

**Deal 1**North Deals  
None Vul

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

<sup>15</sup>  
 7    14  
 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

♠ J 8 3  
 ♥ K 8 6 5 4  
 ♦ 6 4 3  
 ♣ 10 9

West      North      East      South  
 Pass      1♦      Pass      Pass

Pass  
 1♦ by North

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 2**

North Deals	♠ Q 8 4
None Vul	♥ 6 2
	♦ A 10 8
	♣ K Q J 7 4
♠ A 7 5 3	♠ 10 9 2
♥ K 10 9 3	♥ A Q J 7 5
♦ K 9 6 4	♦ Q J 7
♣ 5	♣ 8 6



$\begin{matrix} & \\ 12 & \\ 10 & 10 \\ 8 & \end{matrix}$	♠ K J 6		
	♥ 8 4		
	♦ 5 3 2		
	♣ A 10 9 3 2		
<i>West</i> 3 ♥ 3 ♥ by East	<i>North</i> 1 ♣ Pass	<i>East</i> 1 ♥ Pass	<i>South</i> Pass Pass

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 3**East 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**

South Deals

None Vul

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



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

♠ 6  
 ♥ K J 9 4 3  
 ♦ K 9 4  
 ♣ 8 7 6 5

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

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

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 5**

West Deals

None Vul

**♠ A K Q 8 4**  
**♥ 9 4**  
**♦ 9 5 4 3**  
**♣ K Q**

**14 9**  
**8**  
**9**  
**♣ 10 3**



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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 ♥ by North

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 6**North Deals  
None Vul

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

<sup>13</sup>  
6    <sup>13</sup>  
8

West

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

N  
W   E  
S

♠ A K 9 7 5  
 ♥ K 10 3  
 ♦ 9 5 3  
 ♣ K 7

♠ Q 6 2  
 ♥ 8 6  
 ♦ Q J 8 6  
 ♣ Q J 5 4

North      East      South

1♦      1♠      2♦

2♠

Pass      Pass      Pass

2♠ by East

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.