

# Check

A [check](#) is the passive option to take while still trying to stay in the hand. When another player bets and the action is back on the player that [checked](#), now the player can decide to [raise](#), [call](#) or [fold](#). As soon as a [betting round](#) is opened with a [bet](#) the right to [check](#) is revoked from all players, with the exception of the play with the biggest blind [bet](#) placed into the pot in that [betting round](#) as long as this [bet](#) has not been raised.

[Checking](#) behind or [checking](#) back means to also [check](#) after the players before have already [checked](#) their option to [bet](#) as well. This term is also used when the player [checking](#) back/ [checking](#) behind is closing the action of the [betting round](#).

[Checking](#) is a strategic tool to manipulate the potsize, either by pot-controlling through [check](#)-calling trying to keep it small, or pot-inflation through [check-raising](#).

In live [poker](#) a player that is first to act in the next round of betting can announce that they are "[checking](#) in the dark" meaning that irrelevant of the next dealt card they will [check](#) without knowing it. The move is used to disguise their hand while surrendering the option to [bet](#) themselves. Depending on the situation and opponent this can be stupid or smart.