

BIDDING CONVERSATIONS - WEEK 1

ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS

LAST REVISED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

1. Bidding translations:

EXERCISE 1			
South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

EXERCISE 2			
East	South	West	North
Pass	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

EXERCISE 3			
South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

4. a) The English version of the bidding conversation is:

- **South:** I have less than 13 declarer points and do not have the shape or strength to open a weak two or a preemptive three.
- **North:** I have a balanced hand with 15-17 high card points and stoppers in at least three suits. My limiting bid makes you the captain of the bidding.
- **South:** I have at least 8 high card points and at least one four card major. My 2♣ artificial bid initiates *Stayman* to force you to bid a four card major or bid an artificial 2♦ if you do not have a four card major.
- **North:** I have a four card spade suit.
- **South:** I do not have four spades and I only have 8-9 high card points. My limiting bid invites you to bid a game.
- **North:** Since I am at the upper end of the opening no trump point range I have decided to try for the game.

4. b) The English version of the bidding conversation is:

- **North:** I have 13-21 declarer points and at least five spades.
- **South:** I only have 6-9 points and can not support your spades. Since I have limited the strength of my hand, you are captain of the bidding.
- **North:** I have at least four diamonds. Do you like diamonds better than spades?
- **South:** Since you did not jump bid to show extra strength or invite a game, I will pass because I have better support for your four diamonds than I do for your five spades.

4. c) The English version of the bidding conversation is:

- **South:** I have 13-21 declarer points and at least five spades.
- **North:** I have at least 10 points and at least five hearts. My unlimited bid forces you to further describe your hand.
- **South:** I have at least four clubs in addition to my five spades. My cheap rebid limits my hand to 13-16 points.
- **North:** I have at least three spades which gives the partnership an eight-card spade fit but I do not have enough points to risk a game. I invite you to bid the game if you have 15-16 points.
- **South:** I only have 13-14 points and do not want to risk a game.

5. a) **Open 1♦**. You have 14 declarer points (14 HCP), enough strength to open in any seat. Without a five-card suit but with two four-card minor suits, open diamonds.
- b) **Open 1♣**. You have 13 declarer points (13 HCP), enough strength to open in any seat. Without a five-card suit but with two three-card minors, open clubs.
- c) **Open 1♠**. You have 14 declarer points (13 HCP + 1♠ LSP), enough strength to open in any seat. Open the five-card major.
6. a) **Open 1♠ in third seat**. You have 12 declarer points (11 HCP + 1♠ LSP) which is enough to open in third seat.
Pass in first or second seat. This hand does not have 13 declarer points and it does not satisfy the *Guideline of 20* (11 HCP + 5♠ + 3♥ = 19). (*Agressive bidders might open in first or second seat, especially if not vulnerable.*)
- b) **Open 1♥ in third seat**. You have 11 declarer points (10 HCP + 1♥ LSP), which is just enough strength to open in third seat.
Pass in first or second seat. This hand does not have 13 declarer points and it does not satisfy the *Guideline of 20* (10 HCP + 5♥ + 3♠ = 18).
- c) **PASS in any seat**. The hand only has 10 declarer points (9 HCP + 1♥ LSP).
7. a) **PASS in fourth seat**. The hand only has 12 declarer points (11 HCP + 1♥ LSP) and it does not satisfy the *Guideline of 20* (11 HCP + 5♥ + 3♠ = 19) or the *Guideline of 15* (11 HCP + 3♠ = 14).
PASS in first or second seat.
Open 1♥ in third seat.
- b) **PASS in fourth seat**. The hand only has 11 declarer points (10 HCP + 1♠ LSP) and it does not satisfy the guideline of 20 (10 HCP + 3♥ + 5♠ = 18). The hand is too weak to open in fourth seat. But the hand does satisfy the *Guideline of 15* (10 HCP + 5♠ = 15) and an aggressive player might decide to open 1♠ with favorable vulnerability or because of the quality of the spade suit.
PASS in first or second seat.
Open 1♠ in third seat.
- c) **Open 1♦ in any seat**. The hand has 14 declared points (13 HCP + 1♦ LSP), enough strength to open in any seat.
8. Your partner's 1♠ opening bid describes a hand with 13-21 declarer points and at least five spades.
- a) **Respond 2♦**. Your hand has 11 dummy points (11 HCP), enough to make a *new suit forcing 2♦* response to describe an unlimited hand with at least 10 dummy points and at least four diamonds. Plan to show your three-card spade support on the next turn.
- b) **Respond 1NT**. Your hand only has 9 declarer points (8 HCP + 1♣ LSP) if clubs are trump or 8 dummy points (8 HCP) if spades are trump. Since the hand is not strong enough to bid a new suit at the two level and it does not have three-card spade support, respond a weak 1NT to describe a limited hand with 6-9 points and less than three spades.

- c) **Respond 2♦**. Your hand has 15 dummy points (14 HCP + 1 ♥ SSP) so you know the partnership has enough strength for a game and possibly a slam. But, you can bid a new suit forcing **2♣** to describe an unlimited hand with at least 10 points and at least four clubs. After partner rebids, you can decide if the partnership should stop at a **4♠** game or begin to confirm a slam.
9. Your partner's *new suit forcing 1♥* response describes an unlimited hand with at least six points and at least four hearts.
- a) **Rebid 1NT (or 2♣)**. You have a balanced hand with 14 HCP and stoppers in the two unbid suits. You could respond a new suit forcing **2♣** but a **1NT** response describes a balanced hand that was too weak to open **1NT**, more descriptive than a **2♣** response. Besides, a no trump contract will make a higher score than a club contract.
- b) **Rebid 2♣**. You have an unbalanced hand with 14 HCP although the spade and heart points are weak. Respond **2♣** to limit the hand to 13-16 points with at least four diamonds and at least four clubs.
- Although you could rebid 2♦ to show the five-card diamond suit, the diamonds are weak. The 2♣ rebid shows a club stopper and, if partner has a spade stopper, partner could bid a no trump contract.*
- c) **Rebid 2NT**. You have a balanced hand with 19 high card points, too strong to open **1NT** and too weak to open **2NT**. A jump to **2NT** is the best description of your hand.
10. Your partner's **1♥** response describes a weak hand with 6-9 dummy points and at least three-card heart support.
- a) **Rebid 3♥**. You have 18 declarer points (17 HCP + 1 ♥ LSP) and know the partnership has 24-27 (18+6 to 18+9) total points which is not enough to ensure a game. Respond **3♥** to invite partner with 8-9 dummy points to bid the game.
- b) **PASS**. You have 15 declarer points (14 HCP + 1 ♥ LSP) and know the partnership only has 21-24 (15+6 to 15+9) total points, not quite enough for game.
- If partner has high cards in the spade suit, it might be possible to make a game. Next week we will learn how to ask for help with the spades.*
- c) **Rebid 4♥**. You have 19 declarer points (18 HCP + 1 ♥ LSP) and know the partnership has at least 25 (19+6 to 19+9) total points with first round control of each suit. Go for the game.
11. a) Your partner's *new suit forcing 2♦* response describes an unlimited hand with at least 10 points and at least four diamonds. The *cheap 3♠* rebid limits partner's hand to 10-12 dummy points with at least four diamonds and at least three spades.
- b) **Rebid 4♠**. You have 15 declarer points (14 HCP + 1 ♠ LSP) which gives your partnership 25-27 (15+10 to 15+12) total points with an eight-card spade fit and an eight-card diamond fit. This should be enough strength to try for the **4♠** game.

12. a) Your partner's **1♦** opening bid describes a hand with 13-21 declarer points, no five-card major and probably at least four (97%) but maybe only three diamonds. The cheap **2♠** rebid limited the hand to 13-16 points with four spades and probably four diamonds.
- b) You are the bidding captain because you have not yet limited the strength of your hand.
- c) **Rebid 3NT**. You have a balanced hand with 14 high card points which gives the partnership 27-30 (14+13 to 14+16) total points, enough for a game but not enough for a slam. You also have two stoppers in hearts, the unbid suit. Since the partnership has not discovered an eight-card trump fit, the best game bid is **3NT**.
13. a) You have 14 high card points and know the partnership has 27-35 total points, enough for a game and perhaps enough for a slam. But you do not yet know the contract strain or level. Your *new suit forcing* **1♥** response describes an unlimited hand with at least six points, at least four hearts and does not deny four spades (bid up the line).
- b) Your partner's **1♣** opening bid described a hand with 13-21 declarer points, no five-card or longer major, and probably at least four (89%) but maybe only three clubs. Partner's cheap **1♠** rebid limited the hand to 13-16 declarer points, denied four hearts and promised exactly four spades.
- c) **Rebid 4♠**. After partner's cheap rebid you know your partnership has 27-30 (14+13 to 14+16) total points, enough strength for a game but not enough for a slam. Given the eight-card spade fit, bid the **4♠** game. *She who knows, goes.*
14. a) Your partner's **1♦** opening bid describes a hand with 13-21 declarer points, no five-card or longer major, and probably at least four (97%) but maybe only three diamonds. Your partner's cheap new suit rebid of **1♠** limits the hand to 13-16 points with exactly four spades.
- b) **Rebid 3NT (sign-off)**. You have 12 HCP which means the partnership has at least 25 (13+12) total points, enough for a game. It is unlikely that your partnership has an eight-card trump fit. With your stoppers in clubs, the unbid suit, you should jump to **3NT**.
15. a) Your partner's forcing new suit **2♥** response describes a hand with at least 10 points and at least five hearts. Your partner's limiting **3♠** rebid tells you that your partner has at least three spades. But because your partner did not jump to game, your partner has limited the hand to 10-12 dummy points.
- b) **Rebid 4♠ (sign-off)**. You have 15 declarer points (14 HCPs + 1 ♥ LSP). Since your partnership has 25-27 (15+10 to 15+12) combined points and an eight-card spade fit, you should try for the **4♠** game.