

Lesson 4

**Minor Suit
Opening Bids
and Responses**

Lesson Four: Minor Suit Opening Bids and Responses

Preparation

On Each Table: A guide card (Teacher's Guide Card); pencils; Contract Cards or paper; **Deal #13**.
A Better Bridge Bookmark for each player, if available (see Appendix).

On Separate Table: **Deals #14-16** (Coded Cards, duplicate boards, or Teacher's Deal Records).
Cue Cards (see Appendix).
A few extra class copies of the textbook for those who forgot to bring their copy.

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A note to the teacher

This is the last lesson in a four-week course and it's important that the students leave feeling confident. Some of the hands might present a challenge. If the students seem to be struggling at all, move along and don't dwell on the finer points.

In the first hour of the lesson, the students choose the contract by looking at all four hands and a play concept is taught – the finesse. Exercise Five, illustrating the defensive finesse, can be skipped if the class is not ready for it.

In the second hour of the lesson, the opening bids of 1♣ and 1♦ and the subsequent auction are presented. The four deals from the first part of the lesson are looked at again from the point of bidding. The hands don't need to be replayed because the students have already had the opportunity to play them in the first part of the lesson.

The concepts introduced are:

- *1♣ and 1♦ opening bids*
- *Responding to an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦*
 - *Responder's priority – finding a major suit fit*
 - *Responder's other choices:*
 - *Notrump*
 - *Raising opener's minor suit*
- *Opener's rebid*

Lesson Introduction

Welcome the participants back to the class.

- This is a hopeful lesson. We're going to be introduced to the finesse and the premise is that we lead toward the card we hope will take a trick – even when the opponents have a higher card.
- Let's look at Deal #13 and see if we can find a finesse.

Exercise One – Deal #13: Finessing Against a King

Play Point: The concept of the finesse against a king. The deal is played in the agreed contract.

Deal #13: Pages 142-143. Student Textbook Reference: pages 129-130.

Instructions

Let's look at Deal #13.

DEAL: 13 DEALER: NORTH		NORTH ♠ J 6 5 ♥ K J 6 3 ♦ Q 9 8 2 ♣ A Q	N-S COMBINED POINTS: 13 + 14 = 27 E-W COMBINED POINTS: 6 + 8 = 14 DECLARING SIDE: North-South CONTRACT: 4♥ DECLARER: South OPENING LEAD: ♠K by West
WEST ♠ K Q 7 3 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K 10 6 5	SOUTH ♠ 10 8 4 ♥ A Q 8 5 ♦ A K J 5 ♣ 7 4	EAST ♠ A 9 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ J 9 8 3 2	

Pick up your hand and sort it into suits. Then place it face up on the table in front of you, dummy style.

All 52 cards are face up on the table.

Talk among yourselves and use the Contract Card to decide which partnership has more combined points.

The Contract

Q. Which partnership has more combined points?

A. North-South.

- North has 13 high-card points and South has 14 high-card points, for a combined total of 27.
- East has 5 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit West has 8 high-card points, giving East-West a total of 14 points.

Q. Which partnership is likely to win the auction?

A. North-South.

East and West, turn your hands face down.

Only 26 cards are face up on the table ... the North and South hands. Focus on the North-South hands.

	NORTH (Dummy)	
	♠ J 6 5	
	♥ K J 6 3	
	♦ Q 9 8 2	
	♣ A Q	
WEST		EAST
	SOUTH (Declarer)	
	♠ 10 8 4	
	♥ A Q 8 5	
	♦ A K J 5	
	♣ 7 4	

- Let's count the sure tricks in the combined hands.

Q. How many sure tricks in the spade suit?

A. None.

Q. How many sure tricks in the heart suit?

A. Four: the ♥A, ♥K, ♥Q, and ♥J.

Q. How many sure tricks in the diamond suit?

A. Four: the ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q, and ♦J.

Q. How many sure tricks in the club suit?

A. One: the ♣A.

- The ♣Q is not a sure trick because the opponents have the ♣K.

Q. How many sure tricks in total?

A. Nine: four hearts, four diamonds, and one club.

Q. Do North and South have a suitable trump suit?

A. Yes, hearts.

- The partnership has an eight-card heart fit, a major suit.

Q. Do North and South have enough combined strength to go for the game bonus?

A. Yes.

- The partnership has 27 combined points.

Q. What is a reasonable contract for North-South?

A. 4♥.

- With enough combined strength for a game bonus and a fit in a major suit, North-South should reach 4♥.

A contract of 3NT would also be reasonable and would make with the defenders' spades being divided 4-3. However, for discussion purposes, have the students assume that 4♥ is the contract.

Q. Is it clear which player will be declarer?

A. No.

- Both partners have a four-card heart suit and the strength is fairly evenly divided between the two hands.

Q. North is the dealer. Can North suggest hearts with the opening bid?

A. No.

- A five-card suit is needed to open in a major suit.
- Let's assume South becomes declarer in a heart contract. We'll see how that happens later in the lesson.

You could also use the criteria that South has more strength than North.

Play Point – The Finesse

Q. Can declarer get any more tricks from spades, hearts, or diamonds?

A. No.

North and South, turn your spades, hearts, and diamonds face down.

There are only 4 cards face up on the table ... the North-South clubs.

NORTH (Dummy)

♣ A Q

WEST

EAST

SOUTH (Declarer)

♣ 7 4

How can declarer get a second trick from this combination? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the layout.

Q. If declarer simply takes the ♣A and then plays the ♣Q, what will happen?

A. The defenders will win the ♣K.

Q. How can declarer try to get a second trick from this suit?

A. Lead toward the ♣Q.

- Declarer must lead a low club from the South hand and, if West plays a low club, play dummy's ♣Q.
- The ♣Q will win a trick if West holds the ♣K rather than East.
- This is called a **finesse** and is another technique that can be added to Declarer's Checklist.
- The finesse is an attempt to get a trick with a card when the opponents have one or more higher-ranking cards.
- The basic principle is to **lead toward the card you hope will take a trick**.
- In this combination, you lead toward the ♣Q ... the card you hope will take a trick.

Q. Is the finesse sure to work?

A. No.

- If West has the ♣K, the finesse will work; if East has the ♣K, the finesse will lose.
- In this situation, the finesse has a 50% chance of gaining a trick.

East and West, turn your clubs face up.

There are 13 cards face up on the table ... the club suit.

NORTH (Dummy)	
♣ A Q	
WEST	EAST
♣ K 10 6 5	♣ J 9 8 3 2
SOUTH (Declarer)	
♣ 7 4	

Q. Does the finesse work on the actual deal?

A. Yes.

- West has the ♣K, so the finesse will work and provide declarer with a tenth trick.
- When it comes to the third stage of Declarer's Plan ... Consider the Order ... an important consideration when planning to take a finesse is being in the right place at the right time.
- Declarer must plan to take the finesse at some point when the lead is in the South hand.
- That won't be difficult on this deal because there are lots of ways to get to the South hand, but it is often an important consideration.

The term "entry" isn't used in the textbook and isn't discussed in detail until the book on DECLARER PLAY. However, it could be mentioned here without going into a lengthy discussion.

- Another thought when considering the order is drawing trumps.
- Whenever possible, declarer should plan to draw the defenders' trumps before taking tricks in the other suits.

The Opening Lead

Q. If South is declarer, which player will make the opening lead?

A. West.

North, South, and East, turn your cards face down.

West, turn your hand face up.

There should be thirteen cards face up on the table, the West hand.

WEST
♠ K Q 7 3
♥ 10 7 2
♦ 6 3
♣ K 10 6 5

Q. What would be West's opening lead?

A. ♠K, top of the touching high cards.

- Against a suit contract, you can lead the top of two touching high cards. You don't need a three-card or longer sequence.

The Play

Everyone pick up your hand.

West, place the ♠K face up on the table as the opening lead.

North, put your hand face up on the table as the dummy.

Only 14 cards are face up ... the opening lead and the dummy.

The contract is 4♥. South is the declarer. South, try to take ten tricks with hearts as trumps.

You have about five minutes to play as many tricks as you can.

NORTH (Dummy)	
♠ J 6 5	
♥ K J 6 3	
♦ Q 9 8 2	
♣ A Q	
WEST	EAST
♠K	
SOUTH (Declarer)	

If you have discussed the scoring, you can have the students enter the score on the Contract Card.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- When declarer doesn't have enough tricks to make the contract and moves to the second stage of Declarer's Plan ... Browse Declarer's Checklist ... the finesse is one of the techniques that is often available.
- The basic idea of a finesse is to lead toward the card you hope will take a trick.

Exercise Two – Deal #14: Finessing Against an Ace

Play Point: Finessing against an ace. There is also a review of playing the high card from the short side first. The deal is played in the agreed contract.

Deal #14: Pages 144-145. Student Textbook Reference: pages 129-130.

Instructions

Let's look at Deal #14.

DEAL: 14	NORTH	N-S COMBINED POINTS: $8 + 8 = 16$
DEALER: EAST	♠ 9 2	E-W COMBINED POINTS: $13 + 11 = 24$
	♥ Q 7 6 2	DECLARING SIDE: East-West
	♦ A Q 7	CONTRACT: 3♠
	♣ 10 8 4 2	DECLARER: East
		OPENING LEAD: ♦2 by South
WEST		
♠ K 10 7 5		
♥ K 10 8 4		
♦ J 9 5		
♣ A 7		
	EAST	
	♠ A Q J 4	
	♥ 9 3	
	♦ 8 4 3	
	♣ K Q J 6	
	SOUTH	
	♠ 8 6 3	
	♥ A J 5	
	♦ K 10 6 ②	
	♣ 9 5 3	

Pick up your hand and sort it into suits. Then place it face up on the table in front of you, dummy style, in columns with the highest card in each suit closest to the edge of the table.

All 52 cards are face up on the table.

Talk among yourselves and use the Contract Card to decide which partnership has more combined points.

The Contract – Part A

Q. Which partnership has more combined points?

A. East-West.

- East has 13 high-card points and West has 11, for a total of 24.
- North has 8 high-card points and South has 8, for a total of 16.

Q. Which partnership is likely to win the auction?

A. East-West.

- East-West have significantly more strength than North-South.

North and South, turn your hands face down.

Only 26 cards are face up on the table ... the East and West hands. Focus on the East-West hands.

NORTH	
WEST	EAST
♠ K 10 7 5	♠ A Q J 4
♥ K 10 8 4	♥ 9 3
♦ J 9 5	♦ 8 4 3
♣ A 7	♣ K Q J 6
SOUTH	

- Let's count the sure tricks in the combined hands.

Q. How many sure tricks in the spade suit?

A. Four: the ♠A, ♠K, ♠Q, and ♠J.

Q. How many sure tricks in the heart suit?

A. None.

- The ♥K isn't a sure trick because the opponents have the ♥A.

Q. How many sure tricks in the diamond suit?

A. None.

Q. How many sure tricks in the club suit?

A. Four: the ♣A, ♣K, ♣Q, and ♣J.

Q. How many sure tricks in total?

A. Eight: four spades and four clubs.

Q. Do East and West have a suitable trump suit?

A. Yes, spades.

- The partnership has an eight-card fit in spades, a major suit.

Q. Do East and West have enough combined strength to go for the game bonus?

A. No.

- The partnership has 24 combined points.
- East-West belong in partscore.

Q. Is it clear which player will be declarer?

A. No.

- Both partners have a four-card spade suit and the strength is fairly evenly divided between the two hands.
- Let's assume East becomes declarer in a spade contract. We'll see how that happens later in the lesson.

You could also use the criteria that East has more points than West.

Play Points – High Card from Short Side and the Finesse

Q. How would declarer plan to take the winners in the club suit?

A. ♣A first.

- Declarer starts by playing the high card from the short side first, the ♣A.
- Declarer can then play the ♣7 over to the remaining winners in the East hand.

Q. Should declarer plan on taking the club winners right away after gaining the lead?

A. No.

- In a suit contract, declarer should plan to draw trumps first whenever possible.
- If declarer doesn't draw the defenders' trumps, the defenders may trump one or more of declarer's club winners.

Q. Can declarer develop any extra tricks from spades, diamonds, or clubs?

A. No.

East and West, turn your spades, diamonds, and clubs face down.

There are only 6 cards face up on the table ... the East-West hearts.

NORTH

WEST	EAST
♥ K 10 8 4	♥ 9 3

SOUTH

How might declarer get a trick from this combination? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the layout.

- Declarer can lead a low heart from the East hand toward the ♥K, the card declarer hopes will take a trick.
- This is another variation of the finesse.
- It will have a 50% chance of being successful. If South has the ♥A, the finesse will work; if North has the ♥A, the finesse won't work.

The Contract – Part B

Q. If declarer has eight sure tricks and maybe a ninth, what would be a good contract for East-West?

A. 2♠.

- The partnership would prefer to stop in a partscore contract that is sure to make.
- Unfortunately, the partnership may sometimes get a little higher than it would like while determining HOW HIGH and WHERE to place the contract.
- If the partnership were to get to 3♠, declarer would need the finesse to help make the contract.

The Opening Lead

Q. If East is declarer, which player will make the opening lead?

A. South.

East and West, turn your cards face down.

South, turn your hand face up.

There should be thirteen cards face up on the table, the South hand.

SOUTH

♠ 8 6 3

♥ A J 5

♦ K 10 6 2

♣ 9 5 3

Q. If South were to choose to lead a diamond, which diamond would South lead?

A. ♦2, fourth highest.

- With no solid sequence, lead a low card.

The Play

Everyone pick up your hand.

South, place the ♦2 face up on the table as the opening lead.

West, put your hand face up on the table as the dummy. Only 14 cards are face up ... the opening lead and the dummy.

The contract is 3♠ ... to give declarer, East, a challenge. East, try to take nine tricks with spades as trumps.

You have about five minutes to play as many tricks as you can.

NORTH	
WEST (Dummy)	EAST (Declarer)
♠ K 10 7 5	
♥ K 10 8 4	
♦ J 9 5	
♣ A 7	
	SOUTH
	♦ 2

If you have discussed the scoring, you can have the students enter the score on the Contract Card.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- When it comes to the second stage of Declarer's Plan ... Browse Declarer's Checklist ... there are three techniques that can be used in both a notrump contract and a suit contract:
 - Promotion
 - Length
 - Finesse
- In a suit contract, declarer has an additional option:
 - Trumping in dummy
- When it comes to the third stage of Declarer's Plan ... Consider the Order ... there are many considerations:
 - Drawing trumps in a suit contract.
 - Playing the high card from the short side when taking sure tricks or promoting winners.
 - Taking the losses early.
 - Being in the right hand at the right time ... to take a finesse, for example.

Exercise Three – Deal #15: Another Variation of the Finesse

Play Point: Another example of a finesse against a king. The deal is played in the agreed contract.

Deal #15: Pages 146-147.

Instructions

Let's look at Deal #15.

DEAL: 15	NORTH
DEALER: SOUTH	♠ K 10 6
	♥ A K 10 4
	♦ 9 6 3
	♣ 10 7 5
WEST	EAST
♠ A 7 3	♠ Q 9 2
♥ 8 7 3	♥ J 5 2
♦ A Q J 10 8 7	♦ K 4
♣ A	♣ 9 8 6 3 2
	SOUTH
	♠ J 8 5 4
	♥ Q 9 6
	♦ 5 2
	♣ K Q J 4

N-S COMBINED POINTS:	10 + 9 = 19
E-W COMBINED POINTS:	6 + 17 = 23
DECLARING SIDE:	East-West
CONTRACT:	3♦
DECLARER:	West
OPENING LEAD:	♥A by North

Pick up your hand and sort it into suits. Then place it face up on the table in front of you, dummy style.

All 52 cards are face up on the table.

Talk among yourselves and use the Contract Card to decide which partnership has more combined points.

The Contract

Q. Which partnership has more combined points?

A. East-West.

- East has 6 high-card points and West has 15 plus 2 length points for the six-card suit. The partnership has a combined total of 23.
- North has 10 high-card points and South has 9, for a partnership total of 19.

Q. Which partnership is most likely to win the auction?

A. East-West.

North and South, turn your hands face down.

Only 26 cards are face up on the table ... the East and West hands. Focus on the East-West hands.

NORTH	
WEST	EAST
♠ A 7 3	♠ Q 9 2
♥ 8 7 3	♥ J 5 2
♦ A Q J 10 8 7	♦ K 4
♣ A	♣ 9 8 6 3 2
SOUTH	

- Let's count the sure tricks in the combined hands.

Q. How many sure tricks in the spade suit?

A. One: the ♠A.

- The ♠Q is not a sure trick since the opponents have the ♠K.

Q. How many sure tricks in the heart suit?

A. None.

Q. How many sure tricks in the diamond suit?

A. Six: the ♦A, ♦K, ♦Q, ♦J, ♦10, and ♦8.

- After the top diamonds have been taken, West's remaining diamond will be a winner through length.

Q. How many sure tricks in the club suit?

A. One: the ♣A.

Q. How many sure tricks in total?

A. Eight: one spade, six diamonds, and one club.

Q. Do East-West have a suitable trump fit?

A. Yes, diamonds.

- With eight diamonds in the combined hands, there is a minor suit fit.

Q. Does East-West belong in a partscore or a game contract?

A. Partscore.

- With 23 combined valuation points, the partnership doesn't have enough strength to go for the game bonus.
- In a partscore contract, the partnership can play in any fit, including a minor suit.

Q. Which player would likely be declarer?

A. West.

- West would be the player to suggest diamonds as the trump suit.

Play Point – A Finesse Against a King

Q. Which suit provides the possibility of a ninth trick?

A. Spades.

East and West, turn your hearts, diamonds, and clubs face down.

There are only 6 cards face up on the table ... the East-West spades.

NORTH	
WEST	EAST
♠ A 7 3	♠ Q 9 2
SOUTH	

Q. What does declarer have to do to get an extra trick in spades?

A. Lead toward the ♠Q.

- Declarer can take a finesse, hoping North holds the ♠K.

North and South, turn your spades face up.

There are only 13 cards face up on the table ... the spade suit.

NORTH	
♠ K 10 6	
WEST	EAST
♠ A 7 3	♠ Q 9 2
SOUTH	
♠ J 8 5 4	

Q. Will the finesse succeed?

A. Yes.

- Since North holds the ♠K, the defenders cannot prevent declarer from getting a trick with East's ♠Q.
- If North plays the ♠6 or ♠10 when a low spade is led toward the East hand, the ♠Q will win immediately.
- If North plays the ♠K, the ♠Q will be a winner after declarer regains the lead.

Q. Does declarer have to be concerned about being in the right hand at the right time to take the spade finesse?

A. No.

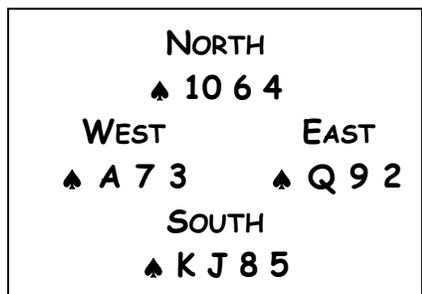
- The ♠A can be used to get to the West hand and lead a low spade toward the East hand.
- In fact, playing the ♠A before leading toward the ♠Q is a good idea in case the ♠K is singleton in one of the defenders' hands.

Q. Does declarer have any concerns when it comes to considering the order?

A. Take the losses early.

- To develop a trick with the ♠Q, North can gain the lead with the ♠K.
 - Declarer will need to regain the lead to take the established ♠Q.
 - So, declarer shouldn't take all the winners in other suits before leading toward the ♠Q.
 - Declarer wants a way to regain the lead, such as still having a trump to ruff a suit in which the defenders have winners.
- Let's change the North-South spades.

North, give the ♠K to South.
South, give the ♠4 to North.



Q. Would the finesse work if this were the complete layout of the suit?

A. No.

- When West leads a low spade and North plays a low spade, declarer tries to win a trick by playing ... finessing ... dummy's ♠Q, but South wins with the ♠K.
- The defenders still have the ♠J and ♠10, so the only trick declarer gets is the ♠A.

Q. Would it do any good for declarer to lead the ♠Q from dummy instead of leading toward the ♠Q?

A. No.

- If the ♠Q is led from the East hand, South should follow the guideline of covering and honor with an honor and play the ♠K.
- To win the trick, West will have to play the ♠A and now the defenders' ♠J and ♠10 have been promoted into the highest cards in the suit.



- As a general guideline for declarer, **lead toward the card you hope will take a trick.**

North, give the ♠4 to South.
South, give the ♠K to North.

NORTH	
♠ K 10 6	
WEST	EAST
♠ A 7 3	♠ Q 9 2
SOUTH	
♠ J 8 5 4	

The Opening Lead

Q. If West is declarer, which player will make the opening lead?

A. North.

North, South, and East, turn your cards face down.

West, turn your hand face up.

There should be thirteen cards face up on the table, the West hand.

WEST
♠ K 10 6
♥ A K 10 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ 10 7 5

Q. What would be North's opening lead?

A. ♥A, top of the touching high cards.

The Play

Everyone pick up your hand.

North, place the ♥A face up on the table as the opening lead.

East, put your hand face up on the table as the dummy.

Only 14 cards are face up ... the opening lead and the dummy.

The contract is 3♦ ... to give South a challenge as declarer. South, try to take nine tricks with diamonds as trumps.

You have about five minutes to play as many tricks as you can.

NORTH	
♥A	
WEST (Declarer)	EAST (Dummy)
	♠ Q 9 2
	♥ J 5 2
	♦ K 4
	♣ 9 8 6 3 2
SOUTH	

If you have discussed the scoring, you can have the students enter the score on the Contract Card.

Review

- As declarer, lead toward the cards you hope will take a trick.
- Only lead a high card if you can afford to have it covered by a higher card held by the defenders.

Exercise Four – Deal #16: Finessing Against a Queen

Play Point: An example of a finesse against a queen. The deal is played in the agreed contract. This is a challenging deal since it also requires playing the high card from the short side first.

Deal #16: Pages 148-149.

Instructions

Let's look at Deal #16.

DEAL: 16	NORTH	N-S COMBINED POINTS: 19 + 8 = 27
DEALER: WEST	♠ Q J 3	E-W COMBINED POINTS: 8 + 6 = 14
	♥ A 8 5 2	DECLARING SIDE: North-South
	♦ A 10 6	CONTRACT: 3NT
	♣ A K J	DECLARER: North
		OPENING LEAD: ♦5 by East
WEST	EAST	
♠ 10 9 7 2	♠ 6 4	
♥ Q 10 9	♥ K 7 6 3	
♦ Q 7	♦ K J 8 5 3	
♣ Q 10 8 3	♣ 9 5	
	SOUTH	
	♠ A K 8 5	
	♥ J 4	
	♦ 9 4 2	
	♣ 7 6 4 2	

Pick up your hand and sort it into suits. Then place it face up on the table in front of you, dummy style.

All 52 cards are face up on the table.

Talk among yourselves and use the Contract Card to decide which partnership has more combined points.

The Contract

Q. Which partnership has more combined points?

A. North-South.

- North has 19 high-card points and South has 8 high-card points for a partnership total of 27.
- East has 7 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit and West has 6 high-card points for a combined total of 14.

Q. Which partnership is more likely to win the auction?

A. North-South.

East and West, turn your hands face down.

Only 26 cards are face up on the table ... the North and South hands. Focus on the North-South hands.

	NORTH	
	♠ Q J 3	
	♥ A 8 5 2	
	♦ A 10 6	
	♣ A K J	
WEST		EAST
	SOUTH	
	♠ A K 8 5	
	♥ J 4	
	♦ 9 4 2	
	♣ 7 6 4 2	

- Let's count the sure tricks in the combined hands.

Q. How many sure tricks in the spade suit?

A. Four: the ♠A, ♠K, ♠Q, and ♠J.

Q. How many sure tricks in the heart suit?

A. One: the ♥A.

Q. How many sure tricks in the diamond suit?

A. One: the ♦A.

Q. How many sure tricks in the club suit?

A. Two: the ♣A and ♣K.

- The ♣J is not a sure trick since the opponents have the ♣Q.

Q. How many sure tricks in total?

A. Eight: four spades, one heart, one diamond, and two clubs.

Q. HOW HIGH should North-South get in the auction?

A. Game.

- With 27 combined points, the partnership has enough to go for the game bonus.

Q. Do North and South have a suitable trump fit?

A. No.

- North-South don't have an eight-card or longer fit in any suit.

Q. WHERE should the contract be played?

A. Notrump.

- North-South should reach a contract of 3NT.

Q. Who is likely to be the declarer?

A. North.

- North has a balanced hand and the majority of the strength.

It is quite possible that South could become declarer in a notrump contract, but this assumption will suffice for now.

Play Point – A Finesse Against a Queen

Q. How would declarer plan to take the winners in the spade suit?

A. High card from the short side first.

- Start with the ♠Q and ♠J and then lead the ♠3 to dummy's ♠A and ♠K.

Q. Which suit provides an opportunity to develop a ninth trick?

A. Clubs.

- There is the potential to get a trick with the ♣J using the finesse³.

Q. How will declarer plan to play the club suit?

A. Lead a club from South to the ♣J.

- Declarer will have to hope that West holds the ♣Q.
- Declarer will also need a way to get to the South hand to take the finesse.

Q. How will declarer get to the South hand to take the club finesse?

A. In spades.

- The ♠A or ♠K will provide a way to reach the dummy.

³ There is also the possibility of developing a club trick through length. However, since an even number of missing clubs will tend to divide slightly unevenly, the odds of a 3-3 club break are less than the 50% odds of the finesse.

Q. When considering the order, how will declarer plan to combine the play in the spade and club suits?

A. Take the spade winners and then take the club finesse.

- Declarer will have to start by taking the four spade winners ... high card from the short side first ... ending in the dummy.
- Declarer can then take the club finesse.

Technically, declarer should take the ♣A or ♣K early, in case East has a singleton ♣Q, but there is no reason to get into this unless a student brings up the possibility. The hand is challenging enough as it is.

The Opening Lead

Q. If North is declarer, which player will make the opening lead?

A. East.

North and South, turn your hands face down.

East, turn your hand face up.

There should be thirteen cards face up on the table, the East hand.

EAST

♠ 6 4

♥ K 7 6 3

♦ K J 8 5 3

♣ 9 5

Q. What would be East's opening lead?

A. ♦5, fourth from longest and strongest.

- With no sequence in diamonds, East would lead a low card.

The Play

Everyone pick up your hand.

East, place the $\spadesuit 5$ face up on the table as the opening lead. South, put your hand face up on the table as the dummy. Only 14 cards are face up ... the opening lead and the dummy.

The contract is 3NT. North is the declarer. North, try to take nine tricks without a trump suit.

You have about five minutes to play as many tricks as you can.

NORTH (Declarer)	
WEST	EAST
	$\spadesuit 5$
SOUTH (Dummy)	
\spadesuit A K 8 5	
\heartsuit J 4	
\diamondsuit 9 4 2	
\clubsuit 7 6 4 2	

If you have discussed the scoring, you can have the students enter the score on the Contract Card.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- The finesse is a very powerful technique.
- You can finesse against an ace, a king, a queen, or even lower-ranking cards.
- When extra tricks are needed, declarer should look for finessing possibilities.
- However, keep in mind that finesses can lose as well as win, so look for other options as well.

Exercise Five – Defender’s Tip – Looking at Dummy

Discuss how the defenders can work together to develop tricks, especially when taking a “defensive” finesse.

Student Textbook Reference: pages 132-133.

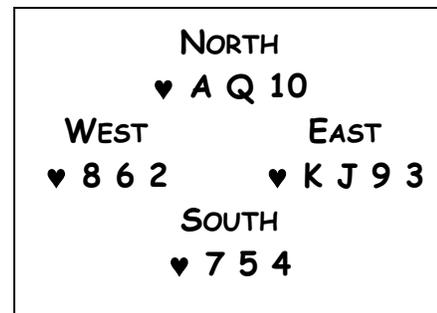
Instructions

Take the cards and sort them into suits.

Take only the heart suit and distribute it as follows around the table:

North: ♥A, ♥Q, ♥10
East: ♥K, ♥J, ♥9, ♥3
South: ♥7, ♥5, ♥4
West: ♥8, ♥6, ♥2

Only 13 cards are face up on the table
... all the hearts.



Suppose East and West are defending against a contract and this is the layout of the heart suit. Is it better if East or West leads this suit? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the layout.

Q. Will the defenders get a trick if East leads the suit?

A. No.

- If East leads a heart, it can be won in the North hand with a higher heart and the defenders will not establish a trick.

Q. Can the defenders develop a trick if West leads the suit?

A. Yes.

- If the ♥A is played from the North hand, East’s ♥K is established as a winner.
- If the ♥Q or ♥10 is played from the North hand, East can win with a higher card.
- If West can lead the suit a second time, the defenders will get two tricks in the suit.
- In effect, the defenders are taking a finesse by having West lead the suit ... leading toward the card(s) they hope will win a trick.



- A useful guideline for the defenders in this situation is to **lead through strength and up to weakness**.

South, turn your hearts face down.

NORTH (Dummy)	
♥ A Q 10	
WEST	EAST
♥ 8 6 2	♥ K J 9 3
SOUTH (Declarer)	

- If South is declarer and North is the dummy, it should be apparent to East that it is not a good idea to lead a heart ... into dummy's strength.
- If West has the lead, West might visualize the possibility for a defensive finesse and lead through the strength in dummy.
- If it turns out the declarer holds the ♥K instead of East, no harm is done. Declarer always has three sure tricks in the suit.
- If North is declarer and South is the dummy, East should recognize that it is risky to lead a heart since it might be into declarer's strength.

South, turn your hearts face up.

North, turn your hearts face down.

NORTH (Declarer)	
WEST	EAST
♥ 8 6 2	♥ K J 9 3
SOUTH (Dummy)	
♥ 7 5 4	

- If West has the lead, West can visualize the possibility for a defensive finesse and lead up to the weakness in dummy.
- If it turns out the declarer holds the ♥K instead of East, again no harm is done. Declarer always has three sure tricks in the suit.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- The defenders must work together to develop and take their tricks.
- The defenders develop tricks in the same fashion as declarer: through promotion, length, and the finesse.
- After the opening lead, the defenders will be able to see the dummy.
- When you have an opportunity to lead during the play, always look at the dummy to help decide which suit to lead.
- Look for opportunities to develop tricks through the finesse, by leading through dummy's strength or up to dummy's weakness.

At this point, the students will have played the four deals for the first time and everyone has had an opportunity to be declarer. It's a reasonable point to take a break. Or, if the class is only one hour in length, make a summary of what has been learnt so far and bring the lesson to a conclusion.

Exercise Six – Opening the Bidding in a Minor Suit

This exercise introduces the requirements for an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦.

Student Textbook Reference: pages 111-113.

Instructions

Let's start by referring to the Bidding Ladder on page 12.

- The objective of contract bridge is for the partnership, through the auction, to arrive at the best contract and to then try to take the required number of tricks. If the partnership does not win the auction, it will try to defeat the opponents' contract.
- The general idea is:
 - With fewer than 25 or 26 combined valuation points, the partnership wants to stop in the best partscore;
 - With 25 or more combined valuation points, the partnership wants to reach the best game contract ... or possibly a slam with about 33 or more points.
- To determine WHERE to play the contract, the partnership looks for an eight-card or longer fit. At the game level, however, a contract of 3NT is usually preferable even with a fit in a minor suit.
- Let's review opening the bidding, using the song (verse) on page 194 of the textbook.
- Here's the first verse:

“Bid, bid, bid your hand,
But alas, alas,
If you have fewer than 13 points,
I guess you'll have to pass.”

- The idea is that when you have an opportunity to open the bidding, you usually pass with fewer than 13 points ... for now.
- Here's the second verse:

“Bid, bid, bid your cards,
With a balanced hand,
If you have a three-point range (15-17)
One notrump's your stand.”

- This focuses our attention on the priority of looking for a 1NT opening bid.

- Here's the third verse:

“Bid, bid, bid your hand,
You don't need charades,
But you'll need a five-card suit,
To start with hearts or spades.”

- If your hand is unsuitable for pass or 1NT, the next priority is to look for a major suit to open.
- Now we'll look at the fourth verse which covers opening the bidding in a minor suit, 1♣ or 1♦. We'll also see how the partnership handles the auction thereafter.
- If the hand is unsuitable for 1NT and doesn't have a five-card or longer major suit, the remaining option is to open in a minor suit, 1♣ or 1♦.
- ☞ • The range for an opening bid in a minor suit is the same as a major, **13-21 points**.
- Unlike a major suit opening bid, however, a five-card suit is not required. In practice, it will often be necessary to open in a minor suit with a four-card, or even a three-card suit.
- ☞ • In summary, **the requirements for opening 1♣ or 1♦ are 13-21 valuation points and a three-card or longer suit.**
- The longer minor suit is opened but, with equal length in both minors:
 - Open 1♦ with four or more cards.
 - Open 1♣ with two three-card suits.
- Let's see some examples of minor suit opening bids.

Take the cards and sort them into suits. One player take all the spades; one player take all the hearts; one player take all the diamonds; and one player take all the clubs.

Construct the following hand in front of North.

When having the students create a hand, read out the suit first and then the cards. Prompt the player with the spades to have them ready.

In spades: the ♠K, ♠Q, and two low cards.

In hearts: two low cards.

In diamonds: the ♦A and two low cards.

In clubs: the ♣A, ♣J, and two low cards.

Only one hand is face up. All the other cards are face down.

NORTH

♠ K Q x x

♥ x x

♦ A x x

♣ A J x x

What would North call with this hand as dealer? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. How many valuation points is the hand worth?

A. 14.

- There are 14 high-card points.

Q. Is the hand balanced?

A. Yes.

- There are no voids, singletons, and only one doubleton.

Q. Why is this hand unsuitable for a 1NT opening bid?

A. Too weak.

- 1NT would promise 15-17 points and there are only 14.

Q. Why is this hand unsuitable for a 1♠ opening bid?

A. No five-card major.

- 1♠ would promise five or more spades.

Q. What would North open with this hand?

A. 1♣.

- A minor suit opening is the last option.
- The longer minor suit is opened.
- An opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ doesn't promise a five-card suit.
- Here's the final verse of the Bidding Song to help remember the guideline for opening a minor suit. It's on page 194 of your text and it goes like this:

“Bid, bid, bid your cards,
Don't sit around and stew,
Open your longer minor suit
With nothing else to do.”

You can inform the students that they have now covered all the verses of the song and know how to open the bidding at the one level.

- Let's change the hand.

In hearts: take away a low heart.
In diamonds: add the $\diamond Q$.

NORTH
 \spadesuit K Q x x
 \heartsuit x
 \diamond A Q x x
 \clubsuit A J x x

Q. What is the value of this hand?

A. 16 points.

- There are 16 high-card points.

Q. Why is this hand unsuitable for an opening bid of 1NT?

A. Unbalanced.

- 1NT promises a balanced hand ... no singletons.

Q. What would North open with this hand?

A. $1\diamond$.

- With no five-card major, a minor suit is opened.
- With two four-card minors, the higher-ranking is opened⁴.
- Let's try another hand.

In hearts: add the $\heartsuit A$ and two low hearts.
In diamonds: take away the $\diamond Q$.
In clubs: take away the $\clubsuit A$ and a low club.

NORTH
 \spadesuit K Q x x
 \heartsuit A x x x
 \diamond A x x
 \clubsuit J x

What would North open with this hand? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. How many valuation points is the hand worth?

A. 14.

- There are 14 high-card points.

Q. What would North open with this hand?

A. $1\diamond$.

⁴ Some partnerships open $1\clubsuit$ with 4-4 in the minors, but this is the suggested guideline that will be used throughout this series.

- Although the hand is balanced, it is too weak to open 1NT.
- There is no five-card major suit.
- “Open the longer minor suit with nothing else to do.”
- An opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ must sometimes be made on a three-card suit.
- Let’s change the hand.

In spades: take away a low spade.
In clubs: add the ♣A.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q x
 ♥ A x x x
 ♦ A x x
 ♣ A J x

Q. What would North open with this hand?

A. 1♣.

- Although the hand is balanced, there are 18 high-card points, too much for an opening bid of 1NT.
- With no five-card major, a minor suit is opened.
- With three cards in both minors, standard practice is to open 1♣.
- Let’s change the hand.

In spades: take away the ♠K.
In hearts: take away a low heart.
In diamonds: add two low diamonds.

NORTH
 ♠ Q x
 ♥ A x x
 ♦ A x x x x
 ♣ A J x

Q. What would North open with this hand?

A. 1NT.

- Although there is a five-card minor suit, the hand is balanced and is worth 16 valuation points ... 15 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit.
- Opener’s first priority is to consider whether the hand meets the criteria for a 1NT opening bid.
- Let’s try one more hand.

In spades: take away the ♠Q.
In hearts: add two low hearts.
In clubs: take away a low club.

NORTH
 ♠ x
 ♥ A x x x x
 ♦ A x x x x
 ♣ A J

Q. What would North open with this hand?

A. 1♥.

- The hand is worth 15 valuation points ... 13 high-card points plus 1 length point for each five-card suit ... but it is unbalanced.
- The second priority is to consider whether the hand qualifies for an opening bid in a major suit.
- Also, there is the guideline that with two five-card suits, the higher-ranking is opened.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- When opening the bidding, the first priority is to consider whether the hand qualifies for an opening bid of 1NT.
- The second priority is to consider whether the hand qualifies for an opening bid in a major suit.
- If the hand doesn't meet either of these criteria, it is opened in the longer minor suit.
- With equal length in both minors:
 - Open 1♦ with four or more cards.
 - Open 1♣ with two three-card suits.
- Occasionally, a minor suit may be opened with a three-card suit, but it is more likely that opener has four, five, or six or more cards in the suit.

Exercise Seven – Responder’s Priority – Looking for a Major

Introduce responder’s first priority after an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦. Also, discuss the concept of bidding up the line with four-card suits.

Student Textbook Reference: pages 113-116.

Instructions

Distribute the Cue Cards (see Appendix) to each table if they are available.

- Let’s assume that North opens the bidding 1♣ and East passes.

Put the 1♣ Cue Card in front of North and a Pass Cue Card in front of East.

- An opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ covers a much wider range than opening bids of 1NT or a major suit.
- The strength can vary from about 13 to 21 points.
- Opener could have a balanced hand or a very unbalanced hand.
- Responder has to consider this when deciding what to bid.
- Let’s see how responder handles the auction.

Take the cards and sort them into suits. One player take all the spades; one player take all the hearts; one player take all the diamonds; and one player take all the clubs.

Construct the following hand in front of South.

When having the students create a hand, read out the suit first and then the cards. Prompt the player with the spades to have them ready.

**In spades: the ♠Q and two low cards.
In hearts: the ♥J and two low cards.
In diamonds: four low cards.
In clubs: three low cards.**

Only one hand is face up. All the other cards are face down.

SOUTH
♠ Q x x
♥ J x x
♦ x x x x
♣ x x x

North opens the bidding 1♣ and the next player passes. What call should South make with this hand? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. How many valuation points does South have?

A. 3.

- Responder has 3 high-card points.

Q. Does South know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. Yes.

- Since opener has at most 21 points, the partnership doesn't have the combined strength to go for a game bonus.

Q. What call does South make?

A. Pass.

- Although South doesn't particularly like clubs as a trump suit, any bid risks getting the partnership too high on the Bidding Ladder.
- As with responding to a major suit, responder passes with about 0-5 points.

- Let's give South a better hand.

**In spades: add the ♠A.
In clubs: take away a low club.**

SOUTH
♠ A Q x x
♥ J x x
♦ x x x x
♣ x x

This time, North opens the bidding 1♦ and the next player passes. What call should South make with this hand? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. How many valuation points does South have?

A. 7.

- Responder has 7 high-card points.

Q. Does South know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. No.

- The partnership has anywhere from 20 to 28 points.
- South wants to keep the auction going in case the partnership has enough to go for the game bonus.

Q. Is it possible that the partnership has a fit in a major suit?

A. Yes.

- North could have a four-card spade suit, in which case the partnership would have an eight-card fit.
- Remember, North needs a five-card suit to open 1♠.

Q. What does South respond to the 1♦ opening?

A. 1♠.

- ☞ Although South doesn't mind diamonds as a trump suit, responder's first priority is to **look for a major suit fit**.
- If opener doesn't have four spades, the partnership can continue looking for WHERE to play.
- ☞ **A response in new suit at the one level is forcing and shows 6 or more valuation points and a four-card or longer suit.**
- Because a new suit response is forcing, responder will have an opportunity to show the support for diamonds at a later point in the auction.

- Let's try another hand.

**In hearts: add the ♥Q and a low heart.
In diamonds: take away two low diamonds.**

SOUTH	
♠	A Q x x
♥	Q J x x x
♦	x x
♣	x x

Q. What is South's response with this hand if North opens 1♦ and the next player passes?

A. 1♥.

- South has 10 valuation points ... 9 high-card points plus 2.
- With a choice of suits to bid at the one level, responder bids the longer.
- Let's try another hand.

**In spades: add the ♠J.
In diamonds: take away a low diamond.**

SOUTH
♠ A Q J x x
♥ Q J x x x
♦ x
♣ x x

Q. What is South's response with this hand if North opens 1♦ and the next player passes?

A. 1♠.

- With a choice between two five-card suits, responder bids the higher-ranking.

At this point, there's no reason to go into a lengthy discussion of why responder bids the higher-ranking suit first. If a student is curious, you can briefly explain that it will make the subsequent auction more efficient. If a fit in spades is not immediately found, responder plans to bid hearts at the next opportunity, asking opener to choose between the two suits.

- Let's try one more hand.

**In spades: take away a low spade.
In hearts: take away a low heart.
In diamonds: add the ♦K and a low diamond.**

SOUTH
♠ A Q J x
♥ Q J x x
♦ K x x
♣ x x

Again North opens the bidding 1♦ and the next player passes. What call should South make with this hand? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. Does South know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. Yes.

- South has 13 high-card points, so the partnership has at least 26 combined points.
- The partnership should go for the game bonus ... or more.

Q. Does South know WHERE the partnership belongs?

A. No.

- The partnership might have an eight-card fit in a major suit and belong in 4♥ or 4♠.
- If the partnership doesn't have a fit in hearts or spades, it probably belongs in 3NT ... or possibly in diamonds.

Q. What response would make it easiest to find a fit in either hearts or spades?

A. 1♥.

- If opener has a four-card heart suit, the heart fit will immediately be found.
- If opener doesn't have four hearts but has four spades, there is still room at the one level for opener to bid 1♠ and the fit in spades will be found.
- If responder were to bid 1♠, there would be no room left at the one level for opener to show a four-card heart suit.
- ☞ • As a guideline, **with a choice of four-card suits to respond at the one level, bid the lower-ranking.**
- This is referred to as "bidding up the line."
- The 1♥ response is forcing. A new suit at the one level shows 6 or more points. So, there is no danger of missing the game bonus. Opener will bid again.

Don't go into too much detail at this point. Just have the students take on faith the guideline that responder bids the higher-ranking of two five-card or longer suits but the lower-ranking of four-card suits. There is also no need to discuss whether to respond in a four-card major ahead of a four-card or longer minor suit ...although this is mentioned in the textbook.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- After an opening bid in a minor suit, responder's first priority is to look for a major suit fit when responder has a four-card or longer major suit.
- A new suit response at the one level promises 6 or more points, a four-card or longer suit, and is forcing.
- With a choice of suits to bid at the one level:
 - Bid the longer suit.
 - Bid the higher-ranking of two five-card suits.
 - Bid the lower-ranking of two four-card suits ... up the line.

Exercise Eight – Deal 13: Finding a Major Suit Fit

The students review Deal #13, referring to the deal in the textbook.

Deal #13: pages 142-143.

Instructions

Turn to Deal #13 on page 142.

DEAL: 13 DEALER: NORTH		NORTH ♠ J 6 5 ♥ K J 6 3 ♦ Q 9 8 2 ♣ A Q	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WEST</th> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH																
	1♦	Pass	1♥																
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥																
Pass	Pass	Pass																	
WEST ♠ K Q 7 3 ♥ 10 7 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K 10 6 5	EAST ♠ A 9 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ 10 7 4 ♣ J 9 8 3 2	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>DECLARER:</td> <td>South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OPENING LEAD:</td> <td>♠K by West</td> </tr> </table>		DECLARER:	South	OPENING LEAD:	♠K by West												
DECLARER:	South																		
OPENING LEAD:	♠K by West																		
	SOUTH ♠ 10 8 4 ♥ A Q 8 5 ♦ A K J 5 ♣ 7 4																		

The Opening Bid

Q. North is the dealer. What is North's opening call?

A. 1♦.

- North has 13 high-card points.
- Although the hand is balanced, there is not enough strength to open 1NT.
- With no five-card major suit, North opens in the longer minor suit.

Q. After North opens 1♦, what does East say?

A. Pass.

- East has 5 high-card points plus 1 point for the five-card suit, not enough to enter the auction.

The Response

Q. Does South know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. Yes, game or higher.

- South has 14 high-card points, so the partnership has at least 27 combined valuation points, enough to go for a game bonus.

Q. Does South know WHERE the partnership belongs?

A. No.

- There may be an eight-card fit in hearts.
- If not, the partnership likely belongs in notrump ... or perhaps diamonds.

Q. What is South's priority?

A. To look for a major suit fit.

- After a minor suit opening, responder first looks for a major suit fit.
- Determining the best contract can wait until South hears North's rebid.

Q. What is South's response to the 1♦ opening bid?

A. 1♥.

- A response of 1♥ shows four or more hearts and 6 or more points.
- The 1♥ response is forcing, so the auction won't stop in partscore.

Q. After South responds 1♥, what call does West make?

A. Pass.

- West has 8 high-card points, not enough to enter the auction.

The Opener's Rebid

Q. Does North have a fit for responder's suit?

A. Yes.

- South has promised at least four hearts and North has four, giving the partnership an eight-card fit.

Q. Can North pass responder's 1♥ bid?

A. No.

- A new suit by responder is forcing.
- South has at least 6 points but could have more.

Q. How can North show the support and keep the auction going?

A. 2♥.

- By raising hearts, North lets responder know that the partnership has a fit in that suit.
- We'll look more at opener's rebid shortly, but with a minimum opening bid, opener doesn't want to get the partnership any higher on the Bidding Ladder than necessary.

North can revalue the hand using dummy points and add 1 point for the doubleton club, but still has a minimum hand.

Q. What call does East make after North raises to 2♥?

A. Pass.

The Responder's Rebid

Q. Does South now know WHERE and HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. Yes.

- South now knows that the partnership has an eight-card fit in hearts.
- South also knows the partnership has enough combined strength for game.

Q. What call does South make?

A. 4♥.

- Responder can now show the extra strength by taking the partnership to the game level in the known fit.

Q. What call does West make?

A. Pass.

Q. What call does North make?

A. Pass.

- North has described the hand and South has chosen to go for the game bonus.

Q. What call does East make?

A. Pass.

The Declarer

Q. Which player is declarer?

A. South.

- South first mentioned the strain of the contract.

Q. What is the contract?

A. 4♥.

Exercise Nine – Opener’s Rebid

Discuss opener’s rebid after responder bids a new suit at the one level.

Student Textbook Reference: pages 120-125.

Instructions

Take the cards and sort them into suits. One player take all the spades; one player take all the hearts; one player take all the diamonds; and one player take all the clubs.

Construct the following hand in front of North.

When having the students create a hand, read out the suit first and then the cards. Prompt the player with the spades to have them ready.

In spades: the ♠A, ♠J, and two low cards.
In hearts: two low cards.
In diamonds: the ♦K, ♦Q, and two low cards.
In clubs: the ♣K and two low cards.

Only one hand is face up. All the other cards are face down.

NORTH				
♠	A	J	x	x
♥	x	x		
♦	K	Q	x	x
♣	K	x	x	

Q. What would North open with this hand as dealer?

A. 1♦.

- The hand is worth 13 valuation points, all in high cards.
- It is too weak to open 1NT and there is no five-card major suit, so the longer minor suit is opened.

Q. North opens 1♦, East passes, and South responds 1♠. West passes. What is North’s second call?

A. 2♠.

- South’s response shows four or more spades and is forcing.
- Since opener has a minimum-strength opening bid, opener makes a raise to the cheapest level. Responder could have as few as 6 points.
- With support for responder’s major, opener can revalue the hand using dummy points and add 1 point for the doubleton heart. That still leaves the hand in the minimum-strength category of about 13-16 points.

Q. Suppose North opens 1♦, East passes, and South responds 1♥. West passes. What is North's second call?

A. 1♠.

- North doesn't have a fit for hearts, but it is still possible that the partnership has an eight-card spade fit ... responder bids four-card suits up the line.
 - Since responder's bid is forcing, North has to bid something.
 - Showing the four-card spade suit at the one level is the most convenient rebid.
 - Since North didn't open 1♠, responder won't expect a five-card suit.
-
- Let's change the hand.

**In hearts: take away a low heart.
In diamonds: add the ♦J.**

NORTH
♠ A J x x
♥ x
♦ K Q J x x
♣ K x x

Q. What would North open with this hand as dealer?

A. 1♦.

- The hand is worth 15 valuation points ... 14 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit.
- The hand is unbalanced and there is no five-card major suit, so North opens the longer minor suit.

Q. North opens 1♦, East passes, and South responds 1♥. West passes. What is North's rebid?

A. 1♠.

- North doesn't have a fit in hearts but can still show the second suit at the one level.

Suppose North opens 1♦ and South responds 1♠, what would be North's rebid? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. Does North have support for spades?

A. Yes.

- With four spades, North knows the partnership has at least an eight-card fit in the major suit.

Q. Does North have a minimum, medium, or maximum-strength opening bid in support of spades?

A. Medium.

- With support for responder's major, opener can revalue the hand using dummy points.
- North has 14 high-card points plus 3 dummy points for the singleton heart, putting the hand in the medium-strength category for opener of 17-18 points.

Q. What does North rebid to describe this hand?

A. 3♠.

- North can show better than a minimum-strength opening bid by jumping a level when raising responder's suit.
- North doesn't have enough to take the partnership to game, because responder could have as few as 6 points. However, opener wants to make a highly invitational rebid in case South has a little more ... 8 or 9 points or more.
- Let's change the hand again.

**In hearts: take away a low heart.
In clubs: add the ♣J.**

NORTH
♠ A J x x
♥ -
♦ K Q J x x
♣ K J x x

Q. What would North open with this hand as dealer?

A. 1♦.

- The hand is worth 16 valuation points ... 15 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit.
- The hand is unbalanced and there is no five-card major, so North opens in the longer minor suit.

Q. East passes, South responds 1♠, and West passes. What is the North hand worth?

A. 20 points.

- With support for spades, North revalues the hand using dummy points.
- There are 15 high-card points plus 5 dummy points for the void.
- That puts opener's hand in the maximum-strength category, 19-21 points.

Q. What is North's rebid?

A. 4♠.

- Even if South has only 6 points, the partnership will have enough combined strength to try for the game bonus.

- Let's make another change.

In spades: take away the ♠J.
In hearts: add two low hearts.
In diamonds: take away the ♦J.

NORTH
 ♠ A x x
 ♥ x x
 ♦ K Q x x
 ♣ K J x x

Q. What would North open with this hand as dealer?

A. 1♦.

- The hand is worth 13 valuation points, all in high cards.
- Although it is balanced, it is not strong enough for 1NT.
- With two four-card minor suits, opener bids 1♦.

Suppose North opens 1♦ and South responds 1♥, what would be North's rebid? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. Does North have support for responder's suit?

A. No.

Q. Does North have a second suit that can be bid at the one level?

A. No.

- Clubs would have to be bid at the two level.

Q. Does North have a balanced hand?

A. Yes.

- There is no void or singleton, and only one doubleton.

Q. How can North send this message to responder?

A. 1NT.

- By rebidding 1NT, North shows a minimum balanced hand, too weak to open 1NT.
- This is more practical than bidding 2♣. That would take the partnership to the two level with no guarantee of finding a fit.

- Let's make one more change.

In spades: take away the ♠A.
In diamonds: add the ♦A and a low diamond.
In clubs: take away a low club.

NORTH
 ♠ x x
 ♥ x x
 ♦ A K Q x x x
 ♣ K J x

Q. What would North open with this hand as dealer?

A. 1♦.

- The hand is worth 15 valuation points ... 13 high-card points plus 2 length points for the six-card suit.
- The hand is unbalanced since there are two doubletons, so North opens the minor suit.

Q. North opens 1♦, East passes, South responds 1♥, and West passes. What is North's rebid?

A. 2♦.

- North can't support responder's suit, doesn't have a balanced hand, and doesn't have a second suit to show.
- The remaining option is to rebid the original suit.
- With a minimum-strength opening bid, opener rebids at the cheapest level.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- If responder bids a new suit, opener has to find a rebid.
- Opener puts the hand in one of three strength categories:
 - 13-16 points Minimum-strength opening bid
 - 17-18 points Medium-strength opening bid
 - 19-21 points Maximum-strength opening bid
- With support for responder's suit, opener raises following the guideline that the more opener has, the more opener bids.
- Without support, opener can show a second suit, show a balanced hand by bidding notrump, or rebid the original suit.

Exercise Ten – Responder's Rebid

Discuss responder's rebid after opener raises or bids a new suit.

Student Textbook Reference: page 128.

Instructions

Take the cards and sort them into suits. One player take all the spades; one player take all the hearts; one player take all the diamonds; and one player take all the clubs.

Construct the following hand in front of South.

When having the students create a hand, read out the suit first and then the cards. Prompt the player with the spades to have them ready.

In spades: the ♠K, ♠J, and two low spades.
In hearts: two low hearts.
In diamonds: the ♦Q and two low diamonds.
In clubs: the ♣Q and three low clubs.

Only one hand is face up. All the other cards are face down.

SOUTH
♠ K J x x
♥ x x
♦ Q x x
♣ Q x x x

Q. North opens 1♦ and East passes. What does South respond?

A. 1♠.

- With 8 high-card points, South has enough to bid.
- South's first priority is to look for a major suit fit.

Q. South responds 1♠, West passes, and North raises to 2♠. What is South's second call?

A. Pass.

- The partnership has found a fit in spades.
- North's raise to the the cheapest available level shows a minimum-strength opening bid, so the partnership doesn't have enough combined strength to go for a game bonus.
- South knows HOW HIGH ... partscore ... and WHERE ... spades. So South can pass and leave the partnership in it's best contract.

Q. Suppose North opens 1♦, South responds 1♠, and North rebids 1NT. What is South's rebid?

A. Pass.

- North is showing a minimum-strength balanced hand, too weak to open 1NT.
- The partnership doesn't have enough strength to go for a game bonus and doesn't have a major suit fit.
- 1NT would appear to be the best partscore. Bidding 2♣ might get the partnership too high on the Bidding Ladder with no guarantee of finding a fit
- Let's change the hand.

**In spades: add the ♠Q.
In clubs: take away a low club.**

SOUTH
♠ K Q J x x
♥ x x
♦ Q x x
♣ Q x x

Q. North opens 1♦ and East passes. What would South respond?

A. 1♠.

- South shows the major suit at the one level.

Q. West passes and North raises to 2♠. Does South know WHERE the partnership belongs?

A. Yes, spades.

Q. Does South know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. No.

- North's raise to the cheapest level shows a minimum-strength opening bid of about 13-16 points.
- South's hand is worth 11 points ... 10 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit.
- If opener has 13 or 14 points, the partnership doesn't have enough to try for the game bonus.
- If opener has 15 or 16 points, the partnership will have enough to go for the game bonus.

Q. How can South send this message to North?

A. 3♠.

- By raising to the three level, South invites opener to bid game with the upper range for the minimum-strength opening bid.
- With a "minimum minimum" North can pass and the partnership will stop in partscore.

- Let's make one more change.

In spades: add a low spade.
In hearts: take away a low heart.
In clubs: take away two low clubs; add the ♣K.

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q J x x x
 ♥ x x
 ♦ Q x x
 ♣ K Q

Q. North opens 1♦ and East passes. What does South respond?

A. 1♠.

- The 1♠ response is forcing ... showing 6 or more points.

Q. West passes and North raises to 2♠. East passes. What is South's rebid?

A. 4♠.

- South now knows WHERE ... spades ... and HOW HIGH ... game.

Q. Suppose North opens 1♦, South responds 1♠, and North rebids 1NT. What is South's rebid?

A. 4♠.

- North is showing a minimum-strength balanced hand and must have at least two spades, so the partnership has an eight-card major suit fit.
- South has 15 points ... 13 high-card points plus 2 length points for the six-card suit ... so South knows HOW HIGH ... game.
- South can put the partnership in a reasonable contract.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- After opener's rebid, responder will usually have enough information to decide HOW HIGH and WHERE the partnership belongs.
- If opener describes a minimum-strength hand, responder can stop in a suitable partscore with about 6-10 points, invite opener to game with about 11-12 points, and put the partnership in game with 13 or more points.

Exercise Eleven – Deal 14: Inviting Game

The students review Deal #14, referring to the deal in the textbook.

Deal #14: pages 144-145.

Instructions

Turn to Deal #14 on page 144.

DEAL: 14 DEALER: EAST		NORTH ♠ 9 2 ♥ Q 7 6 2 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ 10 8 4 2	WEST ♠ K 10 7 5 ♥ K 10 8 4 ♦ J 9 5 ♣ A 7	EAST ♠ A Q J 4 ♥ 9 3 ♦ 8 4 3 ♣ K Q J 6	SOUTH ♠ 8 6 3 ♥ A J 5 ♦ K 10 6 2 ♣ 9 5 3		
				WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
				1♥	Pass	1♣	Pass
				3♠	Pass	1♠	Pass
						Pass	Pass
				DECLARER: East OPENING LEAD: ♦2 by South			

The Opening Bid

Q. East is the dealer. What is East's opening call?

A. 1♣.

- East has 13 high-card points.
- With no five-card major, East opens the longer minor.

Q. After East opens 1♣, what does South say?

A. Pass.

- South has 8 high-card points, not enough to enter the auction.

The Response

Q. What is West's response to the 1♣ opening bid?

A. 1♥.

- West has 11 high-card points, more than enough to respond.
- With a choice of four-card suits to bid at the one level, West bids the lower-ranking, bidding "up the line."

Q. After West responds 1♥, what call does North make?

A. Pass.

- North has 8 high-card points, not enough to come into the auction.

The Opener's Rebid

Q. After North passes, what is East's rebid?

A. 1♠.

- East doesn't have support for responder's major.
- There is still room at the one level for East to show the second suit. The partnership might have an eight-card fit in spades.
- Since East didn't open 1♠, West will be expecting a four-card suit, not a five-card suit.

The Responder's Rebid

Q. After South passes, does West know WHERE the partnership belongs?

A. Yes, spades.

- The partnership has found an eight-card fit in spades.

Q. Does West know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. No.

- West has 11 high-card points ... and can add 1 dummy point for the doubleton club now that a fit has been found.
- East hasn't promised more than a minimum-strength opening bid of about 13-16 points.
- If East has 13 or 14 points, the partnership belongs in partscore.
- If East has 15 or more points, the partnership should try for the game bonus.

Q. How can West send this message?

A. 3♠.

- A raise to the two level would show about 6-10 points; a raise to the three level is more invitational, showing about 11-12 points; a raise to the game level would show 13 or more points.

This may be a challenging concept for the students to follow at this point. Don't get into too much discussion.

The Opener's Third Bid

Q. After North passes, does East have enough to accept West's invitation?

A. No.

- East has a "minimum minimum" for the opening bid.

Q. What is East's final call?

A. Pass.

- East declines the invitation by passing.

The Declarer

Q. After South passes, the auction is over. Which player is declarer?

A. East.

- East first mentioned spades, the strain of the contract.

Q. What is the contract?

A. 3♠.

Exercise Twelve – Responder’s Other Choices

Discuss responder’s choices without a major suit to bid at the one level.

Student Textbook Reference: pages 116-120.

Instructions

- Let’s assume that North opens the bidding 1♦ and East passes.

Put the 1♦ Cue Card in front of North and a Pass Cue Card in front of East.

Take the cards and sort them into suits. One player take all the spades; one player take all the hearts; one player take all the diamonds; and one player take all the clubs.

Construct the following hand in front of South.

When having the students create a hand, read out the suit first and then the cards. Prompt the player with the spades to have them ready.

In spades: the ♠Q and two low spades.
In hearts: the ♥K and two low hearts.
In diamonds: the ♦J and two low diamonds.
In clubs: the ♣Q and three low clubs.

Only one hand is face up. All the other cards are face down.

SOUTH
♠ Q x x
♥ K x x
♦ J x x
♣ Q x x x

North opens the bidding 1♦ and the next player passes. What call should South make with this hand? Discuss with the others at your table.

Give the students a couple of minutes to discuss the hand.

Q. Does South have enough to respond?

A. Yes.

- South has 8 high-card points.

- Even though North could have as few as 13 points, North could also have as many as 21 points.
- South wants to keep the auction going in case the partnership belongs at the game bonus level.

Q. Can South bid a new suit at the one level?

A. No.

- South doesn't have a four-card or longer suit that can be bid at the one level.
- To bid clubs, South would have to go to the two level.

Q. Does South have enough strength to bid a new suit at the two level?

A. No.

- As when responding to a major suit, responder needs 11 or more points to bid a new suit at the two level ... 13 or more in some partnerships.

Q. Does South have support for North's diamond suit?

A. No.

- Although a major suit opening bid promises a five-card or longer suit, a minor suit opening bid can be made on a four-card suit, or even a three-card suit on occasion.

Q. What is South's remaining option?

A. 1NT.

- A response of 1NT to opener's minor suit shows about 6-10 points and no suit that can be bid at the one level.
- Let's change the hand.

**In spades: take away a low spade; add the ♠A.
In hearts: take away a low heart; add the ♥Q.**

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q x
 ♥ K Q x
 ♦ J x x
 ♣ Q x x x

Q. North opens 1♦ and East passes. Does South know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. At least game.

- South has 14 high-card points and North has at least 13, so the partnership has enough to go for a game bonus.

Q. Does South know WHERE the partnership belongs?

A. Likely notrump.

- It's unlikely there is a major suit fit. Even if North has a four-card major, there is at best a seven-card fit.
- Even if there is a fit in a minor suit, it will usually be easier to make game in 3NT than in a minor.

Q. What call could South make?

A. 3NT

- With 13 or more points, responder wants to make sure the partnership gets to game.
- A response of 3NT shows a balanced hand and about 13-15 points⁵.
- Let's change the hand.

In hearts: take away the ♥K; add a low heart.

SOUTH

♠ A Q x
♥ Q x x
♦ J x x
♣ Q x x x

Q. North opens 1♦ and East passes. Does South know HOW HIGH the partnership belongs?

A. No.

- South has 11 high-card points and opener has 13 or more.
- If opener has a “minimum minimum”, the partnership belongs in partscore.
- If opener has a little extra, the partnership can go for a game bonus.

Q. Does South know WHERE the partnership belongs?

A. Yes.

- With no likely fit in a major suit, notrump looks best, even if there is a minor suit fit.

Q. What call would South make in response to North's 1♦ opening?

A. 2NT.

- A 2NT response shows about 11-12 points and a balanced hand, highly invitational to game⁶.
- It shows a hand too strong for 1NT but not quite strong enough for 3NT.
- Let's try another hand.

**In spades: take away the ♠A and ♠Q.
In diamonds: add the ♦Q and a low diamond.**

SOUTH

♠ x
♥ Q x x
♦ Q J x x x
♣ Q x x x

⁵ Some partnerships use a different range for this response, such as 16-17. However, this will be the range used in this series.

⁶ Some partnerships use this bid to show 13-15 points, but this is the style that will be used in this series.

Q. What is South's response with this hand if North opens 1♦ and the next player passes?

A. 2♦.

- With 7 high-card points and 1 length point for the five-card suit, South has enough to respond.

Q. Can South bid a new suit?

A. No.

- South doesn't have a four-card or longer suit that can be bid at the one level.
- South doesn't have enough strength to bid a new suit at the two level.

Q. Is South's hand balanced?

A. No.

- South has a singleton spade.

Q. Does South have support for opener's suit?

A. Yes.

- With five-card support, even if opener has a three-card suit there will be an eight-card fit.

Q. What does South respond?

A. 2♦.

- Raising opener's minor suit is the last option if responder can't bid a new suit or notrump.
- With about 6-10 points, responder raises to the two level; with about 11-12, responder can make a jump raise to the three level.

The students may be curious whether South would revalue the hand using dummy points when holding support for opener's minor suit. This is a difficult point. Since the partnership may still end in a notrump contract, responder generally avoids counting dummy points. If the hand is very unbalanced, however, and responder has no intention of playing in notrump, dummy points can be counted. This is discussed in the textbook but can probably be avoided here if there is no question.

Review

Summarize the following points:

- With no major suit to bid at the one level, responder can bid notrump with a balanced hand:
 - 6-10 points 1NT
 - 11-12 points 2NT
 - 13-15 points 3NT
- If responder can't bid a new suit and doesn't have a balanced hand, responder can raise opener's minor suit ... to the two level with 6-10 points and the three level with 11-12 points.

Exercise Thirteen – Deal 15: Opener’s Jump Rebid

The students review Deal #15, referring to the deal in the textbook.

Deal #15: pages 146-147.

Instructions

Turn to Deal #15 on page 146.

DEAL: 15 DEALER: SOUTH		NORTH ♠ K 10 6 ♥ A K 10 4 ♦ 9 6 3 ♣ 10 7 5	WEST ♠ A 7 3 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ A Q J 10 8 7 ♣ A	EAST ♠ Q 9 2 ♥ J 5 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ 9 8 6 3 2	SOUTH ♠ J 8 5 4 ♥ Q 9 6 ♦ 5 2 ♣ K Q J 4
---	--	--	--	---	--

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

DECLARER:	West
OPENING LEAD:	♥A by North

The Opening Bid

Q. South is the dealer. What is South's opening call?

A. Pass.

- South has 9 high-card points, not enough to open the bidding.

Q. After South passes, what does West say?

A. 1♦.

- West has 15 high-card points plus 2 length points for each six-card suit.
- With an unbalanced hand, West opens in the minor suit.

Q. After West opens 1♦, what does North do?

A. Pass.

- North has 10 high-card points, not enough to bring the partnership into the auction

The Response

Q. What is East's response to the 1♦ opening bid?

A. 1NT.

- With 6 high-card points plus 1 length point, East has too much to pass.
- East can't bid a new suit at the one level and doesn't have enough strength to bid a new suit at the two level.
- With a balanced hand, East can respond 1NT, showing 6-10 points.

The Opener's Rebid

Q. After South passes, what is West's rebid?

A. 3♦.

- With an unbalanced hand and no second suit to show, West rebids the original suit.
- With a medium-strength hand, West jumps a level on the rebid to show the extra strength.

The Responder's Rebid

Q. After North passes, what does East do?

A. Pass.

- East doesn't have anything extra for the 1NT response and passes.

The Declarer

Q. South passes. Who is declarer?

A. West.

- West suggested diamonds as the trump suit.

Q. What is the contract?

A. 3♦.

Exercise Fourteen – Deal 16: Playing in Notrump

The students review Deal #16, referring to the deal in the textbook.

Deal #16: pages 148-149.

Instructions

Turn to Deal #16 on page 148.

DEAL: 16 DEALER: WEST		NORTH ♠ Q J 3 ♥ A 8 5 2 ♦ A 10 6 ♣ A K J	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WEST</th> <th>NORTH</th> <th>EAST</th> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH																
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠																
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WEST ♠ 10 9 7 2 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ Q 7 ♣ Q 10 8 3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>♠ A K 8 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 9 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 7 6 4 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SOUTH	♠ A K 8 5	♥ J 4	♦ 9 4 2	♣ 7 6 4 2	EAST ♠ 6 4 ♥ K 7 6 3 ♦ K J 8 5 3 ♣ 9 5	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>DECLARER:</td> <td>North</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OPENING LEAD:</td> <td>♦5 by East</td> </tr> </table>	DECLARER:	North	OPENING LEAD:	♦5 by East							
SOUTH																			
♠ A K 8 5																			
♥ J 4																			
♦ 9 4 2																			
♣ 7 6 4 2																			
DECLARER:	North																		
OPENING LEAD:	♦5 by East																		

The Opening Bid

Q. West is the dealer. What is West's opening call?

A. Pass.

- West has 6 high-card points, not enough to open the bidding.

Q. After West passes, what is North's call?

A. 1♣.

- North has 19 high-card points.
- Although North has a balanced hand, it is too strong to open 1NT.
- With no five-card major, North opens in a minor suit.
- With two three-card minors, North opens 1♣.

Q. After North opens 1♣, what does East do?

A. Pass.

- East has 7 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit. That's not enough to enter the auction.

The Response

Q. After East passes, what is South's response to North's 1♣ opening bid?

A. 1♠.

- With 8 high-card points, South has enough to bid.
- South's priority is to look for a major suit fit.

The Opener's Rebid

Q. After West passes, what call does North make?

A. 2NT.

- North has a balanced hand and can describe it by jumping to 2NT.
- A 1NT rebid would show a minimum balanced hand and North would have opened 1NT with 15-17 points.

The class might find this concept a bit challenging. Some might want to bid hearts. You can point out that a heart fit is unlikely since South bypassed that suit.

The Responder's Rebid

Q. What call does South make after East passes?

A. 3NT.

- Since North has at least 18 points, the partnership has enough combined strength for game.
- With no major suit fit, notrump looks to be the best choice.

The Declarer

Q. Which player is declarer?

A. North.

- North first suggested notrump as the strain of the contract.

Q. What is the contract?

A. 3NT.

Final Review

Conclude with something like the following:

- You might want to try the exercises at the end of Chapter Four in your textbook.
- We've talked about bridge basics.
- It's important that you play. Don't worry too much about memorizing the guidelines; give yourself a chance to experience the game.
- There's always more to learn, but you're off to a great start. Good luck and I hope to see you at future courses.