

ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS

LAST REVISED ON MARCH 6, 2018

1. The contract for a hand:

- The East-West partnership should have at least 26 combined points.
- Declarer must take at least 10 (6 book + 4 bid) tricks.
- The defense must take at least 4 (13 - 10 + 1) tricks
- East, the first seat to bid spades.
- West, declarer's partner.
- South, declarer's left hand opponent.

2. Consider the bids and hand:

- You (South) hold 14 high card points plus 1 long suit point for the five card heart suit to get 15 declarer points. However, the ♣J4 may not be worth a point.
- You have 14 good declarer points and a five card heart suit.
- Two hearts by South, the first seat to declare the hearts.
- You because you were the first player in the winning partnership to declare hearts.
- Your partner (North).
- West, your left hand opponent.
- At least 8 tricks.
- Trick points: 30×2 for contract plus 30×2 for two overtricks = 120 trick points. There are no bonus points because even though ten tricks is enough for game, the final contract was not a game contract.

3. Study the hands for an East-West partnership:

- West holds 10 HCP.
- East holds 16 HCP.
- North-South holds $40 - 26 = 14$ HCP.
- East-West has 26 HCP which is enough to bid a game.
- East has a balanced hand with stoppers in three suits. East should open the bidding with 1NT.
- East-West does not have an 8 card trump fit.
- North-South has $13 - 3 - 3 = 7$ spades in their combined hands.

4. What is your opening bid for each hand?

- 1♥ (longest suit) → **Strength:** 13 good declarer points (12 good HCP + 1 ♥ LSP) plus 1 very weak HCP for the ♣J2 doubleton. **Shape:** Unbalanced (two doubletons) with a five card major.
- 1♦ (longest minor) → **Strength:** 14 good declarer points (all HCP). **Shape:** Balanced without a five card major and longer diamonds than clubs.
- 1NT → **Strength:** 15 good declarer points (all HCP). **Shape:** Balanced with good stoppers in three suits, a weak stopper in hearts and no five card major.

- d. **Pass** → **Strength:** 9 declarer points (all HCP). **Shape:** Balanced without a five card major.
- e. **1♣** (two three-card minors) → **Strength:** 14 good declarer points (all HCP). **Shape:** Balanced with no five card major and two three-card minors.
- f. **1♥** (longest suit) → **Strength:** 14 good declarer points (12 good HCP + 2 ♥ LSP) plus 4 weak high card points for the queen doubletons. **Shape:** Unbalanced (two doubletons) with six hearts.
- g. **1♠** (highest ranking five card suit) → **Strength:** 16 good declarer points (14 good HCP + 1 ♠ LSP + 1 ♥ LSP). The ♣KQ doubleton is not worth a full five points. **Shape:** Unbalanced (a singleton) with two five card majors.
- h. **1♣** (longest suit) → **Strength:** 14 good declarer points (13 good HCP + 1 ♣ LSP). **Shape:** Balanced without a five card major.

5. **Partner opens the bidding with 1♠. Describe partner's hand.**

Partner has 13-21 declarer points and at least five spades. Partner might also have five hearts but that is not likely. Partner must have a short suit because the remaining eight cards are spread over three suits.

6. **Partner opens the bidding with 1♦. Describe partner's hand.**

Partner has 13-21 declarer points and probably has four diamonds but may only have three. Partner does not have five spades or five hearts.

7. **Partner opened the bidding with 1♥:**

- a. Your partner has 13-21 declarer points and at least five hearts. Partner has fewer spades than hearts.
- b. Since you have 9 HCP, your partnership has 22-30 (9+13 to 9+21) combined points. Your partnership **might have enough** to bid a game contract. You must bid to describe your hand and give your partner a chance to refine the description of his/her hand.
- c. Partnership has a trump fit in hearts with a combined holding of at least eight hearts.

8. **Partner opened the bidding with 1NT:**

- a. Your partner has 15-17 HCP, no good five card major, stoppers in at least three suits, at most one doubleton, no singletons, and no voids.
- b. Since you have 10 HCP, your partnership has 25-28 (10+15 to 10+17) total HCP. Your partnership does have enough HCP to try for a game bonus. You also have two LSP in spades if you expect to be the declarer for a spade contract.
- c. Since you know partner must have at least two cards in each suit, your partnership does have at least an eight-card trump fit in spades.