

# 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 ♦ Q872 ♣ 9876</p>	<p><b>Pass</b></p> <p>You only have 10 points and your hand does not satisfy the Rule of 20 (<math>10 + 5 + 4 = 19</math>) so you are too weak to open the bidding.</p>
1	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ A9876 ♥ K5 ♦ 98 ♣ AJ63</p>	<p><b>1♠</b></p> <p>You have 12 HCP. With an unbalanced hand (here two doubletons) you open in our longest suit.</p>
2	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	3	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ A87 ♥ AKQJ852 ♦ 9 ♣ 76</p>	<p><b>1♥</b></p> <p>Resist the temptation to open at a higher level, such as 2♥. An opening bid in a suit at the one level is correct for all unbalanced hands in the 12-19 point range, so we open 1♥.</p>
3	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<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></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	4	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ J876 ♥ K5 ♦ AKJ6 ♣ K95</p>	<p><b>1♠</b></p> <p>You are balanced but and have 15 points, so are too strong to open 1NT. You open the higher ranked of two four card suits unless you have four hearts and four spades. Here your two four card suits are diamonds and spades so you open 1♠. It does not matter that your diamonds are stronger than your spades</p>
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><b>1♠</b></p> <p>You only have 11 points but your hand satisfies the Rule of 20 (<math>11 + 5 + 4</math>). 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><b>1NT</b></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><b>1♠</b></p> <p>You have an unbalanced shape and 12 points. With two 5 card suits we always open in the 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><b>1♠</b></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 produce only produce tricks if spades are trumps</p>
8	West	North	East	South								
				?								

<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>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	9	West	North	East	South					?		<p>           ♠ K964            ♥ Q763            ♦ AQJ4            ♣ 3         </p>	<p><b>Pass</b></p> <p>4441 hands are the bane of Acol bidding, as you will learn in a later lesson. If you open in one of your 4 card suits and partner responds in your singleton suit, you will have a real problem with your rebid. For now just accept that if you have this shape and only 12 HCP then your safest option is to pass.</p>
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><b>1♥</b></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									
				?									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>11</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>	11	West	North	East	South					?		<p>           ♠ KQ64            ♥ AK63            ♦ 3            ♣ AQJ4         </p>	<p><b>1♣</b></p> <p>Another 4441 hand, but this time with 19 HCP. The same guideline applies. <u>With a 4441 shape and a red suit singleton, open the suit below the singleton. With 4441 shape and black suit singleton, open the middle of the touching suits.</u></p>
11	West	North	East	South									
				?									