

Lesson 1: Opening the bidding at the 1-Level

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></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ AK864 ♥ J2 ♦ Q87 ♣ 987</p>	<p>Pass</p> <p>You only have 10 points and your hand does not satisfy the Rule of 20 ($10 + 5 + 4 = 19$) so you are too weak to open the bidding.</p>
1	West	North	East	South								
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2	West	North	East	South								
				?								
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3	West	North	East	South								
				?								
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4	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	5	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ A9872 ♥ KJ83 ♦ 7 ♣ K98</p>	<p>1♠</p> <p>You only have 11 points but your hand satisfies the Rule of 20 ($11 + 5 + 4$). You have a good rebid (2♥) if partner's response does not support your spades.</p>
5	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	6	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ 65 ♥ K76 ♦ AJ764 ♣ KJ7</p>	<p>1NT</p> <p>You have a balanced shape and 12 points. Don't worry about the poor doubleton in spades. (All 5-3-3-2 shapes are classified as balanced).</p>
6	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	7	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ J8765 ♥ AK543 ♦ 7 ♣ A2</p>	<p>1♠</p> <p>You have an unbalanced shape and 12 points. With two 5 card suits we always open in the higher ranked suit, regardless of suit strength.</p>
7	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	8	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ J9642 ♥ J76 ♦ AKQJ ♣ 3</p>	<p>1♠</p> <p>Your longest suit is spades so you must open in this suit, even though your diamonds are stronger. Your diamonds will produce tricks in any contract but your spades will only produce tricks if spades are trumps</p>
8	West	North	East	South								
				?								

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9	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	10	West	North	East	South					?	<p> ♠ KJ64 ♥ Q763 ♦ AQJ4 ♣ 3 </p>	<p>1♥</p> <p>Another 4441 hand, but with 13 HCP you have to find a bid. <u>With 4441 shape and a red suit singleton, open the suit below the singleton. With a 4441 shape and black suit singleton, open the middle of the touching suits.</u></p>
10	West	North	East	South								
				?								
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11	West	North	East	South								
				?								