

poker professional

A tell in poker is anything that gives away information about our opponent's possible hole cards.

This facet of poker is especially crucial in live games, where many players give away information through their body language.

In this guide to common poker tells, we'll look at 10 specific poker tells that we can use in-game to get extra information about our opponents.

Interpreting Tells

It's essential to remember that tells mean different things for different players. We have created a list of common tells below. But the actual meaning of a tell could easily end up being the opposite depending on the opponent in question.

Also, something that might be a tell for one player might be meaningless for another. So how do we know what tells mean for individual opponents? We first need to observe each player's default profile.

What is a Default Profile?

The term default profile describes how our opponent typically acts when not in a high-pressure situation.

The first step in picking up on tells is to try and get a feel for each player's default profile.

What is their mood/posture?

Are they chatty?

Do they use a card protector or perform chip tricks?

How often do they typically spend looking at their hole cards?

These changes in the default profile allow us to pick up information regarding our opponent's hand strength.

For example, if our opponent is constantly checking his cards even though he usually doesn't, this often means something.

We won't always know the meaning of a tell straight away. But we will eventually pick up on the implication as we continue to watch our opponent.

In online games, the type of opponent we face has a significant impact