Lesson 4: Practise New Suit Responses and Opener's Limit Rebids

Print off and fold down the middle.

1WestNorthEastSouth1♥Pass?	 ▲ Q32 ♥ 5 ◆ QJ752 ♣ K763 	1NT With 8 points you have to bid but you are too weak to bid 2. You do not satisfy the "Rule of 14". You have to bid a Dustbin 1NT. This bid does not promise a balanced hand. It is just a point count – 6-9 HCP
2WestNorthEastSouth11Pass?	 ▲ K876 ♥ 4 ◆ J83 ♣ KQ532 	1▲ Although strong enough to bid 2♣ (satisfying the "Rule of 14"), do not bypass a 4-Card major. Partner may have four spades as well as five or six hearts, and the 8-Card spade fit may not be discovered. If you bid 2♣ and partner rebids her hearts you won't be strong enough to bid 2♠, a forcing bid that could push the auction too high if partner does not have four spades.
3WestNorthEastSouth1 ▲Pass?	 ▲ J76 ♥ KQ84 ← ▲ K108432 	2 * Your hand easily satisfies the "Rule of 14" (9+6). A better bid than a Dustbin 1NT which partner might pass.
4WestNorthEastSouth1 ♠Pass?	 ▲ A93 ♥ KJ9873 ♦ K2 ♣ AJ 	2▼ Even with 16 points you still make a simple non- jump bid. Your new suit bid is forcing – partner will not pass. The best contract might be 3NT, 4♥, 4♠. Leave as much bidding space as possible to find the best contract. You can show your strength with your rebid.
5WestNorthEastSouth11Pass?	 ♦ 983 ♥ J632 ♦ Q76 ♣ J72 	Pass With only 4 HCP, don't bid 2♥. Partner will be misled about your strength; if partner has 19 points and 4 hearts he will bid 4♥ which will probably go off. Note that you have no shortage so no ruffing opportunities for partner, despite the 8+ card fit.
6WestNorthEastSouth1♣Pass?	 ▲ AK8 ♥ Q7 ♦ KQ542 ♣ K105 	1 ♦ With this 17point balanced hand and no likely fit in a major you might be thinking about bidding 3NT but that takes up a lot of bidding space and leaves little room for further conversation. The optimum contract might be 5♣ or 6♣, or 5♦ or 6♦. Your 1♦ bid is forcing. You can always bid 3NT with your rebid.
7WestNorthEastSouth1♣Pass?	 ▲ KQ87654 ♥ 4 ♦ AK ♣ J76 	1▲ You don't need to jump to 2▲. A bid of 1▲ is forcing. 3NT might be the best contract. You can show your shape and strength on the next round.

8	West Pass	North 1♥	East Pass	South 1♦ ?	 ▲ K54 ♥ A5 ♦ KJ987 ♣ A109 	1NT You show a balanced hand with 15-16 points so show your point count range by bidding no Trumps at the lowest available level
9	West Pass	North 1♠	East Pass	South 1♥ ?	 ▲ K5 ♥ AK86 ♦ KQ52 ♣ QJ3 	2NT With 18 HCP you planned to open 1♥ and jump to 2NT, and that's what you now do. If partner had responded 2♣ you would have jumped in No Trumps but to do so you would have bid 3NT.
10	West Pass	North 2*	East Pass	South 1♥ ?	 ▲ K5 ♥ AK86 ♦ K752 ♣ Q53 	2NT You have 15 HCP and originally planned to open 1♥ and rebid 1NT but partner's 2♣ rebid has prevented you from doing so. You have to bid 2NT, but that's not a concern. Partner's bid promises at least 9 HCP so with a combined 24+ points you should be comfortable playing in 2NT. After the 2-level response your bid shows 15-18 HCP so partner will almost certainly bid on.
11	West Pass	North 2*	East Pass	South 1♥ ?	 ▲ A98 ♥ AQ8742 ◆ 5 ♣ K85 	2 ♥ You have an unbalanced minimum opening hand and no 4 card second suit. You just repeat your suit at the lowest available level. A non-jump repeat of your suit shows 12-15 points and will usually be a 6+ card suit but may be a 5 card suit. (Here you would rebid 2 ♥ with five hearts and four spades, because rebidding 2 ♠ would be a reverse, showing 16+ HCP).
12	West Pass	North 1♠	East Pass	South 1♥ ?	 ▲ A98 ♥ AQ8742 ◆ 5 ♣ AQ5 	3 You have 16 points and a good 6 card suit so can repeat your hearts with a jump rebid. Note that your jump rebid guarantees 6 hearts, because with only 5 hearts you must have either a balanced hand (5332) too strong to open 1NT or a 4+ card second suit which you can bid (next lesson)
13	West Pass	North	East Pass	South 1▲ ?	 ▲ AKJ1073 ♥ AJ9 ◆ 5 ♣ A95 	 A▲ You have 17 HCP but your shape is wonderful. Partner's 2-level response shows at least 8-9 points and could be a lot stronger, so the partnership has at least enough for game. A rebid of 3▲ is a limit bid which partner might pass with a minimum 9 point hand and spade shortage, so to avoid such a disaster you should bid game.
14	West Pass	North 1♠	East Pass	South 1.* ?	 ▲ AJ65 ♥ K8 ◆ A9 ♣ K9432 	3▲ You have 15 HCP but now that an 8 card spade fit has been found you can add two shortage points for your two doubletons. With 17 total points you are strong enough to make a game invitational bid of 3▲. With 8+ points partner should bid game.