Bridge Booklet #5

Bidding #2

- Bidding Suit contracts
- Bidding NT contracts
- Overcalls
- Doubles
- Slams
- Scoring

Name
Date Started



Bidding Suit contracts

The main aim of bidding is to find if your side has a major fit Then if you are strong enough you can play 4♥ or 4♠

Major fit

You are looking for an 8+ card fit in Hearts or Spades

When opener begins with 1♥ he shows four or more Hearts Responder can immediately raise if he has four Hearts

If opener begins with 1♥ then later bids 2♣ this shows five Hearts (as he started with longest suit) Responder can then raise if he has three Hearts

If opener begins with 1♥ then rebids 3♥ this shows six Hearts Responder can then raise with only two Hearts

North:	 J7	432	Y 93	♦ AJ752	2 ♣7
South:	∳ 5	♥ AK	T542	♦ Q93	♣AQ43

S N 1♥ 1♠ 3♥ ?

After South shows six Hearts North raises to 4 with his doubleton Heart

Minor fit

If your side has found a minor fit, keep looking for a major fit, then try NT

The order of priority is: major game, NT game, then minor game
This is because it's hard to make the 11 tricks needed for 5♣/5♦

North:	♠ KJ65	y 93	♦KJ5	♣ Q743
South:	 AQ32	♥ 62	♦ Q9	♣AKJ92

S	N
1♣	1♠
3♠	4♠

After South opens 1♣, North responds 1♠ even though he has a Club fit The partnership reach 4♠, which should make (5♣ has no chance)

Misfit

A misfit is when you and your partner have opposite suits

If your side has no fit you will either bid NT or settle in a partscore Don't be too stubborn – if there's no chance of game then keep the bidding low

North:	♣ J732 ♥ AJ542 ♦ J32 ♣ 3	
South:	♠ K54 ♥ 63 ♦ Q9 ♣ AKJ972	

S	N
1♣	1♥
2♣	Pass

North knows partner has a minimum hand with lots of Clubs so wisely passes 2♣

1. In each case, decide if the partnership has a fit in Hearts, and what the contract should be

,	,	
≜ K2 ∀ A42 ◆ 762 ♣ AJ743	♠ 732 ♥ QJ8742 ♦ J ♣ AJ3	♦ AQ32 ♥ QJ4 ♦ K52 ♣ KJ3
♦ A5 ∀ KQJ53 ♦ 983 ♣ KQ5	≜ A64 ♥ K53 ♦ 9854 ♣ KQ2	♠ 75 ♥ A53 ♦ AJ43 ♣ T985

Points_____ ______

2. In each case, how many Hearts has West shown?

W	E
1♥	1NT
2♥	

W	E
1♥	1NT
2♦	

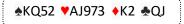
W	Е
1♥	1NT
3♥	

W	Ε
1NT	3♥
4♥	





3. In each case, what should West bid next?



W	E
1♥	1♠

W	Е
1♥	2♣



W	E
1♥	1NT

W	Е
1♥	2NT

4. What should West bid next? The auction so far is

W	Ε	
1♥	1♠	
2♥	2♠	

(a) ♠Q2 ♥AJ9742 ♦K62 ♣Q2 Bid _____

(b) ♠9 ♥AJT9742 ◆K32 ♠Q2 Bid_____

(c) ♠K32 ♥AK7642 ♦2 ♣A42 Bid

5. In each case, identify the best contract:





Contract_____

Score

/25

Bidding NT contracts

Making NT contracts is all about points
You need 25+ to make 3NT, and a **stopper** in each suit

Stoppers

A stopper is a high card or combination of high cards between your hand and dummy that stops the defence winning lots of tricks in the suit



	Stopper					
▼A ▼K ▼Kx ▼QJx ▼Qx ▼Jxxx ▼xxxxx						
♥x	♥ Qx	♥ Qx	♥xx	♥Jxx	♥xx	♥x

No Stopper				
♥xxx ♥K ♥Qx ♥QJ				
♥xxx	♥xxx	♥Jx	♥xxx	

In some of these you win the first trick, in some you lose the first one or two (or even three) tricks If partner bids a suit, you can assume they have a stopper in that suit

If the opponents bid a suit you only bid NT if you have a stopper in their suit

North: ♠JT2 ♥AQ2 ♠QJ732 ♣43 South: ♠A43 ♥43 ♦K94 ♣AKJ97

W	Ν	E	S
			1♣
Pass	1•	1♥	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT

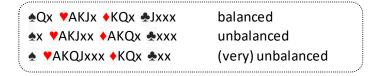
South has 15 points. He opens 1♣ and plans to rebid 1NT

But when East overcalls 1♥, South can't bid NT as he has no Heart stopper

North has a good Heart stopper so bids 2NT and now South is happy to bid game

Balanced Hand

If you have 2+ cards in each suit that is a balanced hand



Balanced hands often bid NT, as they have stoppers

A hand with lots of cards in one suit (or singletons or voids) is called **unbalanced** or **distibutional** Unbalanced hands with majors do better in suit contracts
Unbalanced hands with a long minor suit often try 3NT

North: ♠AJ732 ♥73 ♦J752 ♣65 South: ♠8 ♥JT82 ♦A ♣AKQ9742

S	N
1♣	1♠
3NT	Pass

South has only 14 points, but with 8 tricks and an expected Spade stopper from North, tries 3NT

<u>Quiz</u>

1.	Decide if each hand is balanced or not, then choose the opening	bid:
	(a) ♠K8752 ♥A873 ◆K2 ♣Q3 Balanced?	Bid
	(b) ♠KQ52 ♥752 ◆2 ♣AQJ42 Balanced?	Bid
	(c) ♠KQ92 ♥AQ42 ◆73 ♣Q73 Balanced?	Bid
	(d) ♠KQ92 ♥AQ42 ♦A3 ♣Q73 Balanced?	Bid
	(e) ♠KQ92 ♥AQ42 ◆AK ♣Q73 Balanced?	Bid
2.	In each case, decide if you have a stopper or not	
	♠K2 ♠A5 ♠Q5 ♠Q ♠K ♠QJ ♠T54	♣ QJ2 ♣ 5 ♣ Q3 ♣ 9542
3.	In each case decide on the best contract: 3NT, 4♦ or 5♦ ♠K2 ♥Q52 ♦K765 ♣J753 ♠Q5 ♥A83 ♦AJ832 ♣KQ4 ♠Q5 ♥K53 ♦AJ832 ♣K	32
	Contract	
4.	What should East bid next? The auction so far is	W E 1♥ 1♠ 2♠ ?
	(a) ♠KQJ752 ♥873 ♦52 ♣43 Bid	2 :
	(b) ♠KQJ72 ♥42 ◆32 ♣AQJ2 Bid	
	(c) ♠KQJ72 ♥A42 ◆3 ♣J743 Bid	
	(d) ♠J7532 ♥A42 ♦3 ♣J743 Bid	
5.	Estimate how many tricks South takes in 3NT, depending on the	lead
	Spade Heart	
	Diamond Club	Score
		/30

Overcalls

An **overcall** is bidding over the opponents when they have opened the bidding This is different from opening the bidding

Overcalling in a suit

Overcalling at the 1 level (e.g. 1♥ over 1♦) requires 8+ points and a good five card suit Overcalling at the 2 level (e.g. 2♣ over 1♦) requires 10+ points and a good five card suit

```
Opponents open 1 (in all examples here)

exx VAKxxx *xxx *Jxx Overcall 1 Pass (suit too weak)
exx VKQJx *Axx *Qxx Pass (suit too short)
exx Vxxx *AKJxx *Qxx Pass (don't bid their suit)
exx Vxxx *Qxx *AKJxx Overcall 2 Pass (too weak for 2 Pass (too weak for 2 Pass)
```

Overcalling 1NT

This requires 15-18 points (more than the 12-14 required to open 1NT) You also need a stopper in the opponent's suit

```
Ax VAKxx Kxxx AJxx Overcall 1 with 1NT
Ax VAxxx Kxxx AJxx Pass (too weak)
Ax VAKxx xxxx Axx Pass (no stopper)
```

Jump overcalls

With a weak hand (5-9 points) and a long suit (6+ cards) make a weak jump overcall



Responding to an overcall

The overcaller promises 5+ cards in their suit so you can **support** with 3+ and still have an 8 card fit But remember, overcaller may not have many points

Support partner's suit aggressively, but only bid new suits with a good hand, or NT with a stopper

```
Opponents open 1 → and partner overcalls 1 ♥

Axx ♥xxx ◆QJxx ♣Qxx Respond 2 ♥

Ax ♥QJxxx ◆x ♣Axxxxx Respond 4 ♥ (!)

Axxxx ♥K ◆Axx ♣QJxxx Pass

KQJxxx ♥x ◆Axx ♣Qxx Respond 1 ♠

KQx ♥x ◆AJxx ♣AQJxx Respond 3NT
```

1.	In each case, decide if you shou	uld overcall 1♦ with 1♥	. If not, why not?		
	(a) ♠Q652 ♥AK952 ◆7 ♣632	Overcall 1 ?	·		
	(b) ♠Q632 ♥J8652 ◆7 ♣AQ2	Overcall 1 ?	·		
	(c) ♠ 32 ♥ AKQJ ♦ Q32 ♣ 8732	Overcall 1 ?			
	(d) ♠ AJT862 ♥ KQJ42 ♦ 7 ♣ 2	Overcall 1 ?			
2.	In each case, decide if you shou	uld overcall 1♦ with 1N	IT. If not, why not	:?	
	(a) ♠QJ52 ♥A52 ◆AQ4 ♣K32	Overcall 1NT?			
	(b) ♠QJ52 ♥J53 ◆AQ4 ♠K32	Overcall 1NT?			
	(c) ♠AJ52 ♥QJ52 ♦62 ♣KQ2	Overcall 1NT?			
	(d) ♠ AJT862 ♥ KJ2 ♦ A4 ♣ Q2	Overcall 1NT?			
3.	In each case, decide if you'll ov	ercall 1♦ with a weak j	ump overcall of 2	2♥. If not, why not?	
	(a) ♠QJ2 ♥AKJ532 ◆Q74 ♣2	Overcall 2♥?			
	(b) ♦ 542 ♥ KQJ532 ♦ Q74 ♣ 2	Overcall 2♥?			
	(c) \$532 ∀ AKQ52 ♦ 62 \$ 432	Overcall 2♥?			
4.	What should you overcall when	n the opponents open	1♥?		
	 •QJ2 ♥ KJ532 ♦ Q74 ♣ J2		• QJ2 ♥ AK5 • Q	74 ♣ KJ32	_
	♦ AQJ42 ♥ 532 ♦ Q74 ♣ 42		4 4 ♥ Q32 ♦ J4 ∮	•KQJ8432	_
	. QJ2 ♥ A52 . Q74 . KJ32		♣ 72 ♥ Q32 ♦ AK	764	_
5.	An opponent opened 1♥. Your	partner overcalls 1♠. \	What do you resp	ond?	
	 •QJ2 ♥ J532 • QJ74 • Q2		•Q2 ♥AJ2 ◆AQ	074 ♣ KJ32	_
	 ≜ AQJ42 ♥ 2 ♦ A974 ♣ 862		• 43 ♥ J5 • QJ76	64 ♣ KJ32	
				Score	
					/30
				i e	

Doubles

Apart from the bid and Pass cards, any player may also **double** when it is their turn The double card looks like an X

Doubling the opponents

You can only double the opponents, not your partner
The double only applies until someone else bids, and then it is cancelled

W	N	E	S
1♣	Χ	1♥	Pass

Here North doubles 1♣, and the contract is 1♣x, until East bids and the contract becomes 1♥

Penalty Doubles

The effect of a double is to (approximately) double the points scored on that deal If declarer makes the contract, he wins double points If declarer fails, the defence get double points

Therefore, a defender might double if he thinks the contract will fail, and wants double the reward

North doubles 4♥ expecting four tricks (1♠, 2♥, 1♦), maybe a Club ruff, plus whatever partner has



W	N	E	S
4♥	Х	Pass	Pass

South doubles 1NT as he has 17 points and (combined with partner) expects to beat the contract



W	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	Pass	Χ

Takeout Doubles

It is difficult to beat low-level suit contracts (**below the four level**), and not very profitable So instead, people play that low level doubles are **takeout doubles**, which request that partner bid They are typically made when you have shortage in the opponent's suit, and 12+ points

North doubles 1♥. South must reply (even with 0 points), by bidding his best suit



W	N	E	S
1♥	Х	Pass	Pass

There are many other situations where takeout doubles can be made

Penalty or Takeout?

A simple rule is

- all doubles of NT contracts or at 4 level and above are **penalty** (partner should pass)
- all low level suit doubles are **takeout** (partner should bid)

<u>Quiz</u>

1.	For each hand, decide if it is suit	table for a double	of 1♥. If not, choose	anothe	erbid		
	(a) ♠ QJ72 ♥ 32 ♦ AJ74 ♣ AQ2	Bid?	Why?				
	(b) ♠ Q2 ▼ AJ52 ♦ QJ74 ♣ A32	Bid?	Why?				
	(c) ★ KQJ42 ▼ 532 ◆ Q974 ♣ 2	Bid?	Why?				
	(d) ♠ KJ3 ♥ AQ52 ♦ K92 ♣ K32	Bid?	_ Why?				
2.	For each double, determine if it	is for penalty or ta	akeout				
		W	N W 1▼	N Pass	E 3♥	S x	
	(a) (b)	(c)	(d)				
3.	In each case South has made a t	akeout double. De	escribe in words roug	hly wh	at she h	nas	
	W N E S W	N E S	W N E S	_	W		S
	1	P 1	1♣ 1 2♣ x		1	V 1♠	Х
	(a) (b)			(d))		
4.	(a) (b) The opposition have opened 1♠ What do you bid?			(d) W 1♠	N X	E Pass	S ?
4.	The opposition have opened 1♠	and your partner	has doubled it	W 1♠	N X	E Pass	S
4.	The opposition have opened 1♠ What do you bid?	and your partner	has doubled it	W 1♠	N X	E Pass	S
4.	The opposition have opened 1♠ What do you bid? (a) ♠KJ752 ♥QJ32 ◆74 ♣73	and your partner Bid?Bid?	has doubled it Why?	W 1•	N X	E Pass	S
4.	The opposition have opened 1♠ What do you bid? (a) ♠KJ752 ♥QJ32 ◆74 ♣73 (b) ♠J752 ♥KQJ32 ◆A4 ♣A2	and your partner Bid? Bid?	has doubled it Why? Why?	W 14	N X	E Pass	S
4.5.	The opposition have opened 1♠ What do you bid? (a) ♠KJ752 ♥QJ32 ◆74 ♣73 (b) ♠J752 ♥KQJ32 ◆A4 ♣A2 (c) ♠Q72 ♥5 ◆KQ8742 ♣852 (d) ♠QJT952 ♥5 ◆AK4 ♣852	Bid?Bid?Bid?Bid?Bid?	has doubled it Why? Why? Why? Why?	W 14	N X	E Pass	S
	The opposition have opened 1♣ What do you bid? (a) ♠KJ752 ♥QJ32 ◆74 ♣73 (b) ♠J752 ♥KQJ32 ◆A4 ♣A2 (c) ♠Q72 ♥5 ◆KQ8742 ♣852 (d) ♠QJT952 ♥5 ◆AK4 ♣852 Your partner opened 1NT (12-14)	Bid?Bid?Bid?Bid?Bid?Bid?Bid?	has doubled it Why? Why? Why? Why?	W 14	N X	E Pass	S ?
	The opposition have opened 1♣ What do you bid? (a) ♠KJ752 ♥QJ32 ◆74 ♣73 (b) ♠J752 ♥KQJ32 ◆A4 ♣A2 (c) ♠Q72 ♥5 ◆KQ8742 ♣852 (d) ♠QJT952 ♥5 ◆AK4 ♣852 Your partner opened 1NT (12-14) What do you bid?	Bid? Bid? Bid? Bid? Bid? Bid?	has doubled it Why? Why? Why? this doubled it	W 1.NT	N X	E Pass	S ?

/30

Slams

All contracts at the six (or seven) level are slams, and carry a big bonus You should only bid a slam if you are confident of success, as if it fails you also lose the game bonus

NT Slams

Making contracts in NT requires points

In general you need about 25 points for game (3NT), 33 for slam (6NT) and 37 for grand slam (7NT)

If you and your partner have lots of points but no good trump suit, go for a NT slam!

North: ♠AJ72 ♥KJ3 ♦J752 ♣K5 South: ♠KQ5 ♥A82 ♦KQ4 ♣AQJ2

N	S
1NT	6NT

North opens 1NT (12-14). South has a balanced hand with 21 points so knows they have at least 33. 6NT should make easily. Declarer plays on Diamonds and makes 4 + 2 + 4 = 12 tricks

Suit Slams

A suit slam can be made with a lot fewer than 33 points, by getting extra tricks from ruffing You will need lots of trumps, and shortages (**voids**, singletons, or doubletons)

You also need **controls** in each suit

A control is an Ace/King, singleton or void, that stops the opponents winning two tricks in that suit

North: ♠J2 ♥T974 ◆AKQJT2 ♣2 South: ♠53 ♥AKQJ8 ◆83 ♣AKQJ

You have loads of winners (5♥ + 6♦ + 4♣)

But you can't make a slam as you'll lose two Spade tricks (if they lead Spades)

North: ♠A532 ♥97532 ♦ ♣A543 South: ♠K7 ♥AKQ864 ♦832 ♣K5

You have excellent trumps and controls and despite only 23 points make 7♥ easily (2♠+6♥+3♦+2♣)

Bidding suit slams

There are two routes to a suit slam If you both have very good hands:

North (17): ♠AK732 ♥3 ♦AQ752 ♣A5 South (16): ♠QJ54 ♥KQ92 ♦K8 ♣KQ3

N	S
1♠	4♠
5♠	6♠

If one of you has an excellent hand:

North (24): ♠AJ7 ♥AK ♦KQ754 ♣AK3 South (8): ♠KQT852 ♥J832 ♦2 ♣Q2

N	S
2♣	2♠
6♠	

1.	For each 6NT	count combined	noints, su	re winners.	and give the	e expected resul	ıt
		oo ann coombine a	p = , u		~~ D. VC CIII	c chpcolca i coa	

≜K3 **∀**A532 **♦**AJ7 **♣**A654 **≜**A2 **∀**KQJ **♦**KQT54 **♣**Q32 **≜**J3 ♥A532 ◆AJ7 **♣**A654 **≜**A2 ♥KQJ ◆KQT54 **♣**Q32 **♠**KJ ♥A532 ◆AJ7 **♣**A654 **♠**A2 ♥KQJ ◆KQT54 **♣**KJ2

Points ______

Sure winners ______

2. For each 6♥ count combined points, losers in each suit, and give the expected result

♠K5 ♥A532 **♦**J3 **♣**A7654 **♠**A32 ♥KQJ76 **♦**KQT5 **♣**3

Expected Result _____

♠A5 ♥A532 **♦**J3 **♣**976542 **♠**2 ♥KQJ76 **♦**AKQT75 **♣**3 **♠**A75 **♥**A532 **♦**A43 **♣**K63 **♦**K43 **♥**KQJ6 **♦**KQJ **♣**A95

Points _____

Losers_____

Expected Result _____ ___

3. East has these cards:

♠AJ72 **♥**J3 **♦**J752 **♣**KT5

For each auction, estimate West's points, and if East should bid 2NT, 3NT, 6NT or Pass

W	Ε
1NT	?

W	Е
1♥	1♠
1NT	?

W	Ε
2NT	?

W	E
2♣	2NT
3NT	

W	Е
1♥	1♠
2NT	3

W	Е
1♥	1♠
2♣	

4. East has these cards:

♦2 ♥AQT3 **♦**K832 **♣**AJ65

For each auction, estimate West's points, and if East should bid 4♥, 6♥ or Pass

W	Ε
1♣	1♥
2♥	?

W	Ε
1♣	1♥
4	?

W	Ε
2♥	?

W	Ε
	1♥
3♥	?

W	Ε
1♣	1•
1♥	?

Score

Scoring

<u>Declarer fails</u>

The defence get 50 points per trick that the contract fails by (called undertricks)

If declarer fails by one trick this is written 4 –1 and the defence score 50 points Failing by 2 tricks costs 100 points, failing by 3 tricks costs 150 points and so on

Declarer succeeds

Declarer gets a bonus for making his contract: 50 for a part score and 300 for game

He also gets points per tricks in the contract

2♥= means he made it exactly, and is scored as two tricks

2♥+1 means one **overtrick**, and is scored as three tricks

Minor Suits: 20 per trick
Majors: 30 per trick
NT: 40 for first trick, then 30 for the rest

The points per trick depends on the trump suit:

So for example: $2 \le 100$ scores 50 for making a part score, and $2 \times 30 = 60$ for tricks, for a total of 110 so for example: $4 \le 100$ scores 300 for making a game, and $4 \times 30 = 120$ for tricks, for a total of 420

	Bonus	Tricks	Total
1♣=	50	20	70
1∳=	50	30	80
4 ♦+2	50	6x20 = 120	170
5 \ =	300	5x20 = 100	400

	Bonus	Tricks	Total
1NT=	50	40	90
2NT=	50	40+30	120
3NT+1	300	40+30+30+30	430
4NT=	300	40+30+30+30	430

There is also a slam bonus of 500 (small slam) or 1000 (grand slam) on top of the game bonus So for example $6 \pm$ scores 300 + 500 + 180 = 980

<u>Double</u>

If the final contract is doubled that increases the score, either for declarer or defence

If the contract fails by 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 tricks the penalty is 100, 300, 500, 800 or 1100 respectively Hence $4 \text{ }^{\bullet}\text{x} - 2 \cos 300$, and $3 \text{ }^{\bullet}\text{x} - 3 \cos 500$

Vulnerablity

For each deal a pair is either vulnerable (red) or non-vulnerable (green)
This affects the scoring, but for now we assumed **both pairs are always non-vulnerable**



1. In each case declarer has failed. Work out how many points the defence gets

1♣-1	2 ∀ −1	3♣-2	4 ♥ −3	6NT-1	6 ∀ −5

2. In each case declarer has made his contract. Work out how many points he gets

	1♣=	1♥=	1NT=	5♣=	4♥=	3NT=	3♥+1	1NT+2	2🕶+1	1♣+3
Bonus										
Tricks										
Total										

3. Look at the tricks that declarer takes, and decide what the score is

Contract	Tricks	Result	Declarer scores	Defence scores
3♣	10	+1	130	
3NT	7			
3NT	9			
4*	11			
2♠	7			
5∳	12			

4. In each case declarer has failed in a doubled contract. How many points for the defence?

1 ♣ x−1	2 ∀ x−1	3 ♣ x−2	4 ♥ x−3	6NTx-1	6 ∀ x−5

5. Circle the contracts that are **doubled into game**

1 ♥x	2 ∀ x	1N IX	2N1x	4 ♥x	3 ♣ x

6. How many points for 6♥= ______ 7♥= _____

Score	
	/25

Glossary

Control – high card or shortage that stops losers. No Heart control: ♠A8754 ◆63 ♠KQ532 ♠2

Double – a bid that roughly doubles the score of an opponent's contract

Doubled into game –some doubled contracts like 2♠x and 3♠x gets the game bonus

Fit – 8+ cards in a suit between two hands, for example ♠AJ72 opposite ♠K8653 is a 9 card Spade fit

Overcall – for example if North opens the bidding with 1♠ East can overcall 1♥

Overtrick – an extra trick above the contract, for example 4♠+2 is two overtricks

Penalty double – a double you expect partner to pass, as you expect to beat the contract

Stopper – high cards like ♥QJ2 that stop the opponents winning lots of tricks in NT

Support – bid the same suit as partner, for example raising 1♠ to 3♠

Takeout double – a double you expect partner to takeout (bid). Doubles of 1♠ up to 2♠ are takeout

Undertrick – an extra trick above the contract, for example 4♠—2 is two undertricks

Void – none of one suit, for example this hand has a Heart void ♠A8754 ♥ ♠KQ532 ♠632

Weak jump overcall – for example overcalling 1♥ with a jump to 3♠, for a weak hand with 6+ Clubs

Notes