

**Deal 1**  
East Deals  
None Vul

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

7  
4 15  
14

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

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

West      North      East      South  
Pass      Pass  
1 ♦ by East

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

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**

West Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 8 4

♥ 6 2

♦ A 10 8

♣ K Q J 7 4

♠ 10 9 2

♥ A Q J 7 5

♦ Q J 7

♣ 8 6



♠ K J 6

♥ 8 4

♦ 5 3 2

♣ A 10 9 3 2

**10**  
**12 8**  
**10**

♠ A 7 5 3  
♥ K 10 9 3  
♦ K 9 6 4  
♣ 5

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

3♥ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say? [BID 3♥]

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

West

Pass  
Pass  
2 ♥ by South

♠ A 7 4 3  
♥ K 8 3  
♦ 6 3  
♣ 9 8 4 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 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

North

2 ♥

1 ♣

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

East

1 ♣

Pass

South

1 ♥

Pass

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 1 ♥]

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

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

**Deal 4**West Deals  
None Vul

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

**10**  
**13**    **10**  
 7

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

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

N  
W   E  
S

♠ 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

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

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**East Deals  
None Vul

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

9  
8 14  
9

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

♠ J 7 5 2

♥ A 8 6 3  
♦ A 10 2

♣ 10 3

N  
W E S

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

10 9  
K Q J 7 5 2  
♦ Q J 7  
♣ 6 5

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 2 ♥]

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

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**West Deals  
None Vul

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

**13**  
**13 8**  
**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

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

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

2♠ by North

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say? [BID 2♠]

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

**12**  
 7 **13**  
 8

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A 7 6 5  
 ♥ 10 6 5  
 ♦ A J 9 7 2  
 ♣ A

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 1♦]

You have enough for a 1-level Overcall so you bid 1♦. Partner says 3♦. What do you say now? [BID pass]

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**

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 9  
♥ A K Q J 9  
♦ K Q J 10 3  
♣ 6

16  
8  
9  
7

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

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

♠ K 8 7 5 3  
♥ 7 5 2  
♦ A  
♣ 7 5 4 3

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say? [BID 4 ♠]

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 9**East Deals  
None Vul

♠ 10 9 8  
♥ 6 5  
♦ 10 9 8 7  
♣ K 7 6 3

**11**  
**3 12**  
**14**

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

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

♠ 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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 1♥]

Nice hand. But not nice enough to double, then bid your ♥s. So you overcall 1♥. Partner says 3♥. It is your bid. [BID 4♥]

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? [BID 2 NT]

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

<p>♠ 7 6 5          ♥ 7 5          ♦ Q 8 7 6 2          ♣ 5 4 2</p>		<p>♠ A 8 3 2          ♥ K J 10 6          ♦ J 9 3          ♣ 10 8</p>
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<p>9          2 11          18</p>	<p>♠ K Q 9          ♥ A 8 4          ♦ A 10 5          ♣ K Q 9 3</p>
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<p>West</p>	<p>North</p>	<p>East</p>	<p>South</p>
		<p>1 ♣</p>	<p>1 NT</p>
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 1 NT]

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? [BID 2 ♦]

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. [BID 3 NT]

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

**Deal 12**

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 2  
♥ 9 5 3 2  
♦ A K 4 3  
♣ A 7 5

**10**  
**11** 5  
**14**

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



♠ J 4  
♥ 10 8 4  
♦ Q J 10 8  
♣ J 9 4 2

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

<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 North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say? [BID 2♦]

Wow! Great ♠ support and 15 points. You cue-bid 2♦, forcing partner to bid. He says 2♠. Your turn. [BID 4♠]

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 13**East 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

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

2 ♠

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 2 ♠]

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

<sup>9</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>10</sup>		♠ 4 ♥ 6 5 4 2 ♦ A J 4 2 ♣ A 9 8 4
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♠ A K J 8 6 3

♥ 3  
♦ 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? [BID 1 ♠]

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? [BID pass]

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

**Deal 15**East Deals  
None Vul

♠ 4 2  
 ♥ 10 5 3  
 ♦ 10 9 5 4  
 ♣ K 6 3 2

**12**  
**3 14**  
**11**

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

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


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

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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 1 ♥]

You have a nice easy decision here. You overcall 1 ♥. Then partner bids 1 ♠. What do you say next? [BID 2 ♠]

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 16**West Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 6 5 2	♠ J 10 9
♥ Q J 2	♥ K 10 7 3
♦ Q 8 3 2	♦ A J 10
♣ K 4	♣ A Q 5
15	♠ 7 4
12 4	♥ 9 4
9	♦ K 9 7 4
	♣ J 9 8 3 2
	♠ K Q 8 3
	♥ A 8 6 5
	♦ 6 5
	♣ 10 7 6



West	North	East	South
1 ♦	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 ♥ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say? [BID 2 ♣]

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? [BID 3 ♥]

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

<sup>15</sup>  
**2 12**  
**11**

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

♠ 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

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 2 ♣]

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

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 5 4 2  
 ♦ 10 6  
 ♣ A K 3 2

**13**  
**14** o  
**13**

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

♠ 9 6 4  
 ♥ 8 6 3  
 ♦ 8 5 4 2  
 ♣ 9 5 4

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

<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? [BID 2 NT]

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**  
 East Deals  
 None Vul

♠ Q 7 6 5 4  
 ♥ 9 6 4  
 ♦ J 2  
 ♣ J 4 3

**16**  
 4    12  
 8

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

<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 North			



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

♠ K 9 2  
 ♥ A J 3 2  
 ♦ 8 3  
 ♣ A 8 6 5

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. [BID 2♦]

With a good 6-card suit and 10 points you make a Weak Jump Overcall to 2♦. Partner says 2 NT. What do you bid now? [BID 3 ♥]

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 20**

West Deals

None Vul

♠	K Q 10 9 3 2
♥	8 4 2
♦	A 7
♣	9 2

♠	-
♥	10 9
♦	Q 9 8 3 2
♣	A K Q 7 5 3

9	♠ A 8 5
11	♥ A K 7
15	♦ K J 6

N	♠ J 7 6 4
W	♥ Q J 6 5 3
S	♦ 10 5 4
E	♣ J

♣ 10 8 6 4
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West	North	East	South
1 ♣	2 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♠ by North			

The bidding has been as shown. It is your bid. What do you say? [BID 2 NT]

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 ♦. What do you bid now? [BID 4 ♠]

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 ♠.