Position

The same two cards can be an easy fold or a perfectly playable hand — depending on where you sit at the table. Position has no formula of its own, but it may be the single most underrated tool a beginner can learn to use.

Why position matters

In late position (e.g. the Button, also called the dealer button) you have already seen what everyone else did before it is your turn — you act with more information. In early position (UTG, "under the gun") you have to decide blind, before you know what the rest are planning. So position is not about the cards — it is about how much you know when you make the decision.

The mindset: same hand, different answers

Stop asking "is this hand good?" and ask instead "is this hand good **from here**?". K♠7♠ is a clear example: an easy fold in early position, but a perfectly reasonable play from the Button — exactly the same two cards.

Quick rule of thumb: starting hands by position

Position	Approximate range
Early position (UTG)	Only the top: pair of 10s or better, AK, AQ
Middle position	Wider: add pair of 8s, KQ
Late position (CO/Button)	Considerably wider: weaker kickers too, suited connectors, K7s

Use the table as a starting point, not an answer key — but it captures the principle: the later your position, the wider you can reasonably play.

Two kinds of position — don't forget the second one

There is "position at the table" (where you sit relative to the first player to act) and "position in the hand" (whether you act last against that particular opponent, street after street). The second is at least as important: you can be on the Button and still be "out of position" against a player who acts after you on a later street because of how the pot was built. Always ask yourself: against this particular opponent, who acts last from now on?

Example

You are on the Button with K♠7♠. Everyone folds to you. From UTG this would have been an easy fold — too far from the top of the range. But here everyone else has already shown weakness (folded), and you act last for the rest of the hand if you play it. That makes K7s a perfectly reasonable play from the Button, even though they are the same cards you would have thrown away from UTG.

Position

■ Position does not make up for everything

A good position makes a marginal hand playable — but it does not make it a strong hand. Against very aggressive opponents, or at a table where several players have already shown strength, the advantage of position counts for less. Position is an adjustment to your range, not a free pass.

Remember: next time you play, count how many times you won a pot simply because you were sitting late — not because your hand was actually best. That is the real value of position.