

Deal 1
South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 9
♥ A Q 9 3
♦ K 8 7 5
♣ J 6 5

4
14 7
15

♠ J 8 3
♥ K 8 6 5 4
♦ 6 4 3
♣ 10 9

N
W E
S

♠ Q 7 6 4
♥ J 7 2
♦ 9 2
♣ A 8 4 3

♠ K 10 5 2
♥ 10
♦ A Q J 10
♣ K Q 7 2

West North East South
Pass Pass Pass
1 ♦ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your turn. Decide what you would say, then on "" above.

You have 14 points but so what. You have no 5-card suit to Overcall. You cannot make a Takeout Double with 4 of their suit. So you pass. It is important to realize that there are hands you would open but cannot overcall with.

Deal 2East Deals
None Vul

♠ K J 6
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ 5 3 2
 ♣ A 10 9 3 2

♠ A 7 5 3
 ♥ K 10 9 3
 ♦ K 9 6 4
 ♣ 5



♠ Q 8 4
 ♥ 6 2
 ♦ A 10 8
 ♣ K Q J 7 4

10
 8 12
 10
 ♣ 8 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♥	1 ♣	1 ♥
Pass		Pass	Pass
3 ♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With four trumps and 12 points you have a text-book raise to 3 ♥. Partner had a minimum overcall though, so he passed.

Deal 3East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 6 5 2
 ♥ 4 2
 ♦ K J 10 4
 ♣ A 7 2

10 7
 11 12

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 7 4 3
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ 6 3
 ♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ K J 8
 ♥ 10 9 6
 ♦ Q 9 2
 ♣ K Q J 10

♠ 10 9
 ♥ A Q J 7 5
 ♦ A 8 7 5
 ♣ 6 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
2♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

With 12 points and a good suit you have a very solid overcall so you bid 1♥. Partner responds 2♥. What do you say?

Partner is showing 6-10 points and three trumps. Your hand revalues to 14 at most so you pass.

Deal 4

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 8 5 2**♥ Q 7 6 2****♦ J 10 3****♣ K****10 7
10 13**

♠ 6
♥ K J 9 4 3
♦ K 9 4
♣ 8 7 6 5

	N		E
W		S	

♠ 4 3
♥ A 10 5
♦ A 8 7 5
♣ A J 10 2

♠ K Q J 9 7
♥ 8
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q 9 4 3

West	North	East	South
		1 ♦	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	
1 ♣ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You really don't like partner's ♠s, and you do have 8 points. But 8 points is not enough to be considering game, and you would have to bid your ♥s at the 2-level. All things considered it is better to pass while you still aren't doubled.

Deal 5East Deals
None Vul

♠ J 7 5 2	♦ A 8 6 3	♥ A 10 2	♣ 10 3
♠ 6 3	♦ K 8 6	♥ 10	♣ A J 9 8 7 4 2
♦ K 8 6	♣ A J 9 8 7 4 2	♦ 9 5 4 3	♠ A K Q 8 4

9	10 9	9 4
8 14	♦ K Q J 7 5 2	♦ Q J 7
9	♣ 6 5	

West	North	East	South
Pass	3 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass		Pass	Pass
3 ♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

You overcall 2 ♥ and hear partner raise you to 3 ♥. What do you say now?

No matter how many times you check this hand you cannot revalue it any more than 13 points. Since partner has T at the most you reluctantly pass.

Deal 6East Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 6 2
♥ 8 6
♦ Q J 8 6
♣ Q J 5 4

6
8 13
13

West

Pass

2 ♣ by South

♠ J 8 3
♥ A J 9 2
♦ 10 7
♣ 9 8 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 4
♥ Q 7 5 4
♦ A K 4 2
♣ A 10 6

♠ A K 9 7 5
♥ K 10 3
♦ 9 5 3
♣ K 7

North East South
1 ♦ 1 ♠
2 ♠ Pass Pass

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

With only 7 points you might not think you have enough to make a "free bid". But in competitive bidding situations like these, where both sides have a fit, bidding is usually better than passing. So you bid 2 ♠.

You might look at the Law of Total Tricks lesson for more on this subject.

Deal 7

East Deals

None Vul

♠ —
♥ J 8 7 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ J 10 7 6 5 4

¹²
7 ¹³
8

♠ K 8 4 2
♥ A 9 3
♦ 10 5
♣ K Q 9 3

N
W E
S

♠ A 7 6 5
♥ 10 6 5
♦ A J 9 7 2
♣ A

♠ Q J 10 9 3
♥ K Q 4
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 8 2

West *North* *East* *South*
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 1 ♠

Pass

3 ♠ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

You have enough for a 1-level Overcall so you bid 1 ♠. Partner says 3 ♠. What do you say now?

The jump raise tells you partner has 11-14 points.

With your minimum it's going to have to be better than that to get you excited. So you pass.

Deal 8
East Deals
None Vul

♠ 2
♥ 10 8 6 4
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A K Q 10 9

7
9 16
8

♠ K 8 7 5 3
♥ 7 5 2
♦ A
♣ 7 5 4 3
N
W E
S
♠ 10 9
♥ A K Q J 9
♦ K Q J 10 3
♣ 6

♠ A Q J 6 4
♥ 3
♦ 9 8 6 2
♣ J 8 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3 ♥	4 ♠	1 ♥	1 ♠
Pass		Pass	Pass

4 ♠ by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You have 10 points, but in cases like this points don't matter that much. They MIGHT be able to make 4 ♥. Partner MIGHT be able to make 4 ♠. This preemptive jump takes the decision away from them.

Looking at the hands you can see that partner is going to go down 1 at 4 ♠. However, that is an excellent result since they appear to be cold for 5 ♥.

Deal 9East Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 6 5
♦ 10 9 8 7
♣ K 7 6 3

11
3 12
14

♠ A J 7 6
♥ Q 9 7 3
♦ A 5 4
♣ 9 2

W N E
S

♠ K Q 4 2
♥ J 2
♦ Q J 2
♣ Q J 10 8

♠ 5 3
♥ A K 10 8 4
♦ K 6 3
♣ A 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♣	1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

Nice hand. But not nice enough to double, then bid your ♥s. So you overcall 1♥. Partner says 3♥. It is your bid.

The jump raise promises 11-14 points. Your 17 plus partner's 11 or so takes you right up to game. You bid 4♥.

Deal 10

West Deals	♠ 7 2		
None Vul	♥ Q 8		
	♦ J 5 2		
	♣ A K J 9 7 2		
♠ Q J 9 8 6 4	♠ 10 3		
♥ 6 4	♥ A J 9 7 3		
♦ A K Q	♦ 8 6 3		
♣ 10 4	♣ 8 6 5		
	♠ A K 5		
11	♥ K 10 5 2		
12 5	♦ 10 9 7 4		
12	♣ Q 3		
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Partner has at least 11 points for his 2-level overcall. He might have as many as 16. You have a perfect invitational hand including two sure stoppers in their suit. So you bid 2 NT. Partner raises to 3 NT and you get to play it there.

Deal 11
East Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 6 5
♥ 7 5
♦ Q 8 7 6 2
♣ 5 4 2

9
2 11
18

♠ A 8 3 2
♥ K J 10 6
♦ J 9 3
♣ 10 8

♠ J 10 4
♥ Q 9 3 2
♦ K 4
♣ A J 7 6

♠ K Q 9
♥ A 8 4
♦ A 10 5
♣ K Q 9 3

West North East South

Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1 NT
Pass	2 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT

3 NT by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

This hand would be one point too strong to Open 1 NT, but it fits the 15-18 range to Overcall 1 NT. Partner responds 2 ♣. What do you bid?

Don't get your systems crossed. Partner did not make a cue-bid, he is using Stayman. Since you have no 4-card Major suit you answer 2 ♦. Partner now says 2 NT and the ball is in your court.

This is just a plain old 1 NT/Stayman sequence. Partner is inviting, and since you have 18 points you accept.

Deal 12
East Deals
None Vul

♠ J 4 ♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ 10 8 4 ♥ A K Q 7
♦ 6 5 ♦ 6 5
♣ K 10 6 ♣ K 10 6

N
W E
S

♠ J 9 4 2 ♠ A K 10 7 5
 14 ♥ J 6
 5 11 ♦ 9 7 2
 10 ♣ Q 8 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♦	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♠ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Wow! Great ♠ support and 15 points. You cue-bid 2 ♦, forcing partner to bid. He says 2 ♠. Your turn.

Partner has not made a strong bid and it is possible that T tricks will be too high. But it is pretty likely that game can be made so you bid it. Be bold!

Deal 13East Deals
None Vul

♠ A 5 3 2
 ♥ J 9
 ♦ A 10 4
 ♣ K J 6 3

8
 13 11
 8
 ♣ 9 5

West

Pass
2 ♠ by South

♠ 10 7
 ♥ K Q 6 2
 ♦ K 8 5
 ♣ 8 7 4 2

♠ 6
 N
 W E
 S
 ♥ A 10 7 5 3
 ♦ J 9 7 2
 ♣ A Q 10

♠ K Q J 9 8 4
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ Q 6 3
 ♣ 9 5

North
1 ♥
Pass

East
2 ♠

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

If you had been the dealer you would have opened 2 ♠. The situation is no different after they open so you Overcall 2 ♠. Everybody passes.

Deal 14

West Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 10 2	♦ 9 7 5
♥ A 10 8	♦ K Q J 9 7
♦ K Q 10 9 7	♦ 8 3
♣ J 3	♣ K 5 2

♠ Q 10 2	♦ 9 7 5
♥ A 10 8	♦ K Q J 9 7
♦ K Q 10 9 7	♦ 8 3
♣ J 3	♣ K 5 2

9	♠ A K J 8 6 3
12 9	♥ 3
10	♦ 6 5
	♣ Q 10 7 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			
2♠ by South			



The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You don't like to take partner out of his overcalled suit without good reason. Here you have good reason. So you bid 1♠. Partner replies 2♠. What do you say next?

You expect partner to have three trumps, but he has made a minimum bid. So you take the conservative route and pass.

Deal 15West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6
♥ 9 7 6 2
♦ Q J
♣ A Q J 8 7

¹¹
14 3
¹²

♠ 10 8 5
♥ A K J 8 4
♦ K 6 3
♣ 9 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 4 2
♥ 10 5 3
♦ 10 9 5 4
♣ K 6 3 2

♠ K Q J 9 7 3
♥ Q
♦ A 8 7 2
♣ 10 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
ALL	Pass		
4♠ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

You have a nice easy decision here. You overcall 1♥. Then partner bids 1♠. What do you say next?

Whether you play a change of suit as forcing or not, your hand certainly qualifies as one where you should make a bid. Partner doesn't really like your ♥s but you are quite satisfied to play in ♠s. So you bid 2♠. Partner jumps to 4♠ and that closes out the auction.

Deal 16East Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 4
♥ 9 4
♦ K 9 7 4
♣ J 9 8 3 2

9
4 12
15

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K Q 8 3
♥ A 8 6 5
♦ 6 5
♣ 10 7 6

♠ A 6 5 2
♥ Q J 2
♦ Q 8 3 2
♣ K 4

♠ J 10 9
♥ K 10 7 3
♦ A J 10
♣ A Q 5

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♦	1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 ♥ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You treat partner's 1 NT Overcall the same as a 1 NT Opening. You use Stayman and bid 2 ♣. Partner replies 2 ♥. What is your next bid?

You have 9 points, an invitational strength hand. You bid 3 ♥, inviting partner to go to game with a maximum. He declines your invitation.

Deal 17

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 5 2
♥ 8 7
♦ 10 8 7 6 4
♣ 8 5 4

♠ 8 4
♥ K Q J
♦ A Q 9 5
♣ K 9 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K 10 7 6 3
♥ A 6 5 3 2
♦ J 2
♣ A

♠ A J 9
♥ 10 9 4
♦ K 3
♣ Q J 10 6 3

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠		2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	ALL	Pass
3 NT by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

You have a sound 2-level overcall. You bid 2 ♣ and partner replies 2 ♠. What is your next bid?

Partner's cue-bid obviously forces you to bid. Partner's hand might be very distributional, but rather than just sticking to ♣s you suggest with 2 NT. This guarantees you have ♠s stopped. Partner likes your suggestion and bids 3 NT.

Deal 18

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A 7 2	♦ K Q J 10 5
♥ K 5 4 2	♦ Q 10 7
♦ 10 6	♦ A J 3
♣ A K 3 2	♣ 8 7

♠ A 7 2	♦ K Q J 10 5
♥ K 5 4 2	♦ Q 10 7
♦ 10 6	♦ A J 3
♣ A K 3 2	♣ 8 7

13	♠ 8 3
14 o	♥ A J 9
13	♦ K Q 9 7
	♣ Q J 10 6

N	♠ 9 6 4
W	♥ 8 6 3
E	♦ 8 5 4 2
S	♣ 9 5 4

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♣	1♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

Balanced hand, poor support for partner's suit, stoppers in their suit and 13 points. You couldn't get a better hand to jump to 2 NT. Partner takes you to 3 NT.

Deal 19

West Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 2
♥ A J 3 2
♦ 8 3
♣ A 8 6 5

8
12 4
16

♠ 8 3
♥ K 8 5
♦ K Q 10 9 6 4

♣ 7 2



♠ Q 7 6 5 4
♥ 9 6 4
♦ J 2
♣ J 4 3

♠ A J 10
♥ Q 10 7
♦ A 7 5
♣ K Q 10 9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♣	2 ♦	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 NT
ALL	Pass		
3 NT by South			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid.

With a good 6-card suit and 10 points you make a Weak Jump Overcall to 2♦. Partner says 2 NT.

The 2 NT bid is a standard response to a Weak 2-bid. It asks for the identification of any outside high-card if the Weak 2-bidder has more than a minimum. Here you are in the top range for your bid so you show your ♥ K.

That was apparently the missing link for partner, he now says 3 NT.

Deal 20East Deals
None Vul

♠ J 7 6 4
 ♥ Q J 6 5 3
 ♦ 10 5 4
 ♣ J

¹⁵
5 11
9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
4 ♠ by South			

♠ A 8 5
 ♥ A K 7
 ♦ K J 6
 ♣ 10 8 6 4

N
 W E
 S

♠ —
 ♥ 10 9
 ♦ Q 9 8 3 2
 ♣ A K Q 7 5 3

♠ K Q 10 9 3 2
 ♥ 8 4 2
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ 9 2

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say?

You might just try 4 ♠. Of course if partner has a minimum Weak Jump Overcall that will get you much too high. A better approach is to ask for more information from partner. The bid that asks is 2 NT. Partner replies 3 ♦.

Partner's 3 ♦ bid tells you two things. One, he is in the top half of his 6-11 point range. Two, he has a high card (Ace or King) in ♦s. When you construct a hand for him which contains 6 pretty good ♠s and the ♦ A you come up with a hand which will probably make game. Bid 4 ♠.