

## Beginners: Lesson 2

**Bidding your Hand - Opener:**

- The Dealer has first Bid
- Holding **12+ HCP** player will Open a **Suit** or **NT**
- A suit bid will show 5 cards in the majors, ♠ or ♥; 4 ♦'s or 2 ♣'s (we will play a short ♣ opening)
- With 15 -17 HCP and a balanced hand bid **1NT** (*a lot more details about this bid later*)
- **Without** 12+ HCP player will Pass ( / )

**Exercise: You are the Dealer, what will your bid be:**

- |             |              |                |              |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| a) ♠ 3      | b) ♠ A J 7 3 | c) ♠ K J 7 5 3 | d) ♠ A Q 5 3 |
| ♥ K 7 6 4 3 | ♥ A K 6      | ♥ 6 3          | ♥ A K J 6    |
| ♦ A Q J 2   | ♦ Q 9 8 7    | ♦ J            | ♦ 9 7        |
| ♣ Q 5 3     | ♣ T 4        | ♣ Q J 7 4 3    | ♣ K Q 8      |

**An Overcall:**

- After an Opening Bid, the next player may make an **Overcall**, showing their partner they hold **12+ HCP** and **always** a **5 card suit**.
- Remember the bidding order, ♣, ♦, ♥, ♠, **NT**. This may cause the Overcaller some problems. *More details will be discussed in later lessons*
- An example of bidding showing an Overcall could look like (*N is Dealer*):

N	E	S	W
1♦	1♠	/	2♠
/	/	/	

Shows: **N: Opener** - holding 12+ HCP and 4 ♦'s

**E: Overcalls** holding 12+ HCP and 5 ♠'s

**S:** has < 6 HCP

**W:** holds 6+ HCP and 3 ♠'s for a fit in ♠

All players Pass and the contract is **2♠** for E to play.

The lead will come from **S** and their top ♦ would be good to honour partners bid.

- This bid would not be legal:

N	E	S	W
1♥	1♣		

Shows: **N: Opener** - holding 12+ HCP and 5 ♥'s

**E: illegal Overcall** - E is trying to say 12+ HCP and 5 ♣'s but has not followed the bidding order, better to Pass at this stage; learn more details later.

### Partner's Response to Opening Bid:

- Partner opened a major. **Responder will bid to describe their hand.**
- With a **fit** Responder may now count distribution points.
- Add 5 for a Void, 3 for singleton or 1 for doubleton in any other suit to the HCP count.
- With 6+ points and a fit, bid 2 of the suit.
- If Opener bid a minor they may hold 4 of a major and want to know if you have 4!
- **Always** answer your major 4 suit before any minors (you may be outbid by an Overcall, if so consider a fit in partner's minor bid!).
- The Suits are bid in order ♣, ♦, ♥, ♠, **NT**; A Contract in major suits is worth more points.

**Exercise: You must Respond to partners opening 1♥, what will your bid be:**

- |              |              |               |             |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| a) ♠ A 8 6 2 | b) ♠ K J 7 3 | c) ♠ 5 3      | d) ♠ 9 5 3  |
| ♥ J 9 7      | ♥ A          | ♥ 6 3 2       | ♥ J         |
| ♦ K 7        | ♦ Q 9 8 7    | ♦ K Q 9 7 5 3 | ♦ A K J 9 7 |
| ♣ 5 3 2      | ♣ Q 8 4 3    | ♣ 4 3         | ♣ K Q 8 6   |

**Exercise: You Open 1♦, Partner responds 1♠, what is your next bid. You MUST answer Responder's bid (they may have a very strong hand!):**

- |              |               |             |            |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| a) ♠ A T 9 5 | b) ♠ 3        | c) ♠ 5      | d) ♠ 9 5 3 |
| ♥ T 9 7      | ♥ A 7 5       | ♥ Q 6       | ♥ A J 9    |
| ♦ A K 7 3    | ♦ A K Q 9 8 7 | ♦ A Q 7 5 3 | ♦ A J 9 7  |
| ♣ K 5        | ♣ 8 4 3       | ♣ A K 6 4 3 | ♣ K T 8    |

**Playing in a Suit:**

- When a contract is in a suit, it is called **trumps**. Eg contract 2♥; ♥ are trumps
- It is best to eliminate the opposition's holding in trumps first, then all your winners in the other suits are safe.
- If you are holding 8 trumps the opposition have 5 - usually in 3/2 holding so you need to play 3 rounds of tricks to draw out trumps or;
- you have 9 trumps - opposition usually holds 2/2, you need to play 2 rounds of tricks
- If you are playing the contract always **Thank Dummy** for their cards when they are placed on the table after the first lead – *even if you are not really impressed with them!*

**Practice Bidding and Game - Using a NT contract:**

## 1. East Deals

		S: Q 6 4		
		H: A T 9		
		D: A T 2		
		C: 9 2		
S: A 5 3 2				S: K 9 7
H: J 8 5 4				H: Q 3 2
D: 9 8 6				D: K Q J 4
C: A T 6				C: Q 8 7 3
		S: J T 8		
		H: K 7 6		
		D: 7 6 5		
		C: K J 5 4		

	N	
W		E
	S	

N	E	S	W
	1♦	/	1♥
/	1NT	/	/
/			

- \* With no 5 card major E opens 1♦.
- \* W bid 1♥, this gives the chance for partner to bid 1♠ if possible.
- \* But E only has 3 ♠'s so 1NT is the answer.

Lead:

**Next Week: More Bidding** – Homework/Preparation...read Chapter 2 of *The Language of Bidding*