that you will be hearing some of this craps lingo. Here are a few more popular terms to get you started:

## Yo

Rolling an 11, also known as "Yo-leven"

## Snake Eyes

Rolling Two 1s, also known as "Snake Eyes"

## Little Joe

Rolling an 4, usually rolled as a 1 and a 3. Also known as "Little Joe" (from Kokomo)

## Jimmy Hicks

Rolling an 6, also known as "Jimmy Hicks"

## Skate and Donate

Rolling an 8, also known as "Skate and Donate"

## Centre Field

Rolling an 9, also known as "Centre Field"

## 10 the Hard Way

Rolling Two 5s, also known as "10 the Hard Way"

## Natural Winner

Rolling an 7 or 11 on the come out, also known as "Natural Winner"

## Boxcars

Rolling Two 6s, also known as "Boxcars" or "Midnight"

# HOW CRAPS WORKS



To play craps the first thing you need to know about is the (Don't) Pass Line bet and come out roll.

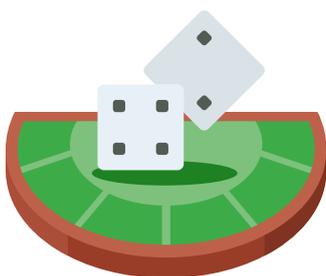
It works like this - you will place your first bet on the (don't) pass line before the shooter begins the roll. The shooter will be the person throwing the dice. All players at the table will bet on the same roll of the dice, regardless of whether or not they are the shooter.

**The shooter will continue to roll the dice until they hit a 7 or 11. When they do this, you will win your pass line bet. If the shooter rolls a 2, 3, or 12 you will lose. This is called a 'Craps'.**

If you made a bet on the don't pass line, you will win the craps.

Any other number rolled will become the point number. It will be the goal of the shooter to roll the point again before a seven. If this happens, you will even money. If a seven is rolled before the point, you lose.

## EXAMPLE OF THE COME OUT ROLL



A shooter rolls the dice and lands a 2 and a 4. This totals a six which is now the point. The dealer places a puck on the point box value of six. Now the shooter throws the dice again and must roll a 6 before a 7. If this happens, the pass line bet wins and the shooter rolls again.

This roll is considered to be a new come out roll and the same steps

will be repeated. If the shooter had rolled a 7 before the 6, the pass line bet is lost and the dice are given to the next shooter.

The pass line bet is the easiest bet in craps and will help you to get into the action in no time at all. Many people will only play craps with this bet and nothing more.

## BETTING WITH OR AGAINST THE SHOOTER



*Most players choose to bet with the craps shooter. Together they win and they lose, they cheer each other on and commiserate over a cold streak.*

*You can also bet against the shooter making his or her point. These are known as 'wrong bettors', but there is really nothing wrong about making this move.*



**Common wrong bets include the 'don't pass and the 'don't come'. Both bets begin with the come out roll and will win when the pass line and come bets lose.**

**The come out roll has three ways to win and eight ways for the wrong bettor to lose, but once a point is established, the odds become in your favour.**

# THE ODDS BET

As soon as the point has been established, the bettor can make further bets beyond the pass line bet. Known as an Odds Bet, it does not have a house edge and that means it pays out true odds.

Some land based and online casinos will offer double odds which means you can bet twice the size of your initial pass line bet.

## THE ODDS BET WILL BE PAID

as the following:

◆ <i>Numbers 4 or 10</i>	<b>2</b>	to	<b>1</b>
◆ <i>Numbers 5 or 9</i>	<b>3</b>	to	<b>2</b>
◆ <i>Numbers 6 or 8</i>	<b>6</b>	to	<b>5</b>

The odds bet can be increased, decreased, or removed at any time in the game.

# COME/DON'T COME BET

After the point is established, you can also make a (don't) come bet in addition to the (don't) pass line bet. This bet is made by putting chips on the (don't) Come area of the table.

The next roll of the shooter will be your own come out roll with the same rules as laid out above. The difference is that the bet will only affect you and not the other players.

**If your roll is a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10 it will become your 'COME POINT'**

Your initial pass line bet will still be dependent upon the shooters point which means you now have two points in craps.

Like the pass line bet, if the shooter rolls your come point before a 7, you will win, but if he rolls a 7, you will lose both bets.

You can also place odds and additional come bets on a single come bet.

## RISKIER MOVES IN CRAPS

As soon as you learn the basics of playing craps, you can progress to the riskier bets known as field bets.

These are bets that on the next roll a **2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12** will be shown. If you roll a **5, 6, 7, or 8**, you will lose. The field bet can be made at anytime by placing chips in the field section of the table and will have different payouts depending on what your roll is.

Depending on the table and casino, you might see Big Six and Big Eight bets available. These bets win if a **6 or 8** bet is rolled before a **7**.



**Proposition Bets are another riskier, extensive category of one roll bets, except the hardways, which can be made whenever you like.**

With hardways bets, you will win if both dice show the same numbers.

### THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW EXAMPLES OF PROP BETS

- ◆ *Any Craps: Wins if a 2, 3 or 12 are rolled.*
- ◆ *Any Seven: Wins if a 7 is rolled.*
- ◆ *Eleven: Wins if an 11 is thrown.*

The easiest way to learn craps and all the betting is to take advantage of demo mode games at online casinos or those with low wagers. That way you can go at your own pace and learn the etiquette of one of the most popular dice games.

# PLAYING STEPS

All you need to do to play craps online is follow these simple steps:

Find an online craps casino and sign up or login.

1

Make a deposit and go to the craps table.

2

Place a bet before the come out roll.

3

Play the point.

4

Place an odds bet or any further bets (optional).

5

Complete the round.

6

Wait to become a shooter.

7

# CRAPS BETS, TRUE ODDS & PAYOUTS

There are a multitude of advanced bets, but first it's a good idea to learn the most common ones.



**Do keep in mind that you never have to go beyond these bets, but doing so will certainly up the action in any game.**

Bet	Bet Description	Payout	True Odds
Pass Line	7 or 11 on the come out roll; or point thereafter	48.65%	251 to 244
Don't Pass Line	2 or a 3 in the come out roll; or 7 thereafter	48.65%	976 to 949
Don't Come	2 or a 3 in the come out roll; or 7 thereafter	48.65%	976 to 949
Come Bet	7 or 11 on the come out roll; or come point thereafter	32.43%	251 to 244
Pass Odds	7 before a point; back to a don't pass bet	2:1 on a point 4 or 10 3:2 on a point 5 or 9 6:5 on a point 6 or 8	2 to 1 6 to 5
Don't Pass Odds	7 before a point; back to a don't pass bet	1:2 on a point 4 or 10 2:3 on a point 5 or 9 5:6 on a point 6 or 8	1 to 2 2 to 3 5 to 6
Field Bets	7 before a point; back to a don't pass bet	1:1 2:1	
Place Bet to Win	Rolling a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 before a 7	Place 4 to win- 9:5 Place 5 to win- 7:5 Place 6 to win- 7:6 Place 8 to win- 7:6 Place 9 to win- 7:5 Place 10 to win- 10:5	4 or 10 - 2 to 1 5 or 9 - 2 to 3 6 or 8 - 6 to 5

<b>Place Bet to Lose</b>	Rolling a 7 before a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10	Place against 4- 5:11 Place against 5- 5:8 Place against 6- 4:5 Place against 8- 4:5 Place against 9- 5:8 Place against 10- 5:11
<b>Any Craps</b>	2, 3, or 12 on the next roll	7:1 8 to 1

## CRAPS HOUSE EDGE

The house edge represents the probability of the house winning the bet. The lower the house edge, the better the chances you have of winning.

As you can see, the odds bets are the best because there is no house edge; however, you will have to make a pass/don't pass bet beforehand.

Luckily, these bets are also very appealing. The worse bet in craps is actually the any craps bet.

<b>Bet</b>	<b>Tie Bet House Edge</b>
Pass Bet	1.41%
Come Bet	1.41%
Don't Pass	1.36%
Don't Come	1.36%
Field 2:1 on 12	5.56%
Field 3:1 on 12	2.78%
Any Craps	11.11%
Pass Line Odds Bets	0.0% with a possible house commission of 5%
Don't Pass Line Odds Bets	0.0% with a possible house commission of 5%
Place Bets	4 or 10 – 6.7% 5 or 9 – 4% 6 or 8 – 1.52%

# BASIC CRAPS STRATEGIES

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If you are thinking that craps looks like an exciting game with a low house edge and enticing payouts, we've got even better news. Unlike other games that have an ample learning curve and detailed maths strategies, craps has a strategy that is easy to follow.

Make sure you try these strategic moves if you are ready to have more fun. Of course, if you're feeling lucky, you might just throw the right dice.

## ALWAYS TAKE THE ODDS BET



**After the point has been established by the shooter, make sure to take advantage of the free odds bet.**

Some casinos even allow you to bet twice as big as your initial pass line bet. In this craps strategy, it is smart to place high odds bets and low pass line bets.

## PLACE TWO COME BETS



**By placing two come bets after a pass line bet, you will have a total of three numbers with the potential of winning.**

Many craps enthusiasts consider this strategy to be very ideal. If you win, you can bet again keeping your three bet streak.

## PLACE COME BETS



**After establishing the point, you can make a come bet which will help you to win if the shooter rolls a point for either player.**

## AVOID PROP BETS

and Big Bets



Proposition, Big 6, and Big 8 bets are considered to be some of the worst to make, primarily because of their low odds and high house edge.

## ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY: THE 5 COUNT METHOD

If you are looking for something a bit different that can truly keep you in the heat of the moment, the **5 count craps** method might be for you.

It's a simple strategy and allows you place your bets in a cool, casual manner. **The objective is to keep you from losing money on shooters who tend to seven out, rather than cash in on shooters who are efficient at rolling a point.**



### TO DO THIS YOU WILL NEED TO COUNT LIKE THIS:



- ◆ **COUNT ZERO:** On the come out roll, you will count zero.
- ◆ **COUNT ONE:** The count will remain at zero unless the shooter throws a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10, in which case the count will be a one. If a 2, 3, 7, 11, or 12 are rolled, the count stays at zero.
- ◆ **COUNT TWO:** Every time the dice are thrown after the point, you will count one until you reach 4 – regardless of what number is rolled.
- ◆ **REACHING COUNT 5:** Upon count 4, the shooter must roll a 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10 again to add the fifth point. For any other number, the count remains at 4.
- ◆ **PLACE YOUR BETS:** Once you have 5 points, you can place your bets which should only be pass/don't pass, come/don't come, or pass/don't pass odds. No other bet should be made.

*It is said that this strategy will help to minimize your losses.  
Whether or not it works is up to you.*

## 5 TIPS TO BEING A BETTER CRAPS PLAYER



- ◆ **Set a budget and stick to it.**
- ◆ **Make sure you are playing at trusted online casinos.**
- ◆ **Focus on having fun.**
- ◆ **Familiarise yourself with the game, its rules, and all the betting options.**
- ◆ **Learn the possible dice combinations.**

## CHEATING AT CRAPS

From the early beginnings of craps, and its original variations, people have tried to influence the game in their favour. Even the emperors of Rome were known to have made cheeky attempts to bend the rules. Now if you are caught cheating at craps, there will be heavy consequences.

**Regardless, there have been players to believe that the risk is worth the reward. Some popular methods of doing so include:**

## CONTROLLING THE DICE

This cheat actually sits in a grey area because some argue that it is actually a skill.

How the shooter grips or tosses the dice can reflect on their outcome. In craps, the throw should be random and fast. Flicking the wrist in a certain way or the arc of the toss could change the way the dice land.

A player who utilizes different grips or holds the dice tightly together before rolling them could be considered a cheater. If a casino catches this they might ask the shooter to leave the table. Online, this cheat will not work.





## FAULTY DICE

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In the early 20th century, faulty or crooked dice were a popular way to cheat at craps. These loaded dice often had an extra centre weight which allowed them to repeatedly fall on a specific number. Other versions of faulty dice included those with rounded or pointy edges.

Some players have made attempts to switch out a craps game's dice with their own adjusted dice. Now casinos use special transparent red dice that have serial numbers or other verification measures to ensure they cannot be tampered with.

**Realistically, craps is probably one of the worst games to try and cheat at. In between multiple staff at the craps table, pit bosses, security personnel, surveillance cameras, and onlookers, it is almost certain you will be caught.**

This is why you will not see very many stories of people who successfully cheated on a game of craps.

**Online it will also be nearly impossible too thanks to complex algorithms, security protocols and software.**

## BIGGEST CRAPS WINS

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Unlike blackjack, poker, or progressive slots, there are not too many massive wins on craps tables. This is mainly due to maximum table limits at online and offline casinos.

That being said, there have been a few very lucky players who walked away with a lot of money.



## STANLEY FUJITAKE: \$1,000,000

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Sitting at a Vegas casino's craps table in 1989, Mr. Fujitake rolled the dice 118 times over a three hour period. Stanley won over \$1 million.

At that time it was the longest recorded craps roll ever and even led to the term 'Golden Arm' being coined.

Nowadays it is estimated that every casino sees one Golden Arm per month. Will that be you?



## PATRICIA DEMAURO: \$5,000,000

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In 2009, Mrs. Demauro broke Stanley's record with her own Golden Arm. She rolled the dice 154 times over a 4 hour and 18 minute play. She has kept silent on how much she won with estimates ranging from \$5 to \$5 million. We're thinking it is likely to be somewhere near the latter amount.

## THE PHANTOM GAMBLER: \$770,000

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How he got this name is beyond us because his real name is William Lee Bergstrom. In the 1980s, he walked into a casino with two suitcases. One was empty and the other had \$770,000 in cash inside it.

It is alleged that he placed all of it on one craps roll, winning another \$770,000. Over the coming months he won another \$280,000 which led him to make a \$1 million bet at the craps table.

He lost the bet which goes to show that you should be a wise gambler and never place all your money on one wager.

## DOS AND DON'TS OF PLAYING

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Before you start throwing the dice, there are some things you should remember. Here are some top tips to help you become a great craps player and also a smart gambler.



✓ DO

Shoot the dice when given the chance.

✗ DON'T

Fall into empty promises of a “guaranteed” craps system that you also have to pay for.

✓ DO

Stick to a budget.

✗ DON'T

Make weird side bets or those with a ridiculous house edge.

✓ DO

Choose the best bet such as the pass/don't pass bet.



✓ DO

Tip the dealers.

✗ DON'T

Listen to players who claim that they can read the tables through psychic vibrations.

✓ DO

Follow the etiquette of craps.

✗ DON'T

Get too caught in the moment.

✓ DO

Have fun!

**NOW YOU'RE READY  
TO PLAY CRAPS**



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