

# POKER QUOTES

---

## Author Unknown

The guy who invented poker was bright, but the guy who invented the chip was a genius.

If, after the first twenty minutes, you don't know who the sucker at the table is, it's you.

Never give a sucker an even break.

A faint heart never filled a spade flush.

Dear Lord, help me to break even. I need the money.

A king can do no wrong unless it runs into an ace.

Money isn't everything unless you're playing in a re-buy tournament.

When a man with money meets a man with experience, the man with experience leaves with money and the man with money leaves with experience.

A racehorse is an animal that can take several thousand people for a ride at the same time.

Luck never gives, it only lends.

The best throw of the dice is to throw them away.

Gambling is the son of avarice and the father of despair.

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.

If you are a guy, you know you play too much poker if your wet dreams involve "nuts" instead of breasts.

Life is like a game of poker: If you don't put any in the pot, there won't be any to take out.

---

**Crandall Addington**



If you re-raise a raiser and he doesn't raise you back, you know he has kicker problems.

---

**Alfred Alvarez**

Poker is generally reckoned to be America's second most popular after-dark activity. Sex is good, they say, but poker lasts longer.

It is easy to smile at an insult and pretend it's funny when the person insulting you is hosing you with money.

Serious poker is no more about gambling than rock climbing is about taking risks.

Hold'Em is a game of calculated aggression. If your cards are good enough for you to call a bet, they are good enough to raise with.

I could think of worse ways of going than at the poker table.

I think one of the interesting things about poker is that once you let your ego in, you're done for.

It's going to finish when I fold my hand and go up to the big poker game in the sky.

Yes, I think poker really isn't gambling.

---

**Paul Auster**



This was the first time he had seriously confronted what he was doing, and the force of that awareness came very abruptly. With a surging of his pulse and a frantic pounding in his head. He was about to gamble his life on that table, and the insanity of that risk filled him with a kind of awe.

---

**Steve Badget**

Besides lovemaking and singing in the shower, there aren't many human activities where there is a greater difference between a person's self-delusional ability and actual ability than in poker.

Once you start thinking you have nothing left to learn, you have everything to learn.

---

### **Bobby Baldwin**



You cannot survive without that intangible quality we call heart. The mark of a top player is not how much he wins when he is winning but how he handles his losses. If you win for thirty days in a row, that makes no difference if on the thirty-first you have a bad night, go crazy, and throw it all away.

Playing poker for a living gives you backbone. You cannot survive without that intangible quality we call heart.

---

### **Samantha Bee**



Last year people won more than one billion dollars playing poker. And casinos made twenty-seven billion just by being around those people.

The best part about poker is there's no down side.

---

## Andy Bellin



Photo: Miles Ladin

In the absence of any mathematical explanation, one thing is for certain, if you engage in games of chance long enough, the experience is bound to affect the way you see God. Successfully draw to an inside straight three hands in a row, and you've got to be blessed. But if you're the person drawn out on, the one whose trip aces just got snapped for the third time, you will go home feeling cursed.

---

## Benny Binion

Trust everyone, but always cut the cards.

The only bad luck for a good gambler is bad health. Any other setbacks are temporary aggravation.

---

## Jack Binion



I've often thought that if I got really hungry for a good milk shake, how much would I pay for one? People will pay a hundred dollars for a bottle of wine. To me that's not worth it. But I'm not going to say it is foolish or wrong to spend that kind of money if that's what you want. So if a guy wants to bet twenty or thirty thousand dollars in a poker game, that is his privilege.

---

## Dutch Boyd



Poker is a lot like sex. Everyone thinks they are the best but most don't have a clue what they are doing!

---

## Wilford Brimley



What I know about poker, you can fit into a thimble with room left over, but I'm learning.

No, that's poker. To win, you've gotta get damned lucky.

---

## Doyle Brunson



Try to decide how good your hand is at a given moment. Nothing else matters. Nothing!

As far as poker goes, I really didn't play poker but for a few times in high school

Once I accepted the fact my career in sports was over, I started playing poker to support myself.

People today who play in all the big fancy (legal) card rooms don't understand what it was like back in those days to be a poker player with all the problems we had.

We got robbed in poker games lots of times.

Everybody today knows what I learned back then because it's in all the poker books. But nobody knew the right way to play back in those days.

I also learned from Johnny Moss who was the best poker player in the world at that time. I got to watching him and studying him.

I mean there are usually no direct answers to how do you play such-and-such a hand when somebody raises in front. Every poker situation is different. The only way you can learn is to play.

Ninety percent of the hands aren't shown in a poker game.

I still do my best to promote poker.

When I saw those pictures of me at the poker tournament, I couldn't believe how old I looked.

Don't gamble with money that you cannot afford to loose either financially or emotionally.

---

**George Carlin**



Avoid people with gold teeth who want to play cards.

---

**Mike Caro**



Aces are larger than life and greater than mountains.

Sometimes you'll miss a bet, sure, but it's OK to miss a bet. Poker is an art form and sometimes you have to sacrifice art in favour of making a profit.

The most difficult aspects of playing poker professionally are coping emotionally with the losses and coping with the recurring idea that you're not doing anything worthwhile.

---

**George Clooney**



I don't know about the four 9's but I think the ace is pretty hot.

---

## **Matt Damon**



I've lost money so fast in these clubs it's left me reeling. I've read every poker book ever written, but the only way to get better at the game is to go out and play with people who are really good. The problem is you stand to lose a lot of money doing it.

As for poker, I've stayed away from that, even though when I was in Vegas for Ocean's Eleven, I would get accosted by these guys begging me to play. They just want to take my money. They see me, think "actor" and see some easy money.

---

## **Nick Dandalos**



Poker: the art of civilized bushwhacking.

The next best thing to gambling and winning is gambling and losing.

Remember this: The house doesn't beat the player. It just gives him the opportunity to beat himself.

---

**Bonnie Damiano**



If it were easy, everyone would do it.

---

**Thomas Robert Dewar**

No wife can endure a gambling husband, unless he is a steady winner.

---

**Dwight D. Eisenhower**



I don't attempt to be a poker player before this crowd

---

**Sammy Farha**



I had 2 high!

---

### Henry Fonda



Sir, I really like poker. Every hand has its different problems.

---

### W C Fields



Is that the game where one receives five cards? And if there are two alike that's pretty good, but if there are three alike, that's much better?

---

### William J. Florence



The strong point in poker is never to loose your temper, either with those you are playing with or, more particularly, with the cards. There

is no sympathy in poker. Always keep cool. If you lose your head you will lose all your chips.

---

### **Gina Gershon**



Ida and Pearl, the two Jewish broads from Cheyenne, that's how they were known. One of my first memories of my grandmother is of her trying to teach me how to play poker when I couldn't even see the table. I'd dress up and try to go gambling with the old ladies, and for some reason they'd let me in.

---

### **Michael Gersitz**

It is better to make people think you are a bad poker player, then to play and remove all doubt. Don't play to impress, play to win.

Don't get mad that you lost, get mad because you didn't win.

---

### **Andy Glazer**



The single greatest key to winning is knowing thy enemy — yourself.

---

## Johnny Hale



I never saw a poker player's money that I did not like.

---

## Phil Hellmuth



I think that we are all in the right place at the right time almost every day. It's the people who are prepared to be lucky who can take advantage of being there. How do these people position themselves to be lucky? It was Goethe who said, 'Anytime that you take the first step toward trying to achieve something in life, all manner of good things will mysteriously fall into your path to help speed you along your way.'  
Amen to that!

Honey! Honey! I was supposed to go broke on that hand, honey, except they forgot one thing: I can dodge bullets, baby.

If there was no such thing as luck, I guess I'd win every time.

No matter how much you may want to think of Hold'Em as a card game played by people, in many respects it is even more valid to think of it as a game about people that happens to be played with cards.

---

## Tony Hillerman



I love to relive the memories of when I was spry enough to fish the little trout streams. Otherwise, I like to write and play poker.

---

## Anthony Holden



Poker may be a branch of psychological warfare, an art form or indeed a way of life – but it is also merely a game, in which money is simply the means of keeping score.

The winner is not the player who wins the most pots. The winner is the player who wins the most money.

The good news is that in every deck of fifty-two cards there are 2,598,960 possible hands. The bad news is that you are only going to be dealt one of them.

Whether he likes it or not, a man's character is stripped bare at the poker table. If the other poker players read him better than he does, he has only himself to blame. Unless he is both able and prepared to see himself as others do, flaws and all, he will be a loser in poker, as in life.

---

## Chuck Humphrey



Egotism is the anesthetic provided by nature to dull the pain of being a damn fool.

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, when you criticize him, you will be a mile away, and you will have his shoes.

---

**Canada Bill Jones**



It's morally wrong to let sucker keep money.

---

**Warren Karp**



Forget about a chip and a chair, give me a hand and I'll stand.

---

**Rich Korbin**



All I know is, if the cards ever break even — I'm screwed.

---

## Lou Krieger



I believe in poker the way I believe in the American Dream. Poker is good for you. It enriches the soul, sharpens the intellect, heals the spirit, and when played well, nourishes the wallet.

If the shoe fits, steal it.

Hold'Em - like life itself has its defining moment. It's the flop. When you see the flop, you're looking at 71 percent of your hand, and the cost is only a single round of betting.

You have it in your power to turn a bad-beat around simply by realizing this simple truth: The more bad beats you encounter, the luckier you are. It's a sign that you are playing against opponents who continually take the worst of it, and if you can't beat someone who always takes the worst of it, you can't beat anyone.

Most of the money you'll win at poker comes not from the brilliance of your own play, but from the ineptitude of your opponents.

There's opportunity in poker.... If Horace Greeley were alive today, his advice wouldn't be "Go West, young man, and grow up with the country." Instead, he'd point to that deck of cards on table and say, "Shuffle up and deal."

---

## Charles Lamb



Cards are war in disguise of a sport.

Man is a gaming animal. He must always be trying to get the better in something or other.

---

## Joe Laurie Jr

If you play bridge badly you make your partner suffer, but if you play poker badly you make everybody happy.

---

## Katy Lederer



The cardinal sin in poker, worse than playing bad cards, worse even than figuring your odds correctly, is becoming emotionally involved.

---

## John Luckacs



Poker is the game closest to the western conception of life, where life and thought are recognized as intimately combined, where free will prevails over philosophies of fate or of chance, where men are considered moral agents and where - at least in the short run - the important thing is not what happens but what people think happens

---

### Jackie "Moms" Mabley



Life is like a game of poker. If you don't put any in the pot, there won't be any to take out.

---

### Mike "the Mouth" Matusow



The kiddie's game is down the street!

---

## Jack McClelland



To be a poker champion, you must have a strong bladder.

---

## David Mamet



Poker reveals to the frank observer something else of import—it will teach him about his own nature. Many bad players do not improve because they cannot bear self-knowledge.

Opportunity may knock, but it seldom nags.

The poker player learns that sometimes both science and common sense are wrong, that the bumblebee can fly, that perhaps one should never trust an expert, that there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of by those with an academic bent.

---

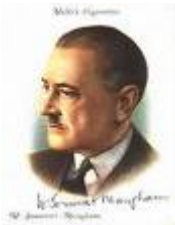
## Walter Matthau



Poker exemplifies the worst aspects of capitalism that have made our country so great.

---

## W.Somerset Maugham



Is it a reasonable thing I ask you, for a grown man to run about and hit a ball? Poker's the only game fit for a grown man. Then, your hand is against every man's, and every man's is against yours. Teamwork? Who ever made a fortune by teamwork? There's only one way to make a fortune, and that's to down the fellow who's up against you.

---

## Brett Maverick



If you know poker you know people, and if you know people, you got the whole dang world lined up in your sights.

---

## Tom McEvoy



There is more to poker than life.

## David Moschella



Industry executives and analysts often mistakenly talk about strategy as if it were some kind of chess match. But in chess, you have just two opponents, each with identical resources, and with luck playing a minimal role. The real world is much more like a poker game, with multiple players trying to make the best of whatever hand fortune has dealt them. In our industry, Bill Gates owns the poker table until someone proves otherwise.

---

## Johnny Moss



Hold'Em is to stud what chess is to checkers.

You have to learn what kind of hand this guy shows down with. Watch the veins in his neck, watch his eyes and the way he sweats.

---

## Scotty Nguyen



You call...going to be all over you baby.

## VP Pappy

Your best chance to get a Royal Flush in a casino is in the bathroom.

---

## Pug Pearson



The real things to know is that folks will stand to loose more than they will to win. That's the most important percentage there is. I mean, if they loose, they're willing to loose everything. If they win, they're usually satisfied to win enough to pay for dinner and a show. The best gamblers know that.

Losing is like smoking. It's habit forming.

Fear is the basis of all mankind. In cards, you psyche them out, you shark them, you put the fear of God in them.

Everything is mental in life. The butt was made to lug the mind around.

---

## Michael Pertwee

How long does it take to learn poker Dad? Your entire life son.

---

## Grantland Rice



It's not whether you won or lost, but how many bad-beat stories you were able to tell.

---

## Jackie Robinson



Baseball is like a poker game. Nobody wants to quit when he's losing, nobody wants you to quit when you're ahead.

---

## Richard Roper



I've been playing Texas Hold 'Em and other forms of poker since I was about 12.

You're not allowed to give yourself a nickname. This holds true in life as well as in poker.

Living in the past is a Jethro Tull album, not a smart poker strategy

Meanwhile, there's more poker than soft porn on cable TV these days - and the broadcast networks are getting in on the game as well.

And there's the World Series of Poker, known as the last American Gold Rush. In the 2005 tourney, more than 5,600 players competed for the top prize of \$7.5 million.

---

### **Kenny Rogers**



He said, "Son", I've made a life out of reading' people's faces, and knowing' what their cards were by the way they held their eyes.

---

### **Mike Sexton**



One day a chump, the next day a champion. What a difference a day makes in tournament poker.

## Max Shapiro



They say poker is a zero-sum game. It must be, because every time I play my sum ends up zero.

---

## David Shoup



The commonest mistake in history is underestimating your opponent.  
It happens at the poker table all the time.

---

## David Sklansky



When we play, we must realize, before anything else, that we are out to make money.

Put yourself in their shoes before you decide on the best way to take their shirts.

## Amarillo Slim



It never hurts for potential opponents to think you're more than a little stupid and can hardly count all the money in your hip pocket, much less hold on to it.

Nobody is always a winner, and anybody who says he is, is either a liar or doesn't play poker.

I never go looking for a sucker. I look for a Champion and make a sucker of him.

---

## David Spanier



The odds are merely a framework for play, like the lines of a tennis court.

---

## Jack Strauss



Limit poker is a science, but no-limit is an art. In limit, you are shooting at a target. In no-limit, the target comes alive and shoots back at you.

---

### **Jack Styles**

Poker... I hardly even know her!

---

### **Jonathan Swift**



I must complain the cards are ill shuffled till I have a good hand.

---

### **Fred Thompson**



But when you're playing poker, you don't know the answer to that until after the cards are laid down, and then it's too late.

---

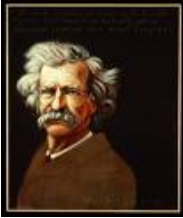
### **Chuck Thompson**

It's easy to be a tough competitor and still be the kind of person with whom people love to compete.

If you always start with the worst hand, you never have a bad-beat story to tell.

---

## Mark Twain



There are few things that are so unpardonably neglected in our country as poker. The upper class knows very little about it. Now and then you find ambassadors who have sort of a general knowledge of the game, but the ignorance of the people is fearful. Why, I have known clergymen, good men, kind-hearted, liberal, sincere, and all that, who did not know the meaning of a "flush." It is enough to make one ashamed of the species.

Learning to play two pairs is worth about as much as a college education, and about as costly.

---

## David "Devilfish" Ulliott



The two things you need to be successful in poker are, first, find the muck, and second, don't play your own money.

---

## Felix Unger



Marriages may come and go, but the game must go on.

---

## Stu Ungar



Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser.

It's hard work. Don't let anyone tell you different. Think about what it's like sitting at a poker table with people whose only goal is to cut your throat, take your money, and leave you out back talking to yourself about what went wrong inside.

See, in my world - the world of high-stakes gin and poker - we play for cold, hard cash. It's all business, pure and simple. Anyone who thinks card playing is a 'game' - I'll show you a loser. Money... That's how you measure success. One dollar at a time. One chip at a time. That's how you keep score.

---

## William Wigstrom

Ace is not good, Ace is God

## Robert Williamson



Poker takes a day to learn and a lifetime to master.

---

## James Woods



I'm absolutely going to win it, because I'm ruthless. I sit at the poker table and my job is to destroy people.

---

## Steven Wright



Last night I stayed up late playing poker with Tarot cards. I got a full house and four people died.

---

## Herbert Yardley



A card player should learn that once the money is in the pot, it isn't his any longer.

---

## Jack Yelton

There is a very easy way to return from a casino with a small fortune: go there with a large one.

---