
How Do Free Spins Work?

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Free spins are one of the most popular features in the world of online slots and casino gaming. They give you the chance to play slot games without using your own money, while still having the opportunity to win real prizes. But how exactly do they work, and what should you look out for? Let's break it down.

What Are Free Spins?

At their simplest, free spins are exactly what they sound like - spins on a slot game that you don't have to pay for. They crop up in two main ways: as an in-game feature built into the slot itself, or as a promotional offer from a [casino site](#).

In-game free spins are triggered during play, usually by landing a certain number of scatter symbols on the reels. When you trigger them, you're given a set number of spins at no cost, and any wins from those spins are added to your balance. These free spins rounds often come with extras like multipliers, expanding wilds, or other special features that can boost your winnings.

Promotional free spins, on the other hand, are given to you by the casino site as part of a bonus offer. These are typically linked to specific slot games chosen by the site, and they come with their own set of terms and conditions.

No Deposit Free Spins

One of the most popular types of promotional free spins is the no deposit offer. As the name suggests, you don't need to put any money into your account to receive them. All you usually need to do is register a new account, and the free spins are credited to your balance.

No deposit free spins are brilliant for trying out a new site without any financial commitment. You can get a feel for the games, the interface, and the overall experience before deciding whether to deposit your own money. If you win anything from your no deposit free spins, those winnings are usually added to a bonus balance rather than your main cash balance.

The catch? Wagering requirements. Almost all no deposit free spins come with wagering requirements, which means you'll need to play through your winnings a certain number of times before you can withdraw them. For example, if you win 5 pounds from your free spins and the wagering requirement is 40x, you'd need to wager 200 pounds before you could cash out. Always read the terms so you know what you're signing up for.

Deposit Free Spins

Many casino sites offer free spins as part of their welcome bonus when you make your first deposit. You might see something like "deposit 10 pounds and get 50 free spins" as a typical offer. These tend to come with somewhat lower wagering requirements than no deposit offers, though the specifics vary from site to site.

Some sites also bundle free spins with deposit match bonuses, where your deposit is matched by a percentage and you receive free spins on top. These packages can offer decent value, but again, always check the terms and conditions, especially the wagering requirements and any maximum withdrawal limits.

VIP and Loyalty Free Spins

Free spins aren't just for new players. Many casino sites reward their regular players with free spins through **VIP and loyalty programmes**. The more you play, the higher you climb through the loyalty tiers, and the better the rewards become.

VIP free spins often come with more favourable terms than standard promotional offers. You might get lower wagering requirements, higher maximum withdrawal limits, or free spins on premium games that aren't available as part of standard promotions.

Seasonal and Promotional Free Spins

Casino sites regularly run promotions tied to holidays, events, or just as a way to keep things interesting for their players. You might find free spins offered around seasonal events or as part of weekly and monthly promotions. Some sites run daily free spins giveaways or offer them as prizes in tournaments and competitions.

It's worth keeping an eye on the promotions page of your chosen casino site, as these offers can pop up at any time and don't always get heavily advertised.

In-Game Free Spins Features

Beyond the promotional side, free spins as an in-game feature are a core part of many **online slot games**. Triggering a free spins round usually requires landing three or more scatter symbols during a regular spin. The number of free spins awarded and the bonus features that accompany them vary from game to game.

Some slots offer a fixed number of free spins with a set **multiplier**, while others let you choose between options - for instance, fewer spins with a higher multiplier or more spins with a lower one. Certain games also allow you to retrigger free spins during the bonus round by landing more scatters, which can extend the round significantly.

Things to Watch Out For

Free spins are a great feature, but there are a few things worth being aware of:

Wagering requirements- As mentioned, most promotional free spins come with wagering requirements. These can range from 20x to 65x or even higher. The lower the wagering requirement, the better the deal.

Game restrictions- Promotional free spins are usually tied to specific slot games. You won't always get to choose which game you play them on.

Maximum withdrawal limits- Some free spins offers cap the amount you can withdraw from your winnings, regardless of how much you win.

Expiry dates- Free spins often need to be used within a certain timeframe. If you don't use them in time, you'll lose them.

Always play at sites that hold a valid UK Gambling Commission licence to ensure your money and personal details are protected. And remember, credit cards cannot be used for gambling in the UK. If you'd like advice on responsible gambling, visit [GambleAware](#).

For more on getting the most out of online slots, check out our [guide to slot bonuses](#).

Responsible Gambling: Gambling should be fun and never seen as a way to make money. Only gamble with money you can afford to lose. If you feel you may have a problem, visit [gambleaware.org](#) or call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133. All sites featured on Top Online Bingo Sites are licensed by the UK Gambling Commission. You must be 18+ to gamble.

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