

Bridge Booklet #4

Bidding #1

- *Aim of Bidding*
- *Opening*
- *Responding to 1 level openings*
- *Responding to 2 level openings*
- *Opener's Rebid*
- *General Bidding*

Name

Date Started.....



Aim of Bidding

Partnership

In general, a good hand should bid, and a bad hand should pass
A good hand is one with lots of points (10+), and lots of one suit (five or more)

But the key is finding a good trump suit for the **partnership**

This means eight or more trumps between you

♠52 ♥Q753 ♦KQ543 ♣72

If partner bids 1♥, and you have the hand above, you should support her by bidding 2♥

Game

Most contracts are worth about 100 points
Making a **game contract** is worth about 500 points

With No Trumps you need to bid and make 9 tricks
In the **Majors** (Hearts and Spades) you need to bid and make 10 tricks
In the **Minors** (Clubs and Diamonds) you need to bid and make 11 tricks

3NT
4♥/4♠
5♣/5♦

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	4♥	Pass

Because of the bonus, it's worth going for game contracts even if that means you sometimes fail
You normally need at least **25 points** between two hands for game, and 8+ trumps in a suit contract

Part Score

All contracts below game are **part scores**
If you side has fewer than 25 points you should settle for a part score

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass

Slam

Any contract at the six level is a **small slam** and seven level a **grand slam**

These score about 1000 points if you make it, but costly if you fail

6♣/6♦/6♥/6♠/6NT
7♣/7♦/7♥/7♠/7NT

W	N	E	S
2♥	Pass	6♥	Pass

Sacrifice

When you have bad cards and the opponents have good cards you are likely to lose points
Sometimes it is cheaper to sacrifice by deliberately overbidding
This will cost your side points, but not as many as letting them make their **game**

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	4♥	5♣

Opening

The first bid that is not a Pass is the **opening bid**

Standard openings

With 12 or more points you should open the bidding

In general, you choose your **longest suit**, not the one with the high cards in it

The reason for this is that high cards in your short suits will make tricks whatever trumps is

If you have 12-14 points and a **balanced hand** (at least two in each suit) open 1NT

♠Qx ♥AKJx ♦Qxx ♣Jxxx	13 (balanced)	Open 1NT
♠x ♥AKQJ ♦KQx ♣Jxxxx	16	Open 1♣
♠Axxxx ♥KQxx ♦QJx ♣x	12 (unbalanced)	Open 1♠
♠Kxx ♥Qxx ♦Jxx ♣AJxx	11	Pass

Strong openings

With 20-22 open 2NT if balanced (note that this is much stronger than a 12-14 1NT opening)

With 23+ or a hand so good you can make game on your own, open 2♣

This is an **artificial** or **conventional** bid and says nothing about Clubs!

Partner will recognise it and will not pass (he will bid at least 2♦ even if he doesn't want to)

♠AQ ♥AKQ ♦Axxxx ♣Kx	22 (balanced)	Open 2NT
♠AQ ♥AKQ ♦AKxxxx ♣Kx	25	Open 2♣
♠x ♥♦AKQTxxx ♣AKQxx	18	Open 2♣

With 20-22 unbalanced choose between opening at the 1 level, 2NT or 2♣

Weak openings

You can open the bidding with a weak hand if you have a lot of cards (six or more) in one suit

Weak Twos – with 5-9 points and a six card Diamond/Heart/Spade suit open 2♦/2♥/2♠

Weak Threes – with 5-9 points and a seven card Club/Diamond/Heart/Spade suit open 3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠

♠Qx ♥xxx ♦KQxxx ♣xxx	Pass
♠Qx ♥xxx ♦KQxxxx ♣xx	Open 2♦
♠Qx ♥xx ♦KQxxxxx ♣xx	Open 3♦
♠Qx ♥xx ♦xxx ♣KQJxxx	Pass (remember 2♣ is a strong hand)

With a weak opening your suit should be at least as strong as ♦QTxxxx

Quiz

1. In each case, who has opened the bidding?

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♣

W	N	E	S
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♦

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____

2. Decide whether you can should 1NT

♠A2 ♥A42 ♦K762 ♣Q974

♠J82 ♥A4 ♦KQ62 ♣KQ43

♠A ♥K7632 ♦A962 ♣Q43

Points? _____

Balanced? _____

Opening _____

3. Decide whether to open 1♥, 2♥ or Pass

(a) ♠A72 ♥AJ742 ♦7 ♣QJ74 Points _____ Bid _____

(b) ♠52 ♥AJ7542 ♦7 ♣QJ74 Points _____ Bid _____

(c) ♠642 ♥AJ742 ♦62 ♣A64 Points _____ Bid _____

4. Decide whether to open 1♠, 2NT or 2♣

(a) ♠KQJ972 ♥A42 ♦7 ♣AKQ Points _____ Bid _____

(b) ♠KJ972 ♥A42 ♦A7 ♣AKQ Points _____ Bid _____

(c) ♠KQJ972 ♥AQ4 ♦A ♣AKQ Points _____ Bid _____

5. (a) Make up any hand that should open 1♣ _____

(b) Make up any hand that should open 1NT _____

(c) Make up any hand that should open 2♦ _____

6. Select the correct opening bid:

(a) ♠A2 ♥AJ742 ♦K7 ♣A974 _____

(b) ♠AK82 ♥AK2 ♦K72 ♣A74 _____

Score
/25

Responding to 1 level openings

Once your partner has opened the bidding, your reply to him is called **responding**
This is not the same as opening the bidding

Responding to 1♣/1♦/1♥/1♠

Your partner's opening shows 12-19 points

You must respond with 6+, in case partner has 19 in which case your side has 25, enough for game

If partner opens a major (1♥ or 1♠) your priority is to support

He has shown four cards of his suit so you can support with four cards too

Responding to 1♥ with support	
2♥	6-9 points
3♥	10-12
4♥	13+

You should only respond with a new suit at the 2 level (e.g. 1♥-2♣) with 10+ points

That means many 6-9 hands must respond 1NT even if unbalanced

The list of priorities starts at the top:

Responding to 1♥ with no support	
1♠	6+ with Spades
1NT	6-9
2NT	10-12 balanced
3NT	13+ balanced
2♣/2♦	10+ with ♣/♦

Responses 1♣/1♦/1♠ are similar – prioritise supporting or bidding a major

Responding to 1NT

Your partner has shown 12-14 points

With 12+ you've a good hand so go for game

Either bid game directly, else make a strong bid at the three level)

With a weak hand (0-10) and a long suit you can still bid (2♣/2♦/2♥/2♠) and partner will pass

Respond to 1NT	
Pass	0-10
2♣/2♦/2♥/2♠	0-10 and long suit
2NT	10-11 balanced
3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠	12+ strong suit
3NT	12+ balanced
4♥/4♠/5♣/5♦	12+ very strong suit

With 11 points you can decide whether to Pass or bid

Quiz

1. In each case, who has responded?

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♥	Pass	4♥

W	N	E	S
1NT	2♣	2♥	Pass

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♣	1♦	3NT

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____

2. Partner opens 1♥. How high do you raise him?

(a) ♠Q652 ♥A942 ♦732 ♣62 Points _____ Bid _____

(b) ♠KQ92 ♥A942 ♦732 ♣A2 Points _____ Bid _____

(c) ♠KQJ2 ♥A942 ♦732 ♣32 Points _____ Bid _____

3. Partner opens 1♥. You have no support. What do you bid?

(a) ♠Q652 ♥A92 ♦732 ♣632 Points _____ Bid _____

(b) ♠Q652 ♥A92 ♦732 ♣A32 Points _____ Bid _____

(c) ♠762 ♥94 ♦732 ♣AQT62 Points _____ Bid _____

(d) ♠J62 ♥A42 ♦732 ♣8732 Points _____ Bid _____

4. Partner opens 1NT showing 12-14 and a balanced hand. What do you bid?

(a) ♠Q652 ♥A952 ♦72 ♣632 Points _____ Bid _____

(b) ♠Q6532 ♥9652 ♦7 ♣632 Points _____ Bid _____

(c) ♠Q62 ♥A4 ♦AK32 ♣8732 Points _____ Bid _____

(d) ♠K62 ♥AKQ42 ♦72 ♣A32 Points _____ Bid _____

5. In each case, describe East's hand

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass

W	N	E	S
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass

(a) _____ (b) _____

(c) _____

Score

/25

Responding to 2 level openings

Responding to 2NT

Your partner has shown 20-22 points and a balanced hand

With 0-3 you pass and wish her good luck

With 4+ you're going for game

Respond to 2NT	
Pass	Weak hand
3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠	4+ points and long suit
3NT	4+ points balanced
4♥/4♠/5♣/5♦	4+ points and very long suit

Responding to 2♣

Your partner has 23+ points or equivalent, so you can't pass!

With most hands bid 2♦ (which says nothing about Diamonds, it just keeps the bidding alive)

With partner being so strong 8+ is a good hand, and should give a positive reply

Respond to 2♣	
2♦	0-7
2♥/2♠/3♣/3♦	8+ strong suit
2NT	8+ balanced

Responding to a Weak Two

Your partner has a weak hand with lots of one suit

If you have help for partner (three or more trumps) you should raise him, even without many points
Your contract may well fail, but bidding makes it hard for the opposition to find their best contract

You need a strong hand (15+) to bid anything else, as partner won't have much help for you

Respond to 2♥	
3♥	Any points, 3+ trumps
4♥	Any points, 4+ trumps
2NT	15-18 points, balanced
3NT	19+ balanced
2♠/3♣/3♦	15+ strong suit

For example:

♠842 ♥Q973 ♦KQ543 ♣2

If partner opens 2♣ then you should raise to 3♣ (you have three trumps)

If partner opens 2♥ then you would raise to 4♥ (you have four trumps)

If partner opens 2♦ then be brave and raise to 5♦ (you have five trumps)

If partner opens 3♣ then pass

Opener's Rebid

Opener's rebid is his second bid, after partner's response
 He can either raise partner, bid NT, bid a new suit or rebid his own suit

Types of opening hand

Opening 1 of a suit shows between 12 and 19 points
 This could be a minimum, invitational or maximum opening

12-14 minimum opening
15-17 invitational hand
18-19 maximum opening

Raise partner

If the partnership has found a **fit** (a trump suit with 8+ cards between them) opener sets the level
 He bids depending on whether his hand is **minimum, invitational or maximum**

<i>Rebids after 1♥ and partner responds 2♥</i>		
♠Axx ♥Jxxxx ♦J ♣AQxx	Min (12)	Pass
♠Axx ♥AJxxx ♦J ♣AQxx	Inv (16)	Rebid 3♥
♠AQx ♥AQJxx ♦x ♣AQxx	Max (19)	Rebid 4♥

<i>Rebids after 1♥ and partner responds 1♠</i>		
♠Axxx ♥Jxxxx ♦J ♣AQx	Min (12)	Bid 2♠
♠Axxx ♥AJxxx ♦J ♣AQx	Inv (16)	Bid 3♠
♠AQxx ♥AQJxx ♦x ♣AQx	Max (19)	Bid 4♠

Bid NT

With no support, and a balanced hand bid NT. With 15-17 bid at the cheapest level, with 18-19 jump

<i>Rebids after 1♥ and partner responds 1♠</i>		
♠AJx ♥Jxxx ♦Axx ♣AQx	Inv (16)	Rebid 1NT
♠Axx ♥AJxx ♦Kxx ♣AQx	Max (18)	Rebid 2NT

Bidding a new suit

Without a fit or a balanced hand you can bid a new suit
 With a really good hand you can jump

<i>Rebids after opening 1♥ and partner responds 1♠</i>		
♠Axx ♥Qxxxx ♦AQxx ♣x	Min (12)	Rebid 2♦
♠Axx ♥KQxxx ♦AQxx ♣x	Inv (15)	Rebid 2♦
♠AQx ♥AJxxx ♦AQxx ♣J	Max (18)	Rebid 3♦

Rebidding your suit

When you open the bidding you show four cards in your suit
 If you don't have a fit, or a balanced hand, you can rebid your suit, showing six or more cards:

<i>Rebids after 1♥ and partner responds 1♠</i>		
♠Jxx ♥AQxxxx ♦AJx ♣x	Min (13)	Rebid 2♥
♠AJx ♥AQxxxx ♦AJx ♣x	Inv (16)	Rebid 3♥
♠AKJ ♥AQxxxx ♦AJx ♣x	Max (19)	Rebid 4♥

Quiz

1. Classify each opening hand as minimum, invitational or maximum
Decide what you will open the bidding, and what you plan to rebid

	Points	Min/Inv/Max	Opening bid	Planned rebid
♠A2 ♥AK2 ♦K762 ♣Q974				
♠AQJ72 ♥AQ42 ♦2 ♣Q74				
♠AQJ982 ♥A42 ♦J2 ♣74				
♠AQJ982 ♥A42 ♦A42 ♣K				

2. You open 1♥. Partner responds 1♠. What do you bid now?

(a) ♠A972 ♥AJ742 ♦7 ♣QJ7 Points _____ Bid _____

(b) ♠A972 ♥AJ742 ♦72 ♣AQ Points _____ Bid _____

(c) ♠AQ72 ♥AK7542 ♦7 ♣A2 Points _____ Bid _____

3. You open 1NT

♠QJ4 ♥A732 ♦QJ82 ♣A2

Partner bids 2♣. You bid _____

Partner bids 3♥. You bid _____

Partner bids 2♥. You bid _____

Partner bids 3NT. You bid _____

Partner bids 2NT. You bid _____

Partner bids 4♥. You bid _____

Partner bids 3♣. You bid _____

Partner bids 4NT. You bid _____

4. In each case, describe the West hand, in terms of shape and points

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥			

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣			

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♣			

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

Score

/20

General Bidding

Limit bids

Responding to an opening bid shows 6+ points

Partner doesn't know how strong you are until you make a **limit bid**, which limits your strength

A limit bid is either a raise of a trump suit, a NT bid, or rebidding your suit

W	E
1♥	2♥

East is limited to 6-9 points

W	E
1♥	1NT

W	E
1♥	3♥

East is limited to 10-12 points

W	E
1♥	2NT

Invitational bids

A bid one level below game (such as the 3♥ and 2NT responses above) is called **invitational**

It invites partner to bid game if they have a good hand, or pass with a bad hand

Of course good and bad is relative to what you have shown so far

North: ♠KJ732 ♥Q942 ♦K5 ♣J3
 South: ♠65 ♥AKT65 ♦72 ♣AKQ2

S	N
1♥	3♥
?	

South opens 1♥. North has 10 points so invites with 3♥

South has 16 points so accepts the invite and bids the game with 4♥

If South had an Ace less (only 12 points) he would refuse the invite and pass 3♥

Forcing bids

A bid from a hand which is not limited is called **forcing**

Forcing means partner is not allowed to pass, because you could have a really good hand

You don't want to end up in a contract that's too low, 2♠+2 is not a good score!

Bids of new suits are forcing. All of East's bids below are forcing:

W	E
1♥	1♠

W	E
1♥	2♣

W	E
1NT	3♥

W	E
2♠	3♥

In the example below South opens 2♣ (23+ points) which is forcing.

North must not pass, and they should reach 4♠

North: ♠432 ♥82 ♦9765 ♣8653
 South: ♠AKQT2 ♥AKT2 ♦AK2 ♣2

Sign-off bids

A **sign-off bid** is one you expect partner to pass

This is typically a game bid, for example after 1♥-4♥ opener should pass as 4♥ is a sign-off

Quiz

1. In each case, East has made a **limit bid**. Describe his hand, in terms of suits and points

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	2NT	Pass

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____

2. In each case, East has made a **forcing bid**. Describe his hand, in terms of suits and points

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass

W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	3♥	Pass

W	N	E	S
2♥	Pass	2♠	Pass

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____

3. You opened 1NT and partner made a 2NT invitational bid. Should you accept and bid 3NT?

(a) ♠KJ32 ♥Q942 ♦K52 ♣K3 _____ (b) ♠AJ32 ♥Q942 ♦AJ2 ♣Q3 _____

4. You opened 1♥ and partner made a 3♥ invitational bid. Should you accept and bid 4♥?

(a) ♠KJ32 ♥Q942 ♦K52 ♣AQ _____ (b) ♠KQ2 ♥J9432 ♦K532 ♣K _____

5. In each auction, which bids are limit bids, forcing bids, invitational bids or sign-off bids?

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass

W	N	E	S
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♠	Pass

W	N	E	S
2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass
5♠	Pass		

1♠: _____ 1♥: _____ 2♣: _____
 2♥: _____ 1♠: _____ 2♠: _____
 3♥: _____ 4♠: _____ 5♠: _____

6. For each auction above, describe the West and East hands as best you can

W: _____

E: _____

Score

/30

Glossary

Balanced hand – has at least two cards in each suit, such as ♠AJ32 ♥Q942 ♦AJ2 ♣93

Forcing bid – a bid that partner cannot pass, such as opening 2♣

Game – a high contract that scores a bonus: 3NT, 4♥, 4♠, 5♣ or 5♦

Grand slam – any seven level contract, such as 7♥, where you need to take all the tricks

Invitational bid – a bid one below game, like 3♥ in 1♥–3♥, inviting partner to bid game or pass

Maximum opening – a very good 1 level opening bid, in the 18-19 point range

Major suit – Hearts or Spades

Minor suit – Clubs or Diamonds

Minimum opening – a poor 1 level opening bid, in the 12-14 point range

Limit bid – a bid that puts a limit on your points, for example 3♥ in 1♥–3♥ shows 10-12 points

Part score – any contract below game, such as 1NT, 2♥ or 4♣

Sacrifice – a bid that is expected to fail, but cost less points than letting them make game

Small slam – any six level contract, such as 6♦. Almost all slams are small slams

Sign off – a bid that you expect partner to pass, such as 3NT in 1NT – 3NT

Unbalanced – a hand that is not balanced, such as ♠AJ732 ♥Q942 ♦AJ2 ♣3

Weak Two – for example opening 2♠ with ♠AQJ732 ♥942 ♦J32 ♣3, 5-9 points and 6 spades

Weak Three – for example opening 3♠ with ♠AQJ8732 ♥942 ♦J2 ♣3, 5-9 points and 7 spades

Notes

