

Beginner Bridge Lesson 3

Practise opening the bidding

Choose your next bid

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

Opening the Bidding

Answer: 1♠

With two five card suits we open the higher-ranking suit ("High fives"). That way we can show both suits more economically.

Answer: 1♠

With an unbalanced hand (here two doubletons) we open 1♠.

Answer: 1♠

We always open with our longest suit. Length always takes priority over strength.

Answer: 1♠

Here open the higher ranking of our four card suits. The only exception is when we have 4 hearts and 4 spades, when we would open 1♥.

Answer: 1♥

An opening bid at the one level is correct for unbalanced hands in the 12-19 point range.

Answer: 1NT

Open 1NT with a balanced hand (no singleton, no two doubletons) with 12-14 points.

Answer: 1NT

We always open 1NT with a 12-14 balanced hand and a 5 card minor. Showing our shape takes priority over showing a minor suit. Don't worry about the poor doubleton in spades. All 5-3-3-2 shapes are classified as balanced.

Answer: 1♦

With a balanced hand of 15+ points we are too strong to open a weak 1NT. We have to open in our longest suit, regardless of how weak it is.

Answer: 1♥

We normally open the higher ranking of four card suits. The exception is when we have 4 hearts and 4 spades, we open 1♥.

