

List of playing-card nicknames

This **list of playing card nicknames** has the common nicknames for the playing cards in a 52-card deck, as used in some common card games, such as **poker**.

1 Single cards

The following is a list of nicknames used for playing cards used in most card games which use the standard 52-card pack. Such games usually require the revealing or announcement of held cards, at which point the nicknames may be used.

1.1 One-eyed royals

The phrase **one-eyed royals** is jargon referring to the three face cards showing only one eye: the Jack of Spades (**J♠**), Jack of Hearts (**J♥**) and King of Diamonds (**K♦**). The terminology results from the depiction of the face on the card as being shown in profile, so only one eye is visible (all other face cards show two eyes). The jacks are also referred to, separately, as **one-eyed jacks**: Jack of Spades (**J♠**), Jack of Hearts (**J♥**).

They are frequently used in home games of **draw poker** as wildcards. Because the King of Diamonds is the only king card bearing an axe (the others show swords), a common phrase for the one-eyed royals is “One-eyed Jacks, the Man with the Axe”. Another common phrase is “One-eyed Jacks and Suicide King” denoting the King of Hearts (**K♥**) bearing a sword through his head. These four cards are the only cards of differing rank and suit in a common deck that share an identifying trait.

2 Texas hold 'em pocket card nicknames

The following is a list of nicknames for pairs of two playing cards, usually hole cards, used in poker derivatives such as **Texas hold 'em** and **Omaha hold 'em** poker. These nicknames are usually used by the player when announcing their hand or by spectators or commentators who are watching the game.

2.1 Ace higher card

2.2 King higher card

2.3 Queen higher card

2.4 Jack higher card

2.5 Ten higher card

2.6 Nine higher card

2.7 Eight higher card

2.8 Seven higher card

2.9 Six higher card

2.10 Five higher card

2.11 Four higher card

2.12 Three higher card

2.13 Two higher card

3 Poker hand nicknames

The following sets of playing cards can be referred to by the corresponding names in card games that include sets of three or more cards, particularly **3 and 5 card draw**, **Texas Hold 'em** and **Omaha Hold 'em**. The nicknames would often be used by players when revealing their hands, or by spectators and commentators watching the game. With TV and web broadcasting of Poker tournaments, nicknames became much more popular all over the world.

4 See also

- [List of poker-related topics](#)
- [Glossary of poker terms](#)
- [Poker-hand rankings](#)

5 Notes

^ The nine of diamonds playing card is often referred to as the **Curse of Scotland**^[101] or the **Scourge of Scotland**,^[102] there are a number of reasons given for this connection:

1. It was the playing card used by **Sir John Dalrymple**, the **Earl of Stair**, to cryptically authorise the **Glencoe Massacre**. Certainly there is a resemblance between the nine of diamonds and his coat of arms.
2. **The Duke of Cumberland** is supposed to have scribbled the order for “no quarter” to be given after the **Battle of Culloden** on a nine of diamonds playing card.
3. It has also been suggested that it is a misreading of the “**Corse of Scotland**” i.e., the “**Cross of Scotland**” or **St Andrew’s Saltire**. There is a resemblance between the pattern of the nine of diamonds and the Saltire.
4. Nine diamonds were at one time stolen from the crown of Scotland and a tax was levied on the Scottish people to pay for them – the tax got the nickname “**The Curse of Scotland**”.^[103]
5. The game of **Comète** being introduced by **Mary of Lorraine** (alternatively by **James, Duke of York**) into the court at **Holyrood**, the **Nine of Diamonds**, being the winning card, got this name in consequence of the number of courtiers ruined by it.
6. In the game of **Pope Joan**, the **Nine of Diamonds** is the **Pope** – a personage whom some Scottish Presbyterians consider as a curse.
7. Diamonds imply royalty and every ninth king of Scotland was a curse to his country.^[104]

^ The **Six of Hearts** is known as **loyalty at the risk of death** or **Grace’s Card**. This is because in 1688 an Irish Jacobite soldier, **Colonel Richard Grace** of **Moynelly House, Athlone**, used this card to write a refusal to surrender and sent it to **William of Orange**. Colonel Grace was loyal to **King James II of England**, and risked being shot or hanged for his refusal to give up. The words Colonel Grace wrote were, “Tell your master I despise his offer, and that honor and conscience are dearer to a gentleman than all the wealth and titles a prince can bestow”^{[105][106]}

^ The origin of **The Bicycle, Little Wheel, Spoke, Steel Wheel, Steel Wheeled Bike** or simply **The Wheel** is unknown, but it is believed to have something to do with the popular **Bicycle Playing Cards** issued by the **United States Playing Card Company**.^{[107][108]}

^ The **Princess Leia** is the hand **AA23** (more common in Omaha since this version of poker used 4 hole cards). This is because **Leia** was held prisoner in detention block

AA23 before she was rescued by **Han, Chewbacca** and **Luke** in *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*.^[109]

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7.1 Text

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