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How To Play Slots | Betrally Casino

Where did slots come from in the first place and why have they become so popular? How do you play these potentially life-changing games? Get the answers here!

How To Play Slots

Slots - also known as one-armed bandits, puggies, fruit machines, slot machines or pokies - are the most popular casino game, bringing in around 70% of the average US casino's income. Since their invention in 1891, they've come a long way, from the simple beer, gum or cigar paying mechanical slots, to the more complicated multi-payline progressive jackpot online slots we see today. Their popularity grew so much that the progression from the fruit symbol bearing flashing pub-based machine to the sleeker themed online game was hardly surprising, opening up a whole new experience for regular and new players alike. So what exactly is a slot and how do you play one? Let's take a closer look and find out.

Slots Basics

Slots are generally described as being reel based machines featuring a selection of symbols on each reel (originally poker cards, then gum fruits like melon and cherries) that you pay to spin with the aim of landing on a certain pattern of symbols for a payout. The first slots were operated using a lever to one side (hence the 'one-armed bandit' nickname) but today they are generally operated by a simple button press. The number of reels can vary from one slot to another but usually feature a minimum of 3. Slots require an input of money before you can play them, of course, and each spin of the reels costs a set amount of the money you put in, which you can usually select. The amount you choose to bet per spin determines the payout value of each winning pattern of symbols: the more you bet, the more you stand to win.

Slots Symbols

Slots symbols now come in all shapes, sizes and themes, but they're all there for one purpose: to be matched into a winning pattern. When you play a slot machine, the whole idea is to spin the reels in the hope that when they stop spinning, the symbols on them will be arranged into a winning pattern along one of the slot's specified paylines, thus resulting in a payout. You can usually check the details of the slot's paylines and how much each pattern of symbols pays out by looking at the paytable. Not all symbols are created equal though. Some symbols, called Wilds, substitute for other symbols, so finding these in one of your paylines is usually a good thing. Scatter symbols also enhance slot gameplay by triggering

special feature games and most of the time they needn't be lined up on a payline to be activated.

Slots Types

In addition to the different symbols, slots can vary in many other ways too. There can be as few as one payline or as many as 1,024 or more! There are also endless themes, from the traditional bells and fruits to slots based on popular movies, TV series and computer games. You'll also find lots of variation in terms of reels, from the original 3 reel layout to 5+ reels and even combinations of different sized reels. On top of that, you can choose how much you stand to win by checking the paytable for the maximum payouts or opting to play one of the many progressive jackpot slots that can be found both offline and online - these feature a constantly updated jackpot amount that is linked to player bets and pays out when the top pattern is matched, at which point the amount it has reached is paid out, before the amount is reset and starts increasing again. There are many more interesting things to look out for when it comes to slots, like those whose paylines pay out both ways (ie, left to right and right to left), cascading symbols that are removed when in a winning payline and are replaced by new ones from above, grouped symbols that trigger payouts, and plenty more.

Which Slots are best?

The best slots are those you like playing so it depends what you're looking for in a slot. Maybe you're motivated by the game's theme, by the available array of symbols (number or type), by the number of reels or even by the slot's sounds and music. Many times it's the likelihood of hitting a payout and the maximum amount of that payout that motivates players: this is called variance or volatility. Slots can pay out a small amount but more often (low variance/volatility), or a larger amount but less often (high variance/volatility). Then there are slots that fall somewhere in the middle. The best slot is always going to be a question of preference, but the best way to make that choice is to try a variety of them! Here at Betrally Casino you can try any of our massive collection of slots for free, so give some of them a go and you might just find your new favourite.

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