

## Practise your Overcalls

Choose your next bid

<p><b>Hand: 1</b>  <b>Dealer: West Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1♦ Pass Pass ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ K 7 6 5 3            ♥ A 8 7 3            ♦ 6 2            ♣ Q J</p>
<p><b>Hand: 2 Dealer: East Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1♠ ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ A J 3            ♥ 3 2            ♦ Q J 7 6 2            ♣ K J 2</p>
<p><b>Hand: 3</b>  <b>Dealer: West Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1♥ Pass Pass ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ K 8 7            ♥ A J 7 6            ♦ K Q 6 5            ♣ K 5</p>
<p><b>Hand: 4</b>  <b>Dealer: East Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1♥ ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ A Q            ♥ K Q 9            ♦ K J 8 6 4 2            ♣ 9 5</p>
<p><b>Hand: 5 Dealer: East Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1♥ ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ K 3            ♥ 9 5 3            ♦ K Q 5 4            ♣ A Q J 3</p>
<p><b>Hand: 6</b>  <b>Dealer: East Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1NT ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ K 9 4            ♥ K Q 10 8            ♦ A J 6 4            ♣ Q 2</p>
<p><b>Hand: 7 Dealer: East Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1♦ 1♥ 1♠ ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ 8            ♥ 7 4 2            ♦ 9 6 2            ♣ K J 8 7 6</p>
<p><b>Hand: 8 Dealer: East Vul: None</b>  <b>West North East South</b>            1♦ 1♥ Pass ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>            ♠ K Q 8 7 4            ♥ 7 2            ♦ 9 6 2            ♣ K 3 2</p>

**Answer: Pass**

We have enough points to overcall, but our SQOT is only 6 (we need 7 to overcall at the 1-Level)

**Answer: Pass**

We have 12 points but our SQOT is only 7. We need an SQOT of 8 to overcall at the 2-level

**Answer: 1NT**

We are balanced, we have 16 points and we have stops in opener's suit.

**Answer: 2♦**

We have 15 points, 6 diamonds and an SQOT of 8, so are strong enough to bid to make 8 tricks by making a simple 2-level overcall

**Answer: Pass**

Although we would have opened the bidding with this hand, we must pass as overcaller. We do not have a suit that meets the SQOT / point count' criteria and we do not have a 'stop' in hearts so cannot overcall with a bid of 1NT.

**Answer: Pass**

We have opening points but do not have a bid. We have no good 5 card suit Our hand is much more suitable for defence, sitting over East.

**Answer: 2♥**

We have a heart fit so we can count three shortage points. Our hand is just strong enough for us to raise partner's suit

**Answer: 1♠**

We do not have a fit for partner's suit but we would have made 1♠ overcall with this hand so should do so now. The bid promises a 5 card suit, SQOT = 7 and 8+ points.

<b>Hand: 9 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♦ 1♥ Pass ?	<b>South</b> ♠ J 8 7 4 2 ♥ 7 ♦ 9 6 5 2 ♣ K 3 2
<b>Hand: 10 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♥ ?	<b>South</b> ♠ Q J 7 4 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ A K 5 2 ♣ K 3
<b>Hand: 11 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♥ ?	<b>South</b> ♠ Q 10 8 4 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ A K 10 9 8 ♣ K 9
<b>Hand: 12 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♥ 1NT Pass ?	<b>South</b> ♠ J 9 7 6 5 4 3 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 9
<b>Hand: 13 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♥ 1NT Pass ?	<b>South</b> ♠ A Q 7 6 5 ♥ 9 5 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ 9
<b>Hand: 14 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♥ 1NT Pass ?	<b>South</b> ♠ Q 9 7 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ A 6 7 3 ♣ Q 2

**Answer: Pass**

We not try to rescue partner with this hand. We would not have overcalled if we had been in partner's seat so we pass.

**Answer: 1NT**

We have 16 points, a balanced hand and a stopper in hearts (we will be declarer if we play in No Trumps and a heart lead will come round to our ♥K) Replace the ♠J with ♠2 and with a poor 15 HCP we would pass.

**Answer: 1NT**

We have a good 15 points (good 5 card suit and good intermediates – 10's, 9's), a balanced hand and a stopper in hearts. We upgrade our hand to 16 points and can overcall 1NT.

**Answer: 2♠**

This is a weak takeout. We have a very weak hand but long spades that will be worthless in No Trumps but will produce lots of tricks in a spade contract.

**Answer: 3♠**

We have 10 points and partner has at least 15 points. Partner has bid No Trumps so has at least two spades. Our bid is game forcing, showing exactly 5 spades, offering partner a choice of game contracts. (With 6 or more spades we would have bid 4♠).

**Answer: 2NT**

We have 9 points and a balanced hand. Our 2NT bid is inviting partner to bid 3NT if she is at the upper end of her 16-18 HCP range, or pass with 15 or a poor 15 HCP. With just one more point we would bid 3NT.

### Weak Jump Overcalls

<b>Hand: 15 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♦ ?	<b>South</b> ♠ J 5 ♥ K Q 8 6 4 3 ♦ 6 ♣ Q J 3
<b>Hand: 16 Dealer: East Vul: None</b> <b>West North East South</b> 1♠ ?	<b>South</b> ♠ Q 5 ♥ K Q 10 6 5 4 3 ♦ 6 ♣ A J 3

**Answer: 2♥**

We have a hand very suitable for a weak jump overcall – 6-9 HCP, a 6 card suit and a SQOT of 8, which is equal to the number of tricks we are bidding for.

**Answer: 2♥**

12 HCP, a 7 card suit and an SQOT= 9. We are too strong for a weak jump overcall to 3♥ (we would open 1♥ with this hand using the Rule of 20). We make a simple overcall, planning to rebid our hearts to show our extra length.

<p><b>Hand:</b> 17  <b>Dealer:</b> East <b>Vul:</b> None</p> <p><b>West North East South</b>  1♦    2♥    2♠    ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>  ♠ 8  ♥ J 7 4 2  ♦ 9 6 2  ♣ K J 8 7 6</p>
<p><b>Hand:</b> 18  <b>Dealer:</b> East <b>Vul:</b> EW</p> <p><b>West North East South</b>  1♥    3♣    3♥    ?</p>	<p><b>South</b>  ♠ K 3 2  ♥ J  ♦ K Q 4 3 2  ♣ J 10 4 2</p>

**Answer:** 4♥

We have a 10 card heart fit so we bid to the level of the fit, bidding to make 10 tricks. With a 9 card fit we would bid 3♥, and with an 8 card fit we would pass.

**Answer:** 5♣

Partner is promising 7 clubs so we have an 11 card club fit and no defence to 4♥, so we bid to the level of the 11 card fit, bidding to make 11 tricks. We should expect to make at least 6 clubs in partner's hand and some ruffing tricks in our hand plus a diamond trick. We will go off two or three tricks but our minus score should look good compared to EW's +620 if they make 4♥ vulnerable