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A Texas hold'em match in progress. Hold'em is a popular form of poker in the USA. Poker is a game which people play with a normal set (or deck) of cards.

is a gambling game which involves some luck, but also some skill. In poker, players make bets against each other depending on the value of their poker hand. Bets are usually made with plastic or ceramic discs called chips. Bets may also be made with coins or cash, but chips are more often used because they are easier to handle and count. At the end of the game, players may swap their chips for money. If the players are not playing for real money, the chips are counted at the end of the game to determine the order of winners. There are many different kinds of poker. In draw poker,

each player is dealt five cards. A player can decide to throw away a number of these cards and then take (draw) new cards to replace them. In stud poker (for example, seven-card stud),

(face-up) on the table so that the other players can see them. In community card poker (for example, Texas hold'em),

players share some of their cards in the center of the table.

The history of poker is a matter of some debate. The name of the game likely descended from the French word *poque*, which descended from the German *pochen* (to knock out).

the origins of poker itself lie with the games bearing those names. It closely resembles the Persian game of *as nas*, and may have been taught to French settlers in New Orleans by Persian sailors. It is commonly regarded as sharing ancestry with the Renaissance game of *primero* and the French *brelan*. The English game *brag* (earlier *bragg*) clearly descends