

Intelligence Division • Case File

THIEVING MASTERY

A Field Guide to Efficient 1-99 Training - Sleight of Hand Protocol



SUBJECT	Thieving (Pickpocketing & larceny skill)	SCOPE	Effectively a Members-only skill - F2P access is limited to pickpocketing Man/Woman at the earliest levels only; live game version, 2026.
	Level 1 Thieving		Level 99 Thieving
ENTRY POINT	Level 1 Thieving	TARGET	Level 99 Thieving

Briefing. Thieving's 1-99 route is a pickpocket-target ladder where each bracket upgrades to a richer, safer mark. **This ladder is almost entirely a members feature** - Farmers, Master Farmers, and Ardougne (Knights of Ardougne included, gated behind the members-only quest "Plague City") are all P2P-only; genuine F2P access stops at pickpocketing Man/Woman in the earliest levels. **Menaphite blackjacking bridges into Prifddinas elves** for members - both are considerably faster than older figures suggest, and the level 85-99 stretch alone is over 70% of the entire skill's xp requirement.

PROGRESSION LADDER



1

START



38

MASTER FARMERS



55

ARDOUGNE KNIGHTS



65

BLACKJACKING (P2P)



85

ELVES (P2P)



99

99

ICON	TIER	LEVEL RANGE	METHOD	KEY REQUIREMENT
	I	1-38	Men/Women (F2P) → Farmers → Master Farmers (P2P)	None - but only Man/Woman is F2P; Farmer/Master Farmer are members-only
	II	38-55	Master Farmers, continued (Ardougne Knights unlock at 55, not 38) - members-only	None (P2P)
	III	55-65	Ardougne Knights (members-only; P2P bridge to blackjacking)	"Plague City" quest (P2P - members-only quest)
	IV	65-85	Blackjacking Menaphite Thugs/Bandits	P2P, 65 Thieving, partial "The Feud"
	V	85-99	Pickpocketing Elves (Prifddinas)	P2P, Song of the Elves

Reading The Access Tags

F2P

Free-to-Play - no membership required for this method.

P2P

Pay-to-Play - requires an active OSRS membership.

F2P & P2P

Identical method works on either account type.

I-V FULL TRAINING ROUTE - MEMBERS (P2P), WITH THE F2P SLIVER NOTED

Free-to-Play Status

Thieving is effectively a members skill in practice. A free account can only pickpocket **Man/Woman** - genuinely F2P-accessible, but only useful for the earliest handful of levels - plus a couple of basic F2P stalls. Farmers, Master Farmers, and Ardougne (Knights of Ardougne included) are all **members-only**: East Ardougne itself, and the quest that unlocks it ("Plague City"), both require membership - Plague City is **not** on the F2P quest list. There is no realistic F2P training path past the earliest levels; everything in Tiers I-V below should be read as the P2P route.

TIER I - MEN/WOMEN → FARMERS → MASTER FARMERS

P2P

1 → 38



METHOD

Standard pickpocket progression: Man/Woman (F2P), then Farmer (10+, members-only), then Master Farmer (38+, members-only)

LOCATION

Man/Woman: anywhere F2P towns have them. Farmer/Master Farmer: Draynor Village and Ardougne market NPCs - both members-only areas for this purpose

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~1-3 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

None

RATE

~10,000-25,000 xp/hr

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This bracket is genuinely fast on a members account - the real xp requirement to reach 38 is only around 30,000 total, so even a modest rate clears it quickly. Master Farmers also drop useful seeds alongside coins. Failed pickpocket attempts stun and deal minor damage; bring food once targets hit harder. **On F2P, only the Man/Woman portion (roughly the first few levels) is actually accessible** - Farmer and Master Farmer both require membership, so an F2P account cannot meaningfully progress through the rest of this bracket.

TIER II - MASTER FARMERS, CONTINUED

P2P

38 → 55



METHOD

Continue pickpocketing Master Farmers (members-only) - there is no better target until Ardougne Knights unlock at 55, also members-only

LOCATION

Ardougne market

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~5-9 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

None

RATE

~15,000-25,000 xp/hr

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This corrects a common error: Knights of Ardougne actually require level 55 Thieving, not 38. Players who switch to Knights at 38 will find they cannot pickpocket them at all - Master Farmers remain the correct target for this entire bracket.

TIER III - ARDOUGNE KNIGHTS

P2P

55 → 65 (bridge to blackjacking)



METHOD

Pickpocket Knights of Ardougne repeatedly for xp and steady coin drops

LOCATION

East Ardougne, near the market and castle

EST. TIME (THIS TIER, 55-65)

~7-11 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

Level 55 Thieving; "Plague City" quest completed - this is a members-only quest, not an F2P one, and East Ardougne itself is a members-only area

RATE

~25,000-40,000 xp/hr

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Low-risk and reliable for the whole bracket. **This entire tier is members-only** - Ardougne Knights are not an F2P training target, correcting an earlier version of this dossier that treated them as an F2P ceiling. There is no equivalent F2P target at this level range; a free account's realistic Thieving training stops at the earliest Man/Woman levels in Tier I.

TIER IV - BLACKJACKING MENAPHITE THUGS/BANDITS

P2P

65 → 85



METHOD

Blackjack Bearded Pollnivnian Bandits (45+) and regular Bandits as an early bridge, then Menaphite Thugs (65+) at Menaphos once accessible

LOCATION

Pollnivneach (Bandits) and Menaphos (Menaphite Thugs)

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~16-28 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

Blackjacking itself unlocks at level 45 Thieving with partial completion of "The Feud"; Menaphite Thugs specifically require level 65

RATE

~100,000-180,000 xp/hr once on Menaphite Thugs - considerably higher than older figures suggest

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Semi-AFK once a safe-spot is set up. **Rates cited here are hedged conservatively** - some efficiency guides report even higher (200k+/hr) with a fully optimised rotation; treat the low end as the safer planning assumption and confirm current rates in-game before committing.

TIER V - PICKPOCKETING ELVES (PRIFDDINAS)

P2P



METHOD

Pickpocket lorwerth Elf workers throughout Prifddinas

LOCATION

Prifddinas, the Elven city

EST. TIME (THIS TIER)

~65-109 hrs

REQUIREMENTS

"Song of the Elves" quest completed; level 85 Thieving

RATE

~90,000-150,000 xp/hr, climbing with level (success chance is only ~34% at 85, rising toward 40%+ at 99 with the Thieving cape and hard Ardougne Diary)

Widely regarded as the best Thieving xp/hr in the game once unlocked, with high-value stealing pouches dropping as a bonus. **This single bracket (85-99) requires nearly 9.8 million of the skill's 13 million total xp** - by far the largest single time commitment in this dossier, a direct result of the xp curve's exponential shape at high levels.

Stun Recovery Reminder

Every pickpocket target on this page can stun and deal minor damage on a failed attempt - bring food once targets hit harder (Menaphite Thugs and Elves in particular). The Thieving cape perk and the Ardougne diary's pickpocket-stun-reduction rewards both meaningfully speed up every tier here by cutting failed-attempt downtime.

✓ QUICK-REFERENCE RECAP

Combined Estimate

The full **P2P route** runs approximately **95-160 hours** end to end - roughly double earlier estimates once the level 85-99 Elf bracket (nearly 9.8 million xp on its own) is accounted for correctly. There is no meaningful F2P estimate to give: a free account's realistic Thieving training stops at Man/Woman in the earliest levels, well short of any of the named brackets in this dossier.

Choosing Your Route

Thieving is effectively a members-only skill in practice - there is no real F2P training path past the earliest levels, since Farmers, Master Farmers, Ardougne, and every method after it all require membership. Anyone wanting real Thieving progress needs P2P; this isn't a skill with a meaningful F2P/P2P choice to weigh.

Common Mistakes

Trying to pickpocket Knights of Ardougne before level 55, or Menaphite Thugs before level 65, simply fails outright - both have hard level gates. Standing still while repeatedly failing pickpocket attempts on a target that has outgrown your effective level wastes far more time than moving up a bracket slightly early. At Menaphos, losing reputation from getting caught resets safe-spot access, so watch guard aggro carefully.

Related Skills

Thieving xp does not train any other skill passively, unlike most combat skills - it stands alone in this series. However, coin and seed drops from Master Farmers and Menaphite targets are a useful side income that can help fund Farming or Herblore supply runs while training.

ICON	TIER	LEVEL RANGE	REQUIREMENT	LOCATION	RATE (XP/HR)	EST. TIME
	I - Men/Women [F2P] → Farmers/Master Farmers [P2P]	1-38	None	F2P towns (Man/Woman) / Draynor & Ardougne (Farmers, members-only)	~10-25k/hr	~1-3 hrs
	II - Master Farmers, continued [P2P]	38-55	None (members-only)	Ardougne	~15-25k/hr	~5-9 hrs
	III - Ardougne Knights [P2P]	55-65 (bridge to blackjacking)	"Plague City" quest (members-only), level 55	East Ardougne	~25-40k/hr	~7-11 hrs
	IV - Blackjacking Bandits/Thugs [P2P]	65-85	Members, level 65, partial "The Feud"	Pollnivneach / Menaphos	~100-180k/hr	~16-28 hrs
	V - Pickpocketing Elves [P2P]	85-99	Members, Song of the Elves	Prifddinas	~90-150k/hr	~65-109 hrs

All figures approximate. In-game xp rates, minigame rewards, and item prices fluctuate and were sourced from the OSRS Wiki and community efficiency guides current as of early September 2026. Hour estimates are derived directly from the real OSRS xp table (13,034,431 xp for level 99) divided by the stated rate ranges. Blackjacking and Ardougne Knight xp/hr figures in particular vary widely between sources - treat the low end of each range as the safer planning assumption. This dossier assumes full game access unless noted otherwise. Always confirm current mechanics in-game before committing to a specific method.

- OSRS Wiki - Thieving training
- OSRS Wiki - Pickpocket
- OSRS Wiki - Blackjack
- OSRS Wiki - Elf (Thieving)
- OSRS Wiki - Prifddinas
- OSRS Wiki - Plague City