Beginner Bridge Lesson 3 Practise opening the bidding

Choose your next bid

Choose your next blu	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	
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 $1 \stackrel{\bullet}{\triangle}$.

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 $1 \checkmark$.

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 $1 \checkmark$.

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

Answer: Pass

We only have 11 points and do not satisfy the Rule of 20 (11 + 5 + 3 = 19)

Answer: 1♥

We have a strong (18 point) hand and 7 great hearts but it is still correct to open 1♥.

Answer: 1

We open the higher-ranking of two 4-card suits when we have a balanced hand outside the 12-14 point range.

Answer: 1♦

We have only 11 HCP but we have a shapely hand that comfortably satisfies the Rule of 20 (11 + 6 + 4 = 21)

Answer: Pass (quickly!)

Our hand satisfies the Rule of 20 (11+ 6 + 4 = 20) but the diamonds are very poor and our honour card points are mostly in our short suits. The Rule of 20 is a guide rather than a rule.