

## HAND EVALUATION

IS THE HAND UPGRADABLE, DOWNGRADABLE, OR NEITHER?  
CONSIDER YOUR DISTRIBUTION. IS IT BALANCED (boring) OR  
UNBALANCED (interesting)?

WHAT IS THE TRUE VALUE OF THE FIVE HONOR CARDS?

REMINDER: ACES and TENS ARE WORTH MORE THAN THEIR ASSIGNED  
VALUE. QUEENS and JACKS ARE WORTHLESS. EVALUATING KINGS  
AS 3 HIGH-CARD POINTS IS ACCURATE.

WITH 3 OF THE SAME HONOR CARDS: ADD 1 HCP for 3 ACES or 3 TENS.

SUBTRACT 1 HCP for 3 JACKS OR 3 QUEENS.

ADD 1 HCP FOR A RARE QUALITY SUIT (FOUR-PLUS-CARD SUIT WITH AT  
LEAST 3 HONORS).

DOWNGRADE HANDS WITH STRENGTH IN A SHORT SUIT.

ADD FOR LENGTH (5+ CARDS IN A SUIT).

THINK ABOUT YOUR INTERMEDIATE CARDS (10, 9, 8) AND QUICK TRICKS.

THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT HIGH-CARD POINTS:

USING 4-3-2 TO REPRESENT VALUES FOR ACES, KINGS, QUEENS, JACKS,  
IS EASY. ANYONE CAN DO IT. IT'S NOT COMPLETELY ACCURATE. THESE  
VALUES, WHICH OFFER A MORE ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF A CARD'S  
TRICK-TAKING POTENTIAL, ARE WORTH NOTING:

THE TRUE VALUE OF AN ACE IS  $4\frac{1}{2}$  POINTS.

A KING IS CORRECT WITH ITS ASSIGNED VALUE OF 3 POINTS.

A QUEEN IS WORTH ONLY  $1\frac{1}{2}$  POINTS.

A JACK IS WORTH  $\frac{1}{4}$  OF A POINT.

A 10, LIKE AN ACE, IS AN UNRATED HONOR. IT'S WORTH  $\frac{1}{4}$  OF A POINT>

IF YOUR HAND CONTAINS AT LEAST 3 ACES, OR 3 TENS, ADD 1 POINT.

IF YOUR HAND CONTAINS AT LEAST 3 QUEENS OR 3 JACKS, SUBTRACT 1 POINT.

HIGH CARD VALUES MAY GO UP AND DOWN SLIGHTLY IN VALUE, BUT  
DISTRIBUTIONAL VALUES RISE & FALL LIKE A WILD DAY AT THE STOCK MARKET