



Gambling Myths. Gambling Facts.



Slot Machines

Myth: "This slot machine hasn't paid out in a while—it's due for a win!"

Fact: The outcome of a slot machine spin is not controlled by timing or luck, it's controlled by a computer chip—a Random Number Generator that continuously produces thousands of numbers every second. When you hit the 'play' button, the number generated at that split second is converted into a result on the screen—either a win or a loss. It makes no difference if the machine hasn't paid out in a long time or if you push the button a certain way—each spin is completely random and unpredictable.

What is House Edge?

The House Edge is the built-in advantage in each game that ensures that the gaming venue (or 'House') has the long-term advantage. This doesn't mean that people don't win, some do—but House Edge guarantees that the longer you play, the more likely you are to lose.

There are all kinds of gambling myths: This slot machine is ready to pay; I have a system that guarantees I'll win; gambling is a good way to make money; I have a better chance of winning the lottery if I play the same numbers every week. If you act on these beliefs, **you are much more likely to have a gambling problem than a big win.**

A gambling win or loss has nothing to do with luck, a special system, the time of day you gamble or the slot machine or lottery numbers you choose. Gambling outcomes are the result of things you can't control, like the random way the cards are dealt or where the roulette ball lands.

Take a look at some of the most popular gaming activities and see where gambling myths and gambling facts come into play.

Did you know? A recent study showed that **43 per cent of Ontario adults** believe at least one gambling myth or misperception.*



Blackjack

Myth: "Blackjack is all about skill and I have a system that guarantees I'll win!"

Fact: One of the oldest myths associated with blackjack is that a person can win by card counting—keeping track of which cards have been played since the last shuffle. But since all casinos use multiple decks—usually eight—actual card counting is difficult, if not impossible. Some players, instead of counting all the cards, use a system called 'Hi-Lo' where they assign a negative, positive or zero value to each card. Even using this system and playing each hand perfectly only gives you a 1% advantage. While there is some skill involved in blackjack, you can't predict how the cards will be dealt and you can't control how someone next to you will play their hand.

Roulette

Myth: "The ball has landed on red the last six times—this time it has to be black!"

Fact: There is no way to predict where the roulette ball will rest. The past has no bearing on where the roulette ball will land next—the ball has no memory! Each spin of the wheel and each outcome is completely independent, unpredictable and random.

Remember: Over time, the more you risk, the more you are likely to lose. If you are up, consider yourself fortunate and leave with money in your pocket. If you lose, consider it the price of entertainment.

Gambling Myths Quiz

If you believe in gambling myths, you may find yourself spending more money than you can afford gambling. Or more time. Or spending more money to win back what's been lost. **These are all signs of a potential gambling problem.** Take this quiz and see if you can separate gambling fact from gambling fiction.

1. If a slot machine hasn't had a recent win, it's due for one. (T) (F)
2. If you're on a losing streak, don't worry—if you play long enough you'll win your money back. (T) (F)
3. No matter what game they're playing, over time, gamblers usually lose more than they win. (T) (F)
4. You can increase your chances of winning by playing at a slot machine that hasn't paid out recently. (T) (F)
5. If you flip a coin five times and you get heads each time, you are more likely to get tails on the next flip. (T) (F)
6. If playing roulette and red has come up 14 times in a row, your next bet should be on black—it will improve your chances of winning. (T) (F)
7. Playing two or more slot machines at the same time is a good way to lose money faster. (T) (F)
8. Choosing the same lottery numbers every week will improve your chances of winning. (T) (F)

If you are concerned about your gambling, or the gambling of someone you care about, call:

ONTARIO PROBLEM GAMBLING HELPLINE
1-888-230-3505

Toll-free, confidential, anonymous, and open 24 hours.

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. F 6. F 7. T 8. F

Responsible Gaming Resource Centre

The Responsible Gaming Resource Centre (RGRC), located on-site at OLG gaming venues across Ontario, provides patrons with information on safer gambling practices as well as assistance and local referrals for help with gambling-related problems. Operated by the Responsible Gambling Council, the centres are independent and all information provided to the RGRC is strictly confidential.

Responsible Gambling Council

The Responsible Gambling Council (RGC) is an independent, non-profit organization committed to problem gambling prevention. RGC designs and delivers highly effective awareness programs. Through the RGC Centre for the Advancement of Best Practices, the Council also promotes the identification and adoption of best practices in problem gambling prevention.

For more information about safer gambling, or to find out more about local resources for help with gambling-related problems, please visit:

www.responsiblegambling.org

