

Lesson 11: Practise Slam Bidding

Print off and fold down the middle.

<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ AJ3 ♥ AQJ ♦ K7 ♣ QJ532</p>	<p>3NT</p> <p>You have a lovely 18 HCP hand but the partnership has 32 HCP at most. You usually need a combined 33 HCP for 6NT to have good chances. Settle for 3NT and aim to make as many overtricks as possible.</p>					
1	West	North	East	South													
		1NT	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ AJ3 ♥ AQJ ♦ KJ ♣ QJ532</p>	<p>4NT</p> <p>You have a 19 HCP hand. If partner has a maximum 14 HCP or a GOOD 13 HCP worth an upgrade to 14 HCP then 6NT has good prospects</p>					
2	West	North	East	South													
		1NT	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>3</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	3	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ Q83 ♥ AQJ ♦ KQ ♣ AK532</p>	<p>6NT</p> <p>You have a 21 HCP hand. The partnership has between 33 and 35 HCP, enough for 6NT even if partner has a minimum 12 HCP, but not enough for a grand slam which would require a combined 37 HCP to have good chances.</p>					
3	West	North	East	South													
		1NT	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>4</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	4	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ J83 ♥ Q94 ♦ J8 ♣ AK1083</p>	<p>4NT (Quantitative – NOT Blackwood)</p> <p>You have 11 HCP. If partner has a maximum (22 HCP) then 6NT has good chances. 4NT after an opening 1NT or 2NT is not Blackwood. (It's just like an invitational 2NT response to partner's 1NT opener, but inviting a No Trump slam rather than 3NT).</p>					
4	West	North	East	South													
		2NT	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>5</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	5	West	North	East	South					2NT		Pass	4NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ A109 ♥ A8 ♦ AKQ107 ♣ KJ8</p>	<p>Answer: 6NT</p> <p>4NT is a quantitative invitation to 6NT. You have a middle of the range 21 HCP but the lovely 5 card diamond suit, your two 10's and your ♠9 warrant an upgrade so you accept the 6NT invitation</p>
5	West	North	East	South													
				2NT													
	Pass	4NT	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>6</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	6	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ K8 ♥ J943 ♦ KJ2 ♣ AK103</p>	<p>5NT (Grand Slam Invitation)</p> <p>You have 15 HCP and partner has at least 20 HCP so the partnership has more than enough for 6NT, but if partner has a maximum 22 HCP then a Grand Slam has great chances. 5NT is asking partner to bid 7NT if maximum, otherwise bid 6NT. Partner must not pass your 5NT grand slam invitation</p>					
6	West	North	East	South													
		2NT	Pass	?													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>7</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	7	West	North	East	South					1♠		Pass	3♠	Pass	?	<p>♠ AJ987 ♥ 2 ♦ AKQ ♣ KQ87</p>	<p>Answer: 4NT (Blackwood)</p> <p>4NT is only quantitative when responding to partner's opening No Trump bid. Here partner's bid is in a suit, so will know that you are asking for aces. You have 19 HCP and partner's 3♠ bid shows 10-12 HCP and 4 card support for your suit. You can now count shortage for your singleton heart, giving you the combined strength (32+) for investigating a 6♠ slam. This has very good chances provided there is no more than one missing ace.</p>
7	West	North	East	South													
				1♠													
	Pass	3♠	Pass	?													

<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>8</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>Pass?</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	8	West	North	East	South			1♠	Pass	3♠		Pass	4NT	Pass?	?	<p>♠ KJ42 ♥ 9874 ♦ A4 ♣ Q87</p>		<p>5♦</p> <p>You have agreed spades as trumps and now partner has asked for aces. Your bid lets partner know that you have just one ace.</p>					
8	West	North	East	South																			
		1♠	Pass	3♠																			
	Pass	4NT	Pass?	?																			
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>9</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	9	West	North	East	South					1♠		Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT		Pass	5♦	pass	?	<p>♠ AKQ65 ♥ KQJ2 ♦ KQ ♣ 72</p>		<p>5♠</p> <p>You have 20 HCP, 22 HCP including shortage now that a fit has been found. Partner's bid shows that she has one ace. With two aces missing you cannot make a slam so settle for 5♠.</p> <p>Note that partner's 3♠ bid shows a good raise, 10-12 points including shortage. With a slightly weaker hand, say 17-18 HCP, you would not be sure of having the combined strength for a slam so should not bid Blackwood. Bid 4♠ and look to make overtricks.</p>
9	West	North	East	South																			
				1♠																			
	Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT																			
	Pass	5♦	pass	?																			
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>10</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	10	West	North	East	South					1♠		Pass	3♠	Pass	?	<p>♠ AKJ73 ♥ 2 ♦ AQJ74 ♣ A2</p>		<p>6♠</p> <p>You have a fabulously shaped hand and no worry about there being two missing aces. You have 19 HCP and four shortage points so 23 opposite at least 10. If you bid Blackwood and partner responds 5♣ (no aces) you will bid the slam anyway, with only one ace missing, so why ask for aces? Just blast the slam.</p>					
10	West	North	East	South																			
				1♠																			
	Pass	3♠	Pass	?																			