

As we kick off 2020, it's time to take a look at an increasingly popular pastime: playing online casinos. While land-based casino gameplay is all well and good, being able to play online whenever you like certainly has an appeal to it!

In this guide, we give online casino

you some tips to make sure you get the most out of your online casino gameplay in 2020.

Make sure the casino you choose is licensed in your area

Don't get caught out by bogus casinos. Yes, these definitely still exist online. While they might say they have great odds, you don't really know what's happening behind the scenes as they aren't subject to strict regulations that licensed online casinos in your area need to comply with.

For example, you can find the online casinos that are licensed to provide services in the UK at the UK Gambling Commission's website.

By only playing at casinos licensed in your area you make sure that you are protected as a player by your country's rules and regulations.

Read all sign up bonus terms and conditions carefully

Casino houses offer some great sign up bonuses such as matching your initial deposit amount or free spins on slots. However, it always pays to read the fine print. When you get these types of offers, they will have certain rules attached before payout. Dig into the terms and conditions and you may just find that you need to play through your 'free money' amount 50 or 100 times before you can withdraw any winnings. This might mean that you are even better off not claiming a bonus if you want to cash out quickly.

It's not all doom and gloom though, there are plenty of places to play where you can make those sign up bonuses go further. You can look at this guide on how to use probability and no deposit slots to win big.

To win big, play games with a good margin

Different games all have different house edges. For example, blackjack has a very good house edge – you're less likely to lose money on this game than other games if you're any good at gameplay, depending on the rules of the house (such as how many decks of cards are in play, whether you can double down after a split, etc.). Some online casinos may offer up to 0.05% house edge, which is a good percentage – for every dollar played, you'd only lose 5c, over billions of hands.

Other games differ in their house edge. For example, a lot of slots games have a 0.1% house edge. This is twice the return to the house versus playing blackjack – which means that you are much worse off playing this game over time.

Remember also that some games have a degree of skill involved (e.g. blackjack) and others are purely random (e.g. slots).

New slots often have better returns than old slots

The other thing that casino houses like to do is set their newer slots at a lower house edge to get customers to play it more, then raise the house edge after the game has been played for a while. Why is this? So that players think they're onto a "lucky game" and keep playing the game even after the house edge has been raised.

If you are aware of this tactic, you can keep an edge on which slots games to play and when for the best return rate.

Choose casinos that work well on mobile

Playing online casinos is the type of activity that lends itself well to mobile play. You can have a few spins of the reels when you're waiting for your friend to arrive for lunch, or play a round or two of poker on the bus on your way to work.

That's why it's good to look for online casinos that are designed specifically for mobile or are mobile responsive.

For longer gaming session you might like to use a laptop or desktop to reduce hand and wrist strain. This is important, as spending too much time on mobile can lead to symptoms such as tingling or painful sensations in the hands and wrists, which can compound over time.

Set limits for yourself

One of the most important things to remember in online casino playing is knowing when to stop. Set a limit of how much you will spend in a session, a day, or a week. You might like to also set a limit for your wins – that you walk away if you win X amount.

Don't gamble more than you want to, it'll leave you feeling pretty rubbish, or keeping on chasing a win which can put you even deeper in the hole. You can check out some support services from the Australian government here, or check your local authority for more details.

And there you have it! Our quick guide to playing the online casinos in 2020. Play safe, play smart, and have fun – because that's what they are there for.