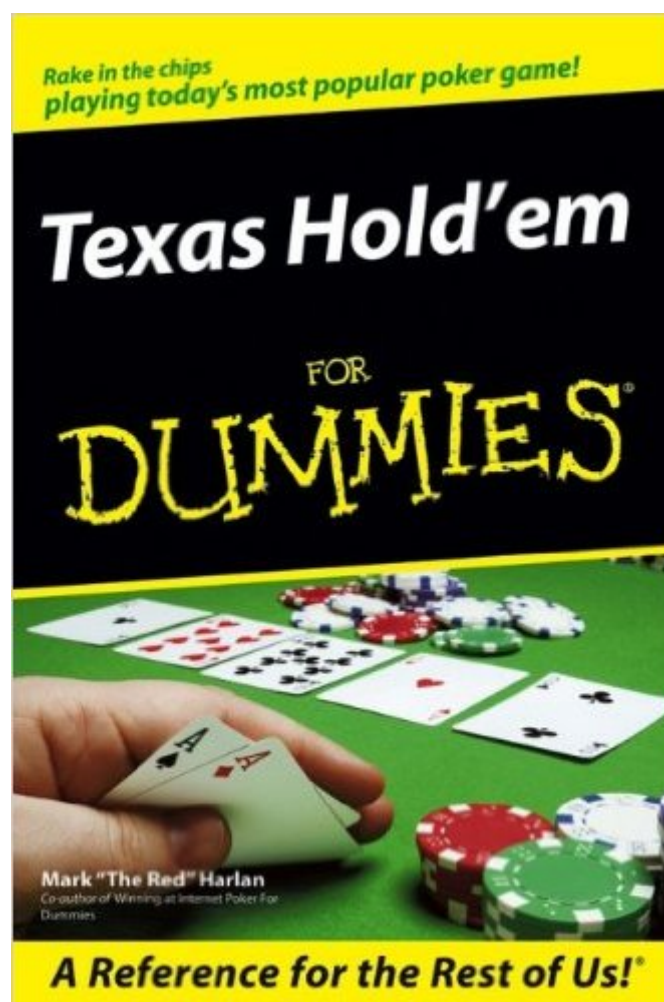


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# Texas Hold'em For Dummies



## Synopsis

Turn on the TV, drop by a newsstand, or just browse the checkout your local supermarket and you'll see firsthand that Texas Hold 'Em is the poker game everyone's playing. It's a game that's deceptively simple, yet within its easy framework you'll find truth and trickery, boredom and fear, skill and misfortune—in other words, all the things that make life fun and worth living! Texas Hold'em For Dummies introduces you to the fundamental concepts and strategies of this wildly popular game. It covers the rules for playing and betting, odds, etiquette, Hold'em lingo, and offers sound advice to avoid mistakes. This handy reference guide gives new and even seasoned players winning strategies and tactics not just for playing the game, but for winning. You'll learn: Rules and strategies for limit, no-limit, tournament, and online play How to "play" the other players The importance of your bankroll—recommended sizes and more Hands you should and should not play How to camouflage your play and dodge traps When, who, and how to bluff How to maximize your win with check-raising and trapping The different approaches for playing in private games, casinos, card rooms, tournaments, and on the Internet How to use mathematics to your advantage Texas Hold 'Em is a game of both skill and chance. But it's a game that can be beaten, and whether you want to make money, sharpen your game, or just have a good time, Texas Hold 'Em for Dummies will give you the winning edge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I picked this book up at my local bookstore; I actually almost didn't. The shelf was covered with lots of books written by these great names I had seen on t.v. However, upon cracking open their covers I found a dialect I still wasn't ready to handle. I was a young player just trying to get a feel how to

beat friends in the neighborhood and had no idea how deep the game of Hold 'em actually was. I chose this book because of the trusted Dummies name and I was not disappointed. The book is the best approach for a beginner. The book starts with an explanation of the rules of the different variants of poker before dipping into any really deep strategy. He did what he should to any novice, presented the "correct" way to play Hold 'em and then told me about the deeper strategies of Hold 'em, but he only scratched the surface, leaving those strategies to other Hold 'em books. All I can really say is that it is the necessary stepping stone for the true novice. Without reading this book, you won't have the foundation necessary to progress to more advanced books authored by such geniuses as David Sklansky and Mike Caro. These advanced books start off assuming the reader knows the rules of Texas Hold 'em and throw poker jargon at you from start to finish. Without this introductory text, anything else you read will be useless.

I started playing poker a long, long time ago, back when Texas Hold'em wasn't the only game that got any attention, poker wasn't televised, and guys that look like Jesus weren't winning big and getting famous. But I never learned -- I always played for fun, not profit. Reading this book changed all that for me. While I've always resented the implied insult in the "...for Dummies" series titles, I was indeed a dummy at Hold'em before picking up this volume. And now? I am stunned, astonished at (a) what I didn't know, and (b) that I could learn it from (c) a book. I've long admired Mark Harlan's legendary writing prowess, but only for enjoyment -- I didn't realize that the man could teach, as well as entertain. And he's got real chops, as the founder of an online poker company and frequent tourney player. This book has given me, an occasional poker player, the skills and confidence to move forward in the world of Hold'em. If it can happen to me, it can work for anyone.

Harlan's first book *Winning at Internet Poker For Dummies (For Dummies (Computer/Tech))* is the book that turned me from a losing player to a winning player. I bought this book as soon as it hit the shelves and I was not disappointed. Since his first book I have bought and studied over a dozen Texas hold'em books and like the one reviewer said "nothing new". Well duh it is a for dummies book, but Harlan brings it all together in a unique fashion and he covers the basics to some advanced concepts that I have only seen in one or two other books. Harlan has a point he drives home repeatedly: know your enemy. "If you can identify the traits of your opponents, and interpret the way those traits are presented to you at the table, you've found the master key to the game. Make no mistake about it, understanding your opponents at the table is THE most important aspect of poker." I have found a couple holes in the way I present MYSELF at the table, and I am more able

to see things in others. Don't let the title sway you. This book's a winner, and for the low price the best bang for your buck in any poker book I've seen. I can honestly say that Harlan's books have been worth thousands of dollars in profit to me at the tables. If you are serious about winning you should add Harlan's books to your library.

Texas Hold 'em for Dummies is packed with game play information, strategy and tons of useful tips. Mr. Harlan starts with a bird's eye view of Hold 'em and then moves into play by play mode. In addition to discussing the basics of the game, he also talks about the importance of managing your bankroll and table position. From there he goes into advanced strategies of reading players, bluffing and trapping. There's also chapters on mathematics as it relates to the game and an overview of game theory. If that weren't enough, he then gives a complete overview of where to play Hold 'em whether on-line, with friends or in a card room. Here there are useful tips like how to handle hotheads, the difference between good skimming and bad skimming, what kind of food to eat during a poker game (no potato chips which can grease up the cards!) and a friendly reminder to get your car validated at the card room. Written with an authoritative, friendly style, Mr. Harlan makes this complex and fascinating game accessible and fun. Also included is a great glossary because Hold 'em and poker in general have their own slang which can get confusing. Overall, this book is a great value for the money because you will continue to go back to it as a reference and it works as a springboard to more advanced information. Oh, and he's funny too. I was also impressed that he knows the names of all five Marx Brothers. That Godzilla comment was a kick too.

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