

NOVICES TIPS

1	When you are initially counting winners BE PESSIMISTIC and only count DEFINITE tricks e.g. AKx opposite Qxxx is only 3 winners with the potential of 2 extras if the suit breaks 32, with KQJT9 opposite 543 this is NO WINNERS (even if this is trumps suit) since you haven't dislodged the Ace yet
2	When Counting LOSERS BE OPTIMISTIC- with Axx opposite x you have No Losers since you can ruff after one round
3	If declarer is running a long suit and both you and your partner are discarding MAKE SURE you DON'T both DISCARD the SAME SUIT. You protect one suit and partner should protect a different suit
4	If you can't remember what has gone or how many has gone in a suit, try and work backwards by remembering what you had to start with, e.g. you can't remember how many trumps have gone- you have only three trumps left and you know you started with 5 so you probably have drawn 2 rounds only so far
5	<p>AIM TO HAVE A FIT :- Minimum fit is 43 to obtain majority holding of 7 cards in suit IDEAL FIT is 44 or Better bringing total to MAGIC EIGHT Magic eight can also be achieved by 5-3 or 6-2 or 7-1 or more cards in suit It is necessary to recognize these fits especially in Majors otherwise many 5-3 and 6-2 fits get lost. As soon as partner bids 2 suits, partner's first suit is likely to be FIVE (unless he was 4441 in first place) then if you have 3 card support for partner's first suit the 5-3 fit comes to light – support partner now.</p> <p>As soon as partner repeats a suit he is likely to be showing 6 unless he can't make any other bid now with 2 card support the 62 fit comes to light so be quick to support partner now with 2 card support. If partner pre-empts and is known to hold 7 if you have good outside hand but singleton in partner's suit the MAGIC EIGHT is still there so raise the major as soon as possible.</p>
6	TIME IS IN THE EYE OF BEHOLDER 2 minutes is a long time so don't worry about holding people up and 2/3 minutes is an adequate of time for the auction and 2/3 minutes is also an adequate amount of time for the play. In tournament bridge 8 hands an hour is allotted time. Normally people only get held up through being too talkative, not because of taking too much time over planning a hand - TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS YOU LIKE
7	Once you decide on plan, try and play in tempo so that you can keep track of what has gone. If you have long periods of trancing midway then you will lose track of your plan. By playing out semi-quickly now, you will be able to count much better
8	As declarer make sure you LEAD UP TO HONOURS e.g. lead low towards AQx or Kxx or KQx or KJx (never start the play from these holdings)
9	When leading against suit contracts don't lead away from tenaces e.g. avoid leading from AQx or KJx or ATx
10	When you see dummy make sure you determine which hand is short hand and which hand is the long hand for each suit. Once you determine this then you can play each suit accordingly so that you DON'T GET BLOCKED. Make sure you play the high card(s) from the short hand first e.g. with AQ4 opposite KJ98 make sure you play AQ first.
11	<p>If you make any sort of LIMIT BID DON'T BID AGAIN. Limit bids come in all sorts of guises and the most common ones are opening 1NT and 2NT or replying in No Trumps or in your partner's suit. However if you make an pre-emptive opening bid of 3 of a Suit this is also a Limit bid and you certainly must leave all decisions to partner. Other times that this manifests itself is when you open 1H and rebid 2♥. Now your rebid is a limit bid. If responder now rebids his suit at the 2 Level it is Mandatory for you to now pass and not to fight it out with partner.</p> <p>e.g. 1♥ - 1♠ 2♥ - 2♠ Pass now by opener is your only option!!!</p>
12	Don't forget to tell your partner whether or not you like a suit. If you like it make sure you play an ENCOURAGING SIGNAL, something like a 6 or 7 or 8. Conversely if you don't like your partner's initial lead play low, and BE ATTENTIVE to these cards. If you have choice of encouraging signal, i.e. you hold

	K962 and partner leads Ace play the 9 rather than the 6. The 9 is certainly likely to stir partner more than the 6. Would you prefer to have your airplane land with small semaphore flags or large ones?																				
13	On the other hand when Counting LOSERS BE OPTIMISTIC- with Axx opposite x you have No Losers since you can ruff after one round																				
14	Be Patient especially when you defend- the main problem that novices have with defence is that they are in too much of a hurry to take their Aces and Kings. Now it's all well and good saying second hand plays high and third hand plays low but doing this is not enough alone. If one is extremely patient and wait for your tricks, you will be surprised that very often your original AQ9 or AJ8 holding will produce 2 tricks one of them being the setting trick as long as you are patient and don't go in with your high card too early.																				
15	If you listen to the sounds of the auction or the sound of a bid it will often point you to its correct meaning e.g. if you open 1♦ and partner bids 1♠ and you then rebid 2♥ and he now rebids 2♠ this can ONLY BE WEAK and must be showing 6 card suit and a minimum hand so don't panic if you only have 1 or less Spades.																				
16	So that you can think in "straight lines" try to line your hand up with the dummy. So if dummy is from left to right Spades, Hearts, Clubs Diamonds your hand should be held correspondingly then you will find it much easier to count your winners and losers.																				
17	If you can't remember what has gone or how many has gone in a suit, try and work backwards by remembering what you had to start with, e.g. you can't remember how many trumps have gone- you have only three trumps left and you know you started with 5 so you probably have drawn 2 rounds only so far																				
18	Draw all the opponents' trumps unless there is one out and the one out is a master - don't be a TWO FOR ONE Merchant with AKxx opposite xxxx draw two rounds and if hopefully they break 3-2 then leave the remaining Queen out and hopefully you can use your remaining 4 trumps separately. Or with AKxxx opposite xxxx if you draw and the suit breaks 3-1 then don't bother to draw the last one as it will always make.																				
19	If you need to establish a second suit it might be wise to sometimes establish the second suit first if your trumps are a bit rickety.																				
20	Trumping losers in the short hand adds to your trick tally since you are not depleting your long suit. Conversely trumping in the Long hand doesn't always achieve very much and more often or not it weakens your control of "your" trumps suit. Trumping in is like eating chocolate not always that good for you. Next time you ruff something make sure you are actually achieving something and not just taking the chocolate																				
21	If you aren't sure what to bid then best to bid NEW SUIT even if it's a three card suit in most scenarios a bid of new suit should be treated as forcing for one round.																				
22	The Double of 1NT opening bid is for PENALTIES and promises one more point than the opponents maximum. Therefore if opponents are playing weak No trump you need 15 to double. And if they are playing 15-17 then you need 18 or more. Partners should stand the double and watch the opponents squirm. This is main disadvantage of weak no trump so make sure you take your penalties when you can. You will be at the receiving ends yourself sometimes.																				
23	To Overcall the opponents 1NT opening bid requires a sensible suit either good quality 5 card suit or preferably 6 and LESS than 15 points (probably about 9-14). The reason it's less than 15 points is because with 15 you would be doubling. you can make natural overcalls with all the following hands <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ AQ765 ♠</td> <td style="width: 25%;">K9 ♠</td> <td style="width: 25%;">65</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♥ 76 ♥</td> <td>542 ♥</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♦ K5 ♦</td> <td>AQJ753 ♦</td> <td>KQ5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣ A32 ♣</td> <td>63 ♣</td> <td>AJT953</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>overcall 2♠ just</td> <td>overcall 2♦</td> <td>overcall 2♣</td> </tr> </table>		♠ AQ765 ♠	K9 ♠	65		♥ 76 ♥	542 ♥	76		♦ K5 ♦	AQJ753 ♦	KQ5		♣ A32 ♣	63 ♣	AJT953		overcall 2♠ just	overcall 2♦	overcall 2♣
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24	<p>If you are going to overcall with a minimum number of points then make sure you SUIT QUALITY is up to scratch- you could even overcall with 6/7 points if you had with 1♠</p> <p>♠ A K 9 7 6 4 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 3 2</p>												
25	Support Majors but when partner opens a minor introduce your Major even if you have support for the minor												
26	Play the lower of touching honours when following suit - NB this is the opposite of leading												
27	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>QJ95</td> <td rowspan="3">If there are two touching honours in dummy don't cover first time around. Cover second time around with? If you cover the Queen first time around declarer will be able to finesse your poor partner's T in a moment. Cover second time around and partner makes his T</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T83 K62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A74</td> </tr> </table>	QJ95	If there are two touching honours in dummy don't cover first time around. Cover second time around with? If you cover the Queen first time around declarer will be able to finesse your poor partner's T in a moment. Cover second time around and partner makes his T	T83 K62	A74								
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28	Only ruff if its producing extra tricks - ruffing just because it makes you feel good is like taking sugar it just gives you a high and doesn't necessarily mean you are generating extra tricks, especially if you are ruffing in the long hand												
29	No entries in the other hand why not ruff something to get to the other hand												
30	If you have high cards in a suit that you need to ruff do the ruffing early before cashing the high cards. You can always cash those high cards later once you have draw trumps AKQ65 opposite 7 play your Ace then ruff a low one, return to West to ruff the remaining 5 and later on in the hand you can enjoy the KQ after drawing trumps.												
31	When you try and evaluate a hand don't just look at the points, look at the points and consider if they are "Good Points" or "Bad Points" QJ54 is not so good as QJT9 and both these suits are "only" 3 points. Which of the following hands would you rather have? a) ♠ A654 ♥ K86 ♦ Q32 ♣ J54 (10 points) a) ♠ 54 ♥ 86 ♦ 432 ♣ AKQ542 (9 points). The first hand has lousy balanced 10 points with no potential whereas the second hand has a great 9 points with potential of 6 tricks												
32	Sometimes you need to get your second suit established before touching trumps. Leaving a trump on the table by not drawing them means you cannot be as easily forced by the opposition												
33	If somebody initially passes and then turns up with 10 points you know he will not have any more since he didn't open in the first place.												
34	If partner leads a Jack against 3NT and there are only low cards in dummy and you have the Ace or King make sure you put it on partner's Jack. He might have led from KJT9 or AJT9 and you do not want declarer getting away with blue murder by winning the first trick with the Queen. If declarer doesn't have the Ace and Queen sticking your King on will not cost												
35	Not sure what to lead then eliminate what you can't lead, avoid leading from tenaces and unsupported honours and more often than not you will arrive at what you can lead												
36	If Spades is your suit never be afraid of bidding one more because you have the boss suit and you will not need to increase the level when you outbid the opposition- Be competitive with this boss suit.												
37	With 4 or 5 rubbishy cards (a suit with no honours) against a No Trump contract prefer to lead 2nd highest and then a low one next and then partner will know you have not led from a good suit												
38	The only time you might think of overcalling on a four card suit is if you have three honours such as AKQ6 or KQJ7 or AKJ3. The hand just about meets the SQOT test (Suit Quality Overcall Test).												
39	<p>1NT reply is not just a reply showing 6-9 points balanced , it is also a catchall dustbin bid showing poor hand when you aren't able to go to the 2 level with hands like</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>♠ 32</td> <td>or</td> <td>♠ void</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 54</td> <td>even</td> <td>♥ 653</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ Q9874</td> <td></td> <td>♦ AJ654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ KJ42</td> <td></td> <td>♣ Q5432</td> </tr> </table>	♠ 32	or	♠ void	♥ 54	even	♥ 653	♦ Q9874		♦ AJ654	♣ KJ42		♣ Q5432
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♦ Q9874		♦ AJ654											
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40	After making a pre-empt do not bid again as you have made a limit bid and now you must leave all decisions to partner.
41	If dummy has a long suit try to get it established so you can get all your extra tricks from that nice long suit
42	With grotty trumps such as A654 opposite 8732 so that you do not lose control of the suit play a low card from each hand and retain that most valuable Ace .
43	When you know you have a trump loser it is often better to lose that trick early rather than later.
44	When you have a good fit of 4:4 or 5:4 or 5:5 and a reciprocal shortage facing length in the side suits consider a CROSS RUFF and trying to make all your trumps separately
45	If you have entry problems because of a lack of high cards generally, then you might need to delay drawing trumps and to use the actual trump suit as the entries to transport yourself from one hand to the other. This is particularly applicable if you need to establish another suit.
46	If you are second player you should play low on a low card and not waste your honour on a low card
47	If you overcall more often, sometimes you will find fit with partner and be able to take a worthwhile sacrifice when partner subsequently supports you.
48	Try to take photographic picture of your hand so that you can reconstruct it in the middle when you are trying to remember what has gone. If you remember that you started with 5 trumps and you have three left then you will be able to deduce that two rounds have gone so eight cards have gone.
49	As declarer when you are winning the trick and you have AKQ of the suit win with the Ace and then you will remember the other two are high more easily and keep track of the suit
50	Even with 10 points, NO BID when partner opens 1NT as the total is never going to be more than 24 and if you bid 2NT partner should treat that as invitational and will bid 3NT with a maximum 14 count. If they have just 12 and Pass then 8 tricks is going to be an uphill struggle. BE DISCIPLINED HERE & PASS
51	With Ace or Ace Queen opposite KT98762 play off the Ace early before it blocks you
52	Sometimes you need to set up your send suit before drawing trumps. You might need the trumps for entries.
53	Not sure where to win the tricks when drawing trumps then try and keep as many entries as possible in the hand with hardly any entries at the start of play. So if one hand has 7 entries and the other hand has only 2 then try and keep the two entries in the hand that started with two.
54	=53
55	With KQ4 opposite JT832 don't forget to play the King Queen first so as not to block the suit- when you don't have the top card in a suit the High Card from the short hand principle still holds good.
56	In No Trump, Don't leave singleton King or Queen in dummy as it is completely exposed to attack from the defenders in situations like this <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">K5</div> <div style="text-align: center;">or</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Q6</div> </div> go up with the honour and hope that the leader has led from <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Q64</div> <div style="text-align: center;">K72</div> </div> the Ace- then your remaining holding has some sort of protection and now it is a matter of keeping Right hand opponent off lead (West becomes the safe hand)
57	Dummy has K432 and you have singleton 5 and left hand opponent leads the Queen- do not play the King. Play low and if you ruff enough times the Ace will fall from right hand opponent. Surely the leader has not led from the Ace so you know the Ace is on your right so little point in playing the King at trick 1 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">K432</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">QJT76</div> <div style="text-align: center;">AT9</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">5</div> </div>
58	If you reply in a NEW suit that is FORCING so even if you have 18 or 19 points you can just bid 1♠ over partner's 1♥ bid and you know the auction will not die
59	Don't rescue partner, don't suffer from singleton syndrome so with ♠ KQT86 ♥ 2 ♦ Q432 ♣ Q63 having replied 1♠ to partner's Opening bid of 1♥ they then rebid 2♥ now NO BID and don't panic - they must have six if not 7 so why panic ?

60	Not sure what has gone, then try and remember what you started with. So if you started with five hearts and you only have two left then you can work out that you must have played three rounds.
61	You have strength in declarer's main suit which doesn't end up as trumps then LEAD A TRUMP
62	If the bidding goes 1♣ 3♣ it shows 10-12 points and 4 card support so if the bidding goes 1♣ 1♥ 2♣ 3♣ responder will still have 10-12 points as you have reached same destination in the auction of 3♣
63	If the opposition opens the bidding and you have balanced 19 points because you are too strong for a 1NT overcall (ie16-18) start with INFORMATIVE DOUBLE and then bid No Trumps at your next opportunity and partner should be able to deduce that you have 19+ points.
64	You started life with a six or seven card trump suit and you have inadvertently lost count of how many trumps have gone. As you still have three left, draw an extra round just in case there is still one out. This is known as drawing lurkers.
65	If there are touching honours on show in the dummy then don't bother to cover the Honour with the Honour because the card you are trying to promote for your defending side is on show for all to see in the dummy.
66	With a minimum hand 5-4 distribution do not show the second suit if the second suit is beyond your barrier bid otherwise partner will think you are stronger (It is known as a reverse) so with ♠ A Q 5 4 open 1♥ and reluctantly rebid 2♥ if partner bids 2 of a minor ♥ K J 9 6 5 ♦ K 3 ♣ 5 4
67	Having honours in your long suit pull their weight much more than having honours in the shorter suit AQ4 has potential of two tricks whereas AQ8754 has the potential of 5/6 tricks.
68	Responder replies 1♠ followed by 2♠ this is a very minimum hand and Opener should respect Opener's wishes and only bid on with 18/19 points. Most of the time opener should now Pass.
69	If you have four card suits and partner Opens the bidding you need to bid up the line and bid the first available suit - if you BYPASS a suit then partner is entitled to think you do not have that suit unless you are very strong and 5:4 in shape and will be that other suit later so with ♠ J 6 4 reply 1♦ when partner has opened 1♣ ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ Q 9 7 2 ♣ 3 4
70	If your partner passed originally then if they reply afterwards it is NO LONGER FORCING and Opener is off the hook in having a rebid ready so with ♠ A K J 6 4 having opened 1♠ after an initial Pass by partner when partner then ♥ 6 5 4 replies 2♥ you can now Pass as 4 is a long way off, even if responder ♦ K J 9 had a maximum Pass in the first place. ♣ 3 4
71	After an Opening bid of 2NT there are no weak take-out bids unless you are playing transfers. So with weak hand just pass. If its along Major you might chance your arm and bid 4♠ or 4♥ directly
72	If somebody leads a 2 against a No Trump contract if it is their 4 th highest then you immediately knows they only have four card suit and you immediately know distribution around the table of that suit. You also know that the person on lead has a balanced hand too as his longest suit is only a four card suit.
73	If you are playing off a long suit from hand or dummy then from the other hand keep another long suit that might also produce winners.
74	If in doubt bid one more especially at the two level - if you bid to the three level maybe the opponents will bid one more and be out of their comfort zone.

75	<p>What should you do over the opposition's weak opening 2 or 3 Bid? Do the same as if they had opened 1 of a suit. Still make</p> <p>a) sensible overcalls in a suit b) 1NT with 16 POINTS AND BALANCED (16-18 BUT OVER A PRE-EMPTIVE 3 BID MAYBE 17-19 WOULD BE BETTER c) Informative Double.</p>
76	To overcall 1NT you need a balanced 16-18 points so if you have any sort of balanced 13/14 or even poor 15 point hand JUST PASS.
77	To make a pre-emptive overcall you need to make a double jump for it to be a pre-emptive bid so over 3♥ then 3♠ or 4♦ or 4♣ would all be deemed to be pre-emptive overcalls
78	With J976 opposite AQT8 when finessing be aware that your QJT9876 are all equal cards and that you should play the Jack or 9 and let it run. Now if the finesse works you are still in the right hand to repeat a winning finesse.
79	With three small cards if you are on lead try playing the MUD convention (Middle Up Down) rather than top of rubbish. So with 853 play the 5 followed by the 8. By doing that partner will know for sure when you are leading from a Doubleton and when you aren't
80	Remember the bidding to help you work out who has what and more often than not it can be very revealing to help you place the opponents' high cards.
81	<p>a) If you double their opening bid of 1NT it shows 15+ points and it is for penalties b) if responder Doubles the 1NT overcall, this too is for Penalties and responder is showing 8+ points (opposite known 13)</p>
82	With two five timers in all situations, whether opening, replying or overcalling you bid the higher suit first (HIGH FIVES)
83	<p>A Jump in a new suit by opener is GAME FORCING and promises 18/19 points because responder is initially only promising 6 so with:</p> <p>♠ A Q T 7 You open 1♦ and partner replies 1♥ ♥ K 5 you can now make a jump bid of 2♠ and this is now Game Forcing ♦ K Q J T 6 ♣ A 3</p>
84	Unless there is a very good reason you should ALWAYS RETURN YOUR PARTNER'S SUIT (ARYPS). Partner could be getting his suit established, or partner might be getting a ruff because they have led from shortage and finally it is good for partnership morale to respect your partner's lead.
85	You have a singleton or doubleton in the hand with fewer trumps (usually dummy) then this is clear sign to delay drawing trumps and do some ruffing in the short hand first while you have some trumps there.
86	After partner makes an informative double and you merely bid your best suit this shows 0-7 points only. If you have more REMEMBER to JUMP in your BEST SUIT
87	In Acol the bidding sequence 1♣ 1NT shows 8-10 balanced 4333 shape with 4 clubs whereas 1♣ 2♣ shows 6-9 points and bit more shape maybe 4432 or 5422
88	When you DEFEND you must COUNT YOUR WINNERS and potential winners in the same way you would do so as declarer and then you can try and work out how to obtain extra tricks to defeat your opponents.
89	Analyze partner's Opening Lead :- i) Is it a possible singleton ii) Is it top of a Doubleton iii) Is it top of a Sequence
90	<p>When the bidding goes</p> <p>W N E S 1♥ NO 2♥ NO NO? and it comes back to you COMPETE- bid something and push the opponents up-double or bid 2♠</p>

91	If you have a five or six card suit headed by a no card higher than a 9 then against No Trump contracts lead second highest rather than 4th highest. If you adopt second highest leads from "bad" suits then partner will know when to switch if there is no future in the suit that has been led.								
92	Lead top card from a Doubleton but from three small cards play MUD (Middle Up Down) and then partner will be in a position to know whether you will be able to ruff the third round or not when it's a doubleton.								
93	Upgrade hands with Ts and 9s and downgrade hands with 2s and 3s. K542 is not as good a suit as KT98 is it?								
94	If 3NT is a possible contract then bid it. This piece of advice was coined by Bob Hamman the world's No 1 player								
95	Try Passing with 18 points if the bidding has gone 1♠ - 2♣ by the opponents as you can already account for 21 points from the opponents' bidding so partner has 2 or less.								
96	Use the rule of 14 to help you bid in a lower ranking suit at the 2 level. You add your HCPs plus your longest suit and if the total is 14 or more then you may bid that suit. the total is less than 14 Use the DUSTBIN bid response and say 1NT								
97	Needing 4 tricks out of 5 with AQ73 opposite 98642 do NOT take an immediate finesse. Play Ace and then low towards the Queen just in case the cards are like this : AQ73 J105 K 98642 if you commit to an immediate finesse you will lose 2 tricks in the suit								
98	Upgrade long suits with Honours and downgrade doubleton Queens and Jack so Q765 is much better than Q5 when assessing the suit.								
99	Shortage points only kick in if you have four card support for partner's suit a FIT. This can be as a direct response or as Opener's rebid once partner has introduces a suit in which he has support. Now opener can re-evaluate his hand and count extra points for voids, singletons and doubletons. Harold hates shortages the rest of the time and would prefer it if people told him that they had two five cards suits or a six card suit and a four card suit. Having a void or singleton is not the core strength of most hands.								
100	Needing only 4 tricks from this combination AKQ54 opposite 762 and a shortage of entries to the long hand you should duck a round and then you can accommodate an unfriendly 4-1 break								
101	Partner opens 1NT and you have 10 points then JUST PASS- if you were to bid 2NT that would be an invitation to partner to bid 3NT with a maximum hand and your partnership would not have enough points to make 9 tricks								
102	33 points is enough for 6NT so if your partner opens 1Nt (12-14 points) and you have 21 then without any scientific frills you should bid 6NT straight away no messing.								
103	If you know that you have a NINE CARD TRUMP FIT then add one extra point to your hand regardless- UPGRADE IT- if partner were to raise your bid to the three level and you started off with 5 when you only promised 4 then you know you have a nine card fit or If you are playing 5 card Majors and you started off with six, again you would know that a nine card fit has been found.								
104	With <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A K 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A K 6 5 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>Q 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </table> Don't just fall in love with your Hearts Remember to Double their weak 1NT to show any 15 point hand	♠	A K 7	♥	A K 6 5 3 2	♦	Q 5 4	♣	8
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105	If you have sufficient winners in the non-trump suits then you should draw trumps straight away even if you don't hold the top one - you don't want the opponents trumping those outside winners do you? ☹								
106	If you need to establish a side suit you might need to keep trumps as entries so do not be in hurry to draw trumps under these circumstances.								
107	You only have 4 trumps in the long hand and three in dummy and the opposition force you to ruff. Consider discarding a loser instead and you might not lose control of the trump suit.								

108	Once you run out of a suit don't making a sweeping gesture and change your hand so it's still red black red black as everybody will know you have run out of a suit												
109	Against a 3NT contract with a choice of two leads (from 4 card suits) prefer to lead a Major suit (they didn't bid Majors or Stayman or Transfer) as partner might be able to help more easily in that suit to establish it												
110	<p>With 6:4 shape prefer to show the 4 card suit as your rebid rather than repeat the six card suit, especially if it is a Major, so with:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A J 9 6 5 3</td> <td>open 1♠ and plan to rebid 2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K Q 3 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>5 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>8</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	♠	A J 9 6 5 3	open 1♠ and plan to rebid 2♥	♥	K Q 3 2		♦	5 4		♣	8	
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111	Use the Michaels and Unusual No Trump convention only with weak hands 6-10 points or very strong Hands (17+). Partner will be able to gauge how strong you are by your next bid. If you are weak you will probably drop the auction and if you are strong you will carry on bidding.												
112	Once there has been an Opening Bid and an Informative Double there is realistically speaking only 14 points between the other two players so bid accordingly. Most of the time you and partner will just play in a part-score.												
113	If you have AQT opposite 543 and you need 3 tricks then you have to commit to an immediate Double finesse and lead the 3 and when next player plays low play that T (and hope for the best) and hope that 2nd player had both the missing Jack and King.												
114	One covers an honour with an honour IF YOU CAN PROMOTE SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF OR POSSIBLY PARTNER. If declarer leads queen from table and there is QJT54 then DON'T COVER.												
115	Take the pressure off partner and bid Game in your long suit rather than pussyfooting around.												
116	Opening 1NT and 1♠ is good for your bridge health as these bids are pre-emptive, preventing the opposition from making a bid at the 1 level should they wish to compete.												
117	As declarer, ensure that there is at least one entry remaining in the weak hand where you want to establish the long suit.												
118	<p>With a hand like this:</p> <table> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A Q 5 4 2</td> <td rowspan="4">bidding 1NT is good to protect your AQ tenace in Spades and your KJ tenace in Hearts with the lead coming around to you if the contract ends up in No Trump</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K J 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>Q 5 4</td> </tr> </table>	♠	A Q 5 4 2	bidding 1NT is good to protect your AQ tenace in Spades and your KJ tenace in Hearts with the lead coming around to you if the contract ends up in No Trump	♥	K J 7	♦	5 4	♣	Q 5 4			
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119	<p>Once the auction is underway with two four card suits you bid up the line- you bid the suit that is available first so with:</p> <table> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A 2</td> <td rowspan="4">you reply 2♦ when partner has opened 1♠ because Diamonds comes first up the line (NB If you incorrectly reply 2♥ partner will think you have five)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A K J 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>Q 5 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>9 5 4</td> </tr> </table>	♠	A 2	you reply 2♦ when partner has opened 1♠ because Diamonds comes first up the line (NB If you incorrectly reply 2♥ partner will think you have five)	♥	A K J 7	♦	Q 5 4 2	♣	9 5 4			
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120	<p>As a Defender 2nd hand generally pays low except for the following "obvious" and "less obvious" situations :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To take the setting trick- don't get caught napping 2. To quickly grab the lead to give partner a ruff. 3. To take a trick that might disappear- you have K54 and dummy has Q7 and declarer leads low from closed hand; 4. Preserve a possible entry to partner's hand, the other defender. 												
121	If partner has not yet made a bid then all low level Doubles should be INFORMATIVE. If you Open 1 of a suit and opposition intervenes and partner Passes when you come back with a Double it is still informative as in following situation :-												

	<p>♠ 6 ♥ Q 9 8 5 ♦ A K J 9 5 ♣ K 5 3</p> <p>N E S W 1 ♦ 1 ♠ NO NO</p> <p>Double</p>												
122	<p>Do not bid a new suit when you have a Major suit fit and a perfect limit bid available so with:</p> <p>♠ 9 8 4 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K Q 4 ♣ J 3 2</p> <p>reply 3♠ immediately and don't even dream of bidding 2♦</p>												
123	<p>With four card support for a minor but your own four card Major introduce your 4 card Major so with</p> <p>♠ Q 8 4 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K 9 4 ♣ J 3 2</p> <p>reply 1♠ when partner opens 1♦ and you could always support with 3♦ later if need be</p>												
124	<p>The key to good informative doubles is Shape not High Card Points</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">♠ K Q 4 2</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Double 1♥ here, but just Pass with this</td> <td style="width: 30%;">♠ K Q 9 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 7</td> <td></td> <td>♥ A 6 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A J 9 4</td> <td></td> <td>♦ K 9 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ J 8 3 2</td> <td></td> <td>♣ J 4 2</td> </tr> </table>	♠ K Q 4 2	Double 1♥ here, but just Pass with this	♠ K Q 9 4	♥ 7		♥ A 6 4	♦ A J 9 4		♦ K 9 4	♣ J 8 3 2		♣ J 4 2
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♦ A J 9 4		♦ K 9 4											
♣ J 8 3 2		♣ J 4 2											
125	<p>In the 4th Seat (sometimes known as the Pass-Out Seat or Protective Seat) 2NT shows 19-21 points balanced in situations like this :-</p> <p>N E S W 1♦ NO NO 2NT</p>												
126	<p>If you are playing weak No Trump and have 5332 shape including a five card Major you should open 1NT so with</p> <p>♠ A Q 9 Open 1NT and you will not have rebid problems ♥ Q J 9 8 5 ♦ K 5 ♣ 5 4 2</p> <p>However if you have full bloodied 14 points plus five card suit NOW UPGRADE the hand and treat it like a FIFTEEN COUNT</p> <p>♠ 5 4 ♥ Q J 9 8 5 ♦ A J 9 ♣ A Q 9</p> <p>Open 1♥ ready to rebid 1NT if partner replies 1♠</p>												
127	<p>You are in 4th position and by the time the bidding gets to you it has gone 1♦ NO 1♠ ?if you now Double it says I have Opening bid values and I like the two remaining suits so you could Double with</p> <p>♠ A 9 ♥ Q J 9 8 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A J 5 4 2</p>												

128	<p>Any sign of a Misfit drop the auction as soon as possible. Signs of a Misfit :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner bids a suit and you have singleton in that suit. 2. The opponents bid a suit and you have that suit.
129	<p>Partner opens 2♣ and you have balanced hand with 8 or more points reply 2NT straight away and partner will know you are making a positive bid and that you are balanced (very precise information in one go)</p>
130	<p>You really do need to have 6 points to reply and you should not take a chance on 5 points unless it is perhaps accompanied by a six card Major. If you take a chance on 5 points and your partner, opener now jumps to 3NT he is going to be very cross when you only put down 5 points. He has jumped to 3NT with a balanced 19 point hand expecting at least 6 from you and you must not disappoint him</p>
131	<p>When you first get your hand take a MENTAL PHOTOGRAPH of the DISTRIBUTION. If you do this and then start to play the hand out and forget what has gone you can work backwards and suddenly remember that you started with 5 Hearts. If you only have 2 left then it must mean you have drawn 3 rounds and so on.</p>
132	<p>With A54 opposite Q32 the correct way to finesse is to lead up to the card (from the other hand\)) you are trying to promote. Here you are trying to promote the Queen so lead the 4 towards the Queen hoping next player has the missing King. DO NOT start by playing the queen as there is no mileage in that play at all.</p>
133	<p>Be aware of the Barrier Principle and it works like this :- If you open 1♣ then your barrier bid is 2♣ If you open 1♦ then your barrier bid is 2♦ If you open 1♥ then your barrier bid is 2♥ If you open 1♠ then your barrier bid is 2♠ so if you Open the bidding and then BID BEYOND YOUR BARRIER BID next time around you are showing a better than minimum hand, generally at least 15/16 points, a hand that you can control the auction to the three level. This is usually referred to as a Reverse bid, but Barrier bid principle is an easier way to understand it.</p>
134	<p>If partner makes a mistake if you can stay calm you could still save the day -be calm. see Lawrence tip (1)</p>
135	<p>If nothing else appeals, leading the Ace in partner's bid suit is most acceptable. In all post mortems you will always win if you lead partner's suit. If it turns out badly, blame partner for overcalling on bad quality suits</p>
136	<p>In Blackwood if you are not sure what the agreed suit is for trumps then it is the last bid suit before Blackwood was initiated so in the auction 1♠ 2♣ 2♥ 4NT 4NT is Blackwood and Hearts is now understood to be the agreed common suit</p>
137	<p>Don't leave a Bare King or Queen on the table (it's rude) if the opponents lead a suit against your 3NT contract. In dummy you have Q6 and in your hand you have K32- go up with dummy's Queen and hope the opponent has led from the Ace. In this way your K3 left in your hand is still some sort of guard- it is protected.</p>
138	<p>Partner Opens 1NT 12-14 and you have any hand with 0-10 points and 5 cards in Spades or in Hearts or in Diamonds immediately rescue to 2♠ or 2♥ or 2♦ as a weak take-out</p>
139	<p>If partner Opens 1♣ or 1♦ and you have support for that suit BUT you have your own 4 card Major then introduce the Major. You can always give delayed support for the Minor later in the auction. Your four card Major at this point of the auction is sacrosanct.</p>
140	<p>To reply you only need 6 points and with all 6 point hands you should do so because partner might have a really good hand and then between you, you might be able to make Game. However, if the person between you and partner bids (intervenes) then you are off the hook and with a bare 6 points, unless you can support, you should No Bid for the time being. You know partner has another bid.</p>

141	If you have to dislodge two top cards from the opponents' hands to make your 3NT contract and they attack a suit in which you have two of their top cards STILL HOLD UP for ONE ROUND, to cut communications between the two defenders.
142	If you don't have trump control (no Ace) and the opponents attack your problematic non trump suit in which you have A54 you may need to dump the 54 on winners in an outside suit before touching trumps. SOMETIMES DUMP LOSERS BEFORE DRAWING TRUMPS
143	Do not trump in the long hand. Most of the time this achieves nothing as you have counted these cards as winners. Also you might be putting your contract into danger as you lose control of the trumps suit. You run out of trumps
144	With long strong trumps between the two hands RUFF HIGH enough so you don't get OVERRUFFED . Flaunt it.
145	If somebody opened 1NT (12-14 or 15-17) and you end up declarer you can immediately calculate the two defenders hands and work out where all the key cards are.
146	If partner bids 2 suits you should only support partner's second suit if you have four card support. Opener might only have four in his second suit.
147	Dummy has three trumps and a void then DON'T DRAW TRUMPS but try to do as many ruffs in dummy, the short hand, as you can.
148	Don't play back the same suit as they have led especially in No Trump- you don't want to be helping the defenders out do you?
149	If you think all your remaining cards are winners STILL PLAY FROM THE TOP just in case you have made a mistake.
150	To Open 1NT you do not need to have an honour in all suits. As long as you have 4333 or 4432 or 5332 you can open 1NT so with ♠ A K 7 6 open 1NT and here you have two suits with no honours ♥ A K 8 ♦ 9 5 4 The same applies if you are playing Strong No Trump promising ♣ 4 3 2 15-17 (maybe stick ♥Q in)
151	If you have 4/5 points and good four card support for the Major don't be afraid to reply 2 of same Major so with: ♠ A 9 7 6 ♥ 8 7 5 4 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 4 3 2 reply 2♥ when partner opens 1♥ you could be a lot worse than this don't be shy here - it won't kill you to bid 2♥
152	Partner opens 1nT and you have terrible hand with NO POINTS but you do have FIVE CARD SUIT then remember to do a WEAKNESS TAKE-OUT BID and reply 2♠ or 2♥ or 2♦ - do not be lazy and just Pass. ♠ 9 7 6 ♥ 8 7 5 4 2 ♦ 9 5 4 ♣ 4 3 Reply 2♥ and expect partner to Now Pass. (2)

153	<p>Singletons and Voids are really good when you have a FIT but when you have a misfit they are worth nothing</p> <p>♠ K 8 7 reply 3♥ and expect partner to Now Pass. ♥ 8 7 5 4 when partner opens 1♥ ♦ K Q 9 5 4 as your hand now improves ♣ 4 with the singleton</p> <p>♠ K 8 7 reply 1NT when partner Opens 1♥ ♥ 8 now your misfitting singleton ♦ K Q 9 5 4 is worth Zilch UGH ♣ 8 7 5 4</p>
154	<p>SILENCE IS GOLDEN TIME- if the opening bid is 1 of a Suit and you, the next player, have same suit or balanced 13/14 points you MUST PASS.</p>
155	<p>All Rebid problems usually occur because you have forgotten to Open 1NT in the first place - so don't forget to do so even with reasonable five card Major so with:</p> <p>♠ A J 9 4 2 and also ♠ A K 6 ♥ J 5 3 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ A K 7 ♦ A K 7 2 ♣ 9 5 4 ♣ 8 5 4</p> <p>playing weak No Trump Open both of these 1NT</p>
156	<p>When taking a finesse plan where you want to be and plan to remain in same hand if you need to finesse more than once so in following layout</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Q T 7 K 7 5 4 2 J 9 8 6</p> <p>play the Jack first dropping the T from dummy or the 9 first dropping the 7 from dummy you want to be in South to perform the finesse three times so stay in South</p>
157	<p>Most of the time it is best to do the trumping in your dummy rather than in your hand. Dummy invariably will be the short hand in trumps and your own hand will be the long hand. Ruffing in the short hand, dummy< will therefore generate extra tricks. If you ruff in your hand, the long hand most of the time you aren't achieving very much because you have already counted them as tricks. 5 tricks or 4 tricks and one ruff or 3 tricks and 2 ruffs still only makes 5 tricks.</p>
158	<p>If no other lead appeals then lead a trump - it will generally be safe.</p>
159	<p>Look Out for tricks from QJ7 opposite 543 lead from the 543 hand twice and you have 75% chance of building one trick finessing opponents' Ace and King.</p>
160	<p>Persevere with Long suits even if you do not hold enough high cards so with A7653 opposite 842 if you follow through with this suit eventually the suit will produce 3 extra tricks for you if the opponents cards divide 3:2. (68% chance).</p>
161	<p>Rule of 1 - if there is one trump out higher than all yours then most of time it is correct not to draw it as its a bad exchange rate (2 for1) (But also see Advanced Tip this week)</p>
162	<p>If declarer leads a Queen from dummy and you have the King does not cover if there is also the Jack in dummy. Do not cover first time around when you can see touching honours. The reason you cover an honour with an honour is to try to promote the card below it, but you can see the honour, (Jack here), you are trying to promote, is still in the dummy.</p>
163	<p>Play one suit at a time and then you can keep track as to how many have gone. Counting more than one suit is almost impossible when you start.</p>

164	Play unblocking honours as soon as possible before they give you grief so with KQ opposite AJ543 play this suit early- if you do this then latterly you will not have to overtake
165	If you reply 3 of a Suit when partner Opens 1NT it shows a very strong hand, usually 15+ points, looking for a Slam
166	Don't distort hand patterns- if you have 4432 Open 1 of your suits and rebid No Trump. If you try to rebid the other suit partner will think you are 54 shape and you aren't.
167	If you partner replies in the 2 level promising 8+ points (10 with distribution) and you now JUMP IN ORIGINAL SUIT this is now Game Forcing. If you have 15/16 points and six card suit and partner has 10+ points then you should definitely be making game shouldn't you?
168	In a suit contract PREFER to set up a second suit to get your contract rather than randomly ruffing cards just because you have a shortage, especially if that shortage is in the long trump hand and you would be making tricks from that trump suit regardless.
169	If you are short of entries to dummy's long suit that needs to be established then delay drawing trumps and actually use the trumps as entries once the suit has been established.
170	When you defend you should adhere to declarer's rules of playing the high card from the short hand so if partner leads fourth highest card and you have AQ6 make sure you win first trick with Ace and fire back the Queen (high cards from short hand) so you do not get blocked. You know partner is the long hand because he led that suit.
171	If you have an honour in partner's suit other than the Ace then lead a small card retaining the honour just in case partner needs an entry back to your hand later on in the Game. Low card promises an honour in partner's suit.
172	When you get in do not cash winners in declarer's suit- you will be helping the declaring side more than the defending side.
173	When you are leading of course you should be leading Tops of Sequences. However when FOLLOWING suit you do the OPPOSITE and follow suit with the lowest of touching cards.
174	Every time you are about to play an ACE THINK- should I be trying the Queen and finessing? Should I wait because I am in second seat and see what partner does (2nd hand plays low)
175	Most of the time it is not correct to play back the suit that the opponents lead. Are you playing their tune or your tune?
176	Every time you ruff are you achieving anything? If you ruff in the long hand, probably not so don't just ruff for ruffing's sake
177	You were just about to Open 1♠ and the opposition open 1♠ JUST SAY NO BID you are at conflict with them so why get involved.
178	If declarer has bid 2 suits and ended up in the second bid suit and you have declarer's first bid suit lead a trump. Dummy can't have too many cards in this suit and if you want to win tricks in this suit you need to draw trumps at every opportunity so lead a trump.
179	Every time you bid you should NOT match the bid up to the hand but you should be saying "What am I doing, am I opening, am I replying or am I overcalling?" If you do this you will not get muddled up in your point counts- e.g. Opening 1NT is 12-14, replying 1NT is 6-9 but overcalling 1NT is 16-18.
180	With grotty trumps A 543 opposite 9762 play a low card from each hand then Ace next and then the opposition can enjoy their last winning trump any time they wish to do so.
181	What does leading away from An Ace against a suit contract (BAD LEAD) mean? If you have a suit such as A65 or A932 and you lead a card from this suit, invariably you are helping declarer's cause more than you own. In the following situation if you avoid leading from your Ace suit your side will win at least two tricks but if you play your Ace or lead a low one you will allow declarer to make two tricks <p style="text-align: center;">Q 3 2</p> <p>YOU A 6 5 4 J T 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K 8 7</p>

182	Before you duck the first trick in a No Trump contract, only do so, if you are happy that the defenders will not switch to an even worse suit. If the defender has led fourth highest 2 then he has probably led from a four card suit so perhaps he can't do that much harm in the suit led as you first thought possible.																								
183	Even when you don't have all the top cards you must still enforce the high card from the short hand rule so as not to GET BLOCKED so with Q J 7 6 opposite K 3 2 play the King first T 8 4 opposite Q J 5 3 2 play the T first																								
184	If you don't have control of trumps suit (NO ACE) then sometimes before drawing trumps you might need to dump a loser first. so in a Spade contract here in order to make 10 tricks you will need to play two rounds of Hearts immediately to dump one of your Diamond losers <table border="1" data-bbox="167 566 687 728"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>K J 9</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♠</td> <td>Q 8 7 5 4 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A K T 3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♥</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>Q 9 6 3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♦</td> <td>8 7 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>J 5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>A Q 4</td> </tr> </table>	♠	K J 9			♠	Q 8 7 5 4 3	♥	A K T 3			♥	6	♦	Q 9 6 3			♦	8 7 2	♣	J 5			♣	A Q 4
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185	Only count one suit at a time - first trumps, then forget about them and the count another suit.																								
186	If you have holding in a suit such as A54 or K43 or AQ8 or AJT5 or KJ6 and you are leading against a Suit contract AVOID LEADING from THESE HOLDINGS. More often than not, it helps declarer more than the defending side. This is known as not leading away from an unsupported honour or away from a Tenace																								
187	If you have a terrible terrible hand ignore leading 4th highest of your longest suit and make a short suit lead and try and find partner- usually a Major if the opponents haven't transferred or bid Stayman as all indicators suggest that partner must have that Major.																								
188	Once partner has overcalled you only need THREE CARD SUPPORT because partner is promising 5 card suit.																								
189	If you want to make weak take-out in Clubs after 1NT you bid 2♣ and then repeat 3♣. and partner should now Pass. To make this bid you need 6 card suit.																								
190	Don't suffer from singleton Syndrome – it's not good for your bridge health- Partner bids No Trump and you have the dreaded singleton be happy and pass. Partner knows what he is doing.																								
191	If responder repeats first suit at two level they are very weak with 6 card suit- they have to have six as they have rejected both of opener's suits and insisted on theirs.																								
192	When you defend Aces and Kings are meant to beat the declarer's high honours so leading an unsupported Ace or King merely helps the declaring side more than the defending side.																								
193	What makes a good 13 or a Bad 13? This is a bad 13 whereas this is a very good 13 and you should accept invitations if and when partner invites <table data-bbox="167 1523 837 1780"> <tr> <td>♠ A 5 4 3</td> <td></td> <td>♠ K Q T 9 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K 4 3</td> <td></td> <td>♥ A T 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K Q 4</td> <td></td> <td>♦ K J 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ J 6 5</td> <td></td> <td>♣ T 9</td> </tr> </table> so 2s 3s and 4 and very balanced make for bad 13s and 10s 9s and 5 card suits make for good 13s	♠ A 5 4 3		♠ K Q T 9 5	♥ K 4 3		♥ A T 9	♦ K Q 4		♦ K J 9	♣ J 6 5		♣ T 9												
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194	With A opposite KQT96 plays off that Ace early before it gives you grief later and you get blocked.																								
195	Normally it is correct to play back the suit partner has led, maybe they are looking for a ruff or they want to get his suit established in No trump ARYPS- always return your partner's suit																								

196	If you make any sort of limit bid you should not bid again (unless invited or forced). If you Open 1NT and the auction gets competitive and your partner competes to the three level do not go to 4. He has made the decision to compete to three. If he thought he could make 4 he would have bid 4 himself.
197	With A6532 opposite KJ87 you are going to finesse the Jack and lead low from the A6532 side but before you commit to a finesse play off the Ace first just in case Right Hand opponent has a singleton Queen and no finesse was needed. You will feel really sick afterwards to committing to an immediate finesse later to discover that the Queen was singleton all the time.
198	With T86 opposite AQ954 play the T and let it run to finesse. The chances of getting 4 tricks have a 75% success rate.
199	Do stay with the same suit when you defend a No Trump contract. a) The suit might become established b) you will not open up other suits.
200	If you make a pre-emptive overcall in lower ranking suit you have to go to 4 level in that suit so after 1♥, 4♦ or 4♣ would be a pre-emptive overcall.
201	With AQJT75 opposite 932 please play the 9 and stay in correct hand to do a second finesse.
202	If partner opens the bidding and next player overcalls 1NT and you have 8 or more points POUNCE with a PENALTY DOUBLE.- you have the balance of Power.
203	All you need to make a WEAK TAKE-OUT bid of 2♣ or 2♥ or 2♠ after partner opens 1NT is a FIVE CARD SUIT, enabling your partnership to have at least 7 cards in the suit (at worst partner should turn up with two card support)
204	To overcall you need GOOD QUALITY SUITS – you are indirectly saying, even if we don't win the auction, please lead my suit so AQxxx is good merchantable quality and Jxxxx or even Qxxxx IS NOT.
205	Sometimes you need to get your second suit established before drawing trumps because you will need to use the trumps later as entries back to the established suit.
206	If you are well endowed in all suits this is clear sign to DRAW TRUMPS and not run the gauntlet that one of your outside winners will be trumped.
207	Think Stayman EVERY TIME partner opens 1NT even if you dismiss it after thinking it- you always take out an umbrella even if it's not raining and you don't always use it either.
208	If you can afford it DO RUFF HIGH to avoid being overruffed.
209	Leading with a DOUBLETON then lead TOP of that doubleton so partner knows you have two. If you have three small then adopt Middle Up Down (MUD to distinguish between a trebleton and a Doubleton.
210	Leading the T from T94 or T95 turns out to be a good lead a lot of the time when you are stuck for anything else.
211	Please don't ruff in long hand and reduce the number of trumps. You were making all those trumps regardless.
212	To do a weakness take-out after 1NT you need 5 or more card suit and then that guarantees at least 7 trumps (worst case scenario partner only has two).
213	With horrid 4441 hands and only 11 or 12 points JUST PASS as you will have problems later in your rebidding
214	If the opponents bid THREE SUITS and then end up in the Fourth one LEAD A TRUMP.
215	If you reply 2NT directly it shows 11/12 points balanced, if you go round the houses and still bid 2NT it still shows 11/12.
216	Why do we draw trumps so we will not get our outside winners ruffed? Draw trumps even with lousy trumps.
217	Please reply in 4 cards Major firstly, even if you have 4 card support for the Minor.
218	Please don't overcall on balanced 13 point hands- Just be disciplined and PASS
219	Stay with SAME SUIT while it is fresh in your mind.
220	If both opponents are bidding and you have 14 points DROP OUT the Auction as you can work out partner has ZILTCH (ZILCH)

221	With KQ8 opposite 532 you will need to lead up to the King Queen twice so do manage your entries well and if need be win first trick in dummy.
222	The reason Second hand plays low because partner is still there and will be finishing the trick off
223	Silence is Golden especially when you have same suits as opposition
224	Don't play the High controlling cards in the opposition's suits, this is applicable to both declarer and each defender.
225	Please BE COMPETITIVE – push the opponent's one level up and see them go one off.
226	Against a suit contract don't lead from K-J-7-6-5 all the way around into declarer's A-Q- the free gift department
227	As declarer don't play into the opposition's hands. Don't play back the suit they led.
228	If partner has passed your opening bid of 1♠ then you immediately know he has less than 6 points.
229	Leading and following suit are opposite when you lead low says Like but when you follow suit it says Dislike, when you lead high you dislike but when you follow suit you Like.
230	Leading T from T9X is very often a good lead as it creates a position against dummy.
231	When you defend, Aces and Kings are meant to beat High Cards.
232	When the bidding goes 1NT or 2NT opener followed by a 4NT Reply this is QUANTITATIVE and is INVITATIONAL to 6NT and says to Opener bid 6 if you are Maximum (14- if weak No Trump or 17 (if strong NT)_or 22 after 2NT) and to merely Pass with a Minimum.
233	In second hand don't be in hurry to ruff in. Partner might have a higher card and there is no need to ruff in. Also by ruffing in, this is equivalent of second hand playing high and as we all know second hand plays low. Partner is still there for the current trick.
234	Don't lead SINGLETON Kings and Queens and doubleton Queens. They are the worst leads in bridge.
235	Opponent leads a low club and on table there is Q5 and in your hand is A72 try that Queen at trick 1 and hope left hand opponent has led away from the King. Don't leave bare King or queen on table as it's rude.
236	<p>If partner opens 1♣ and you have two four card suits when you respond BID UP THE LINE please WITH FOURS. so with:</p> <p>♠ 5 4 ♥ A K 5 4 ♦ Q 7 4 3 ♣ A 4 2</p> <p>reply 2♦ when partner opens 1♠ as that's the first suit Up The Line</p>
237	If you open the bidding in first and second seat you PROMISE A REBID and must go through with it. In 3 rd and 4 th seats if partner has already Passed now the obligation of having a rebid ready no longer applies.
238	<p>If partner opens 1♣ and you have two four card suits when you respond BID UP THE LINE please WITH FOURS.</p> <p>♠ A K Q 3 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ 9 7 2</p> <p>so here you reply 1♥ because that is the first suit up the line in this sequence</p>
239	With 6 opposite AKJT83 make sure you finesse and play the 6 and when next player plays low try that Jack (or T). Playing AK off the top is very much against all the odds expecting somebody to have a doubleton Queen.
240	The structure of rebidding 1NT to show 15/16 points balanced 2NT to show 17/18 points balanced is only done if partner has replied promising 6+ points.
241	Leading T from T9x is very often a good lead as it creates a position against dummy.

242	<p>If partner opens 1♣ and you have two four card suit BID UP THE LINE please WITH FOURS. so reply 1♥ with and not 1♠</p> <p>♠ A K 7 6 ♥ J 4 3 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ 3 2</p>
243	If you Pass initially and partner bids a suit you like then you can come back into the auction- partner will not expect a Rose Garden- partner will now you have less than 6 points and will not get overexcited and punish you for competing.
244	Leading and following suit are opposite when you lead low says Like but when you follow suit it says Dislike, when you lead high you dislike but when you follow suit you Like.
245	If partner Converts an INFORMATIVE Double by Passing, LEAD A TRUMP.
246	Rely on a second suit for all your tricks especially AQ9654 opposite a singleton, ruff the suit twice and maybe all the rest will be winners.
247	When you lead you lead top of touching cards but when you FOLLOW SUIT you play lowest of touching cards (complete opposite) so with QJT you lead the Queen but when following suit you follow with the T.
248	=247
249	The technique for drawing trumps when you have A543 opposite 9876 is to play a low one from each hand and then when you get initiative back play the Ace. They can then have their winner at any time.
250	When leading your partner's suit lead Ace from Ace Doubleton, not a low one.
251	When the bidding goes 1♣ - 1♥ reply - if opener now rebids 2♥ it is minimum with 13/14 and 3♥ rebid is 15-17 and 4♥ would be 18/19.
252	Make bids that sound like your hand so if you are LONG AND STRONG bid your suit and then JUMP REBID in ORIGINAL SUIT.
253	Please BUILD TRICKS so with 9643 opposite QJ3 lead up to the QJ3 and build at least one trick and lead from the 9643 side twice hoping for Split Honours.
254	Please don't be in a hurry to go in with dummy's Ace when you have the Queen in your hand- you may well be able to win first trick with your Queen.
255	If you ruff in SHORT HAND you GENERATE EXTRA TRICKS, conversely if you ruff in the long hand you were probably making these tricks as trump tricks regardless.
256	You really MUST PLAY back the suit partner led in first trick especially in No Trump contracts.
257	Bids are as they sound if any player repeats a suit at the lowest possible level they are showing a minimum hand and six card suit. This goes, for opener, responder and overcaller.
258	T975 is so close to a Sequence that you should lead the T. Ts from T9s in bridge are always very good leads.
259	Generally speaking it is best not to lead a suit that the opposition has bid especially against a No Trump contract.
260	Sometimes before drawing trumps you have to get your second suit going first and if necessary ruff a card in that second suit to establish it.
261	Try and keep track of your second suit which might easily become established.
262	With Q opposite AKJT play the Queen and OVERTAKE to be in correct hand to continue the suit.
263	Sometimes you need to knock out Ace of side suit before touching trumps in case you actually need the trump suit as your entry to this side suit.
264	With Q65 in partner's suit lead the 5 - low one says you have honour in partner's suit later.
265	If there is a long suit in dummy and you have the Ace of that suit don't be in hurry to take it and you might cut declarer off from dummy.

266	Sometimes before drawing trumps you have to get your second suit going first and if necessary ruff a card in that second suit.
267	Push the opponents up and maybe they will go one off ☺
268	With two five time black suits I prefer to Open 1♣ and then you can show both suits. (HIGHER of FIVES so with Spades and Clubs when they touch, Clubs is in fact higher ☺).
269	If declarer tries to set up a suit please don't play that suit back and help declarer's cause.
270	If partner has six card suit and four card major and responder replies in that Major SUPPORT- bridge is a partnership game UGH.
271	Establish suits like this:-QJT9 opposite 54- although this might not be your longest suit - it has potential for two tricks.
272	Bids are as they sound so if you want to make a weak bid RETREAT LOW, if you want to make an INVITING BID JUMP in ORIGINAL SUIT, if you want to be in GAME JUMP to GAME. Think what you want to convey.
273	DOWNGRADE ACELESS HANDS by at least 1 point.
274	Once both opponents are bidding don't join in with balanced 13/14 points.
275	Playing weak No trump (12-14 points) Partner opens 1NT and you have 9 points balanced JUST NO BID as the total is never ever going to reach 25.
276	In all situations bid the HIGHER OF FIVES i.e. when Opening, when replying and when intervening.
277	2♣ is the strongest Opening bid you can make and promises either 23+ points or 10 tricks in Spades or Hearts- Game in your own hand.
278	With AKT976 opposite QJ as your trump suit play off queen and then OVERTAKE the Jack to be in right hand to finish drawing the remaining trumps. This can also apply in No Trumps to be in correct hand and not to get blocked.
279	When you defend don't be in a hurry to cash unsupported Aces especially as those Aces might be the controlling aces in the opposition's suits.
280	Never deny a four card Major means that you don't deny a four card Major (at the one level) when RESPONDING to partner's 1♣ or 1♦ or even 1♥ Opener so with: ♠ Q965 ♥ 965 ♦ Q87 ♣ Q65 Reply 1♠ when partner opens 1♦ even though you are balanced.
281	Do notice if the opponent leads a TWO and you immediately know he has led from a four card suit.
282	With a good hand if partner has opened never be shy in introducing a new suit to keep the auction going.
283	Sometimes to make a contract just FOCUS ON ESTABLISHING ONE SUIT and use all your concentration on that suit only.
284	If partner cant reply first time around don't get too excited with your 19 points as you know partner has less than 6.
285	Playing a Weak No Trump, a rebid of 1NT shows 15/16 points balanced and a rebid of 2NT shows 17/18 Balanced and 3NT will show 19 points balanced (it goes up in twos after 12-14).
286	Against No Trump contracts it is recommended that you lead 4th highest from an honour e.g. K7542 lead the 4 but from a suit without an honour e.g. 97542 lead the second highest, the 7 here. Once partner knows your suit is not good then partner can still continue with this suit if he is good or switch if he isn't.
287	Always bid your longest suit so with: ♠ 9 8 6 4 2 please Open 1♠ ♥ A K Q J ♦ K 8 ♣ 9 4

302	<p>Never deny a four card Major at the 1 level when replying so when partner opens 1♣ reply 1♠ and not 1NT if you can. so with:</p> <p>♠ Q 9 7 6 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ K J 7 ♣ Q 7 3 reply 1♠</p>																				
303	<p>Barrier Bid principle :- if you open 1C your barrier bid is 2C if you open 1D your barrier bid is 2D if you open 1H your barrier bid is 2H if you open 1S your barrier bid is 2S If you make your second rebid BEYOND YOUR BARRIER bid then you are showing extra values 15/16 points not mere 13 count. If you only have mere 13 count you are best to rebid original suit and not to try and show another suit that might be beyond your original Barrier bid.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>♠ A Q 9 5 4 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K Q 9 5 4 ♣ 7</p> <p>Open 1♠ happy to rebid 2♦ over a 2♣ reply as its within your barrier</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>♠ A Q 9 5 4 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K Q 9 5 4 ♣ 7</p> <p>However after opening 1♠ if partner replies 2♥ then you will have to reluctantly have to rebid 2♠ and be within your barrier</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>♠ A Q 9 5 4 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K Q 9 5 4 ♣ 7</p> <p>Open 1♠ happy to rebid 2♦ over a 2♣ reply as its within your barrier</p>	<p>♠ A Q 9 5 4 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K Q 9 5 4 ♣ 7</p> <p>However after opening 1♠ if partner replies 2♥ then you will have to reluctantly have to rebid 2♠ and be within your barrier</p>																		
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304	<p>With 4-4-4-1 shape open the suit below the Singleton and with a singleton Club Open 1♥. So:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ 7</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ Q 9 5 4</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ A K 8 7</td> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ A Q 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A Q 5 4</td> <td>♥ 7</td> <td>♥ Q 9 5 4</td> <td>♥ A K 8 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A K 8 7</td> <td>♦ A Q 5 4</td> <td>♦ 7</td> <td>♦ Q 9 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q 9 5 4</td> <td>♣ A K 8 7</td> <td>♣ A Q 5 4</td> <td>♣ 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open 1♥</td> <td>Open 1♦</td> <td>Open 1♣</td> <td>Open 1♥</td> </tr> </table>	♠ 7	♠ Q 9 5 4	♠ A K 8 7	♠ A Q 5 4	♥ A Q 5 4	♥ 7	♥ Q 9 5 4	♥ A K 8 7	♦ A K 8 7	♦ A Q 5 4	♦ 7	♦ Q 9 5 4	♣ Q 9 5 4	♣ A K 8 7	♣ A Q 5 4	♣ 7	Open 1♥	Open 1♦	Open 1♣	Open 1♥
♠ 7	♠ Q 9 5 4	♠ A K 8 7	♠ A Q 5 4																		
♥ A Q 5 4	♥ 7	♥ Q 9 5 4	♥ A K 8 7																		
♦ A K 8 7	♦ A Q 5 4	♦ 7	♦ Q 9 5 4																		
♣ Q 9 5 4	♣ A K 8 7	♣ A Q 5 4	♣ 7																		
Open 1♥	Open 1♦	Open 1♣	Open 1♥																		
305	<p>Don't Overcall with balanced 13/14 point hands, JUST PASS.</p>																				
306	<p>Partner with Nothing can bid 2♠ with this hand:</p> <p>♠ T 6 5 4 3 ♥ 7 6 ♦ T 6 5 4 3 ♣ 6</p> <p>you do not need any points to make a weakness take-out</p>																				
307	<p>If you reply 2NT directly over partner's 1 of a suit opener this shows 11/12 points balanced., If you reply in new suit and then rebid 2NT as your response it still shows 11-12 points balanced.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ Q 6 5 4</td> <td style="width: 50%;">you initially reply 1♠ when</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 7 6</td> <td>partner open 1♥ but then</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K Q 9 7</td> <td>rebid 2nT over partner's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A 7 4</td> <td>2♣ rebid</td> </tr> </table>	♠ Q 6 5 4	you initially reply 1♠ when	♥ 7 6	partner open 1♥ but then	♦ K Q 9 7	rebid 2nT over partner's	♣ A 7 4	2♣ rebid												
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308	<p>In third seat, as a DEFENDER, if two low cards have already been played, PLAY HIGH and make last person work hard for the current trick- THIRD HAND PLAYS HIGH.</p>																				
309	<p>Rule of 1 - if there is only 1 trump out (usually the Queen) and it's higher than all yours then no need to draw it - Bad exchange rate of 2 for 1 when the Queen will always make regardless.</p>																				

310	Top of a Sequence in your longest suit lead OVERRIDES 4th Highest lead so from K-Q-J-9-6 lead that KING. You would not want to lead that 9 and let declarer win the trick cheaply with the T, would you?
311	Establish suits like this Q-J-T-9 opposite 5-4 - although this is not your longest suit it has potential for two tricks.
312	To make a Stayman reply to 1NT you need either 11+ points or total rubbish with 5-4 in the Majors.
313	When discarding, keep your long suits in No Trumps as all the small cards are potential winners.
314	Never deny a four card Major at the 1 level when replying so when partner opens 1 ♦ reply 1♥ or 1♠ and not 1NT if you can do so even if you are balanced so with: ♠ Q 7 5 4 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ J 7 6 Reply 1♥ when partner opens 1 ♦ even though you are very balanced.
315	If responder bids 2 suits this too shows 5-4 and enables opener to give delayed 3 card support.
316	A Jump in same suit by Opener promises 15/16 points and six card suit. Approximating to 6/7 playing tricks. so with: ♠ A K J T 5 4 ♥ A K 6 ♦ 9 4 ♣ 7 3 Do Open 1♠ and remember to wake up and rebid 3♠
317	If you lead a low card this usually says you have an honour in the suit, so from Q-7-3 lead the 3. And from J-7-4-3 lead the 2.
318	With A-J-4-3 opposite K-5-2 this might be the longest suit between the two hands in a No Trump contract BUT persevere with it and finesse that Jack and surprise yourself when it produces 4 tricks. the suit is favorably laid out like this:- <div style="text-align: center;"> K 5 2 T 9 8 Q 7 6 A J 4 3 </div>
319	1NT - 2♠/2♥/2♦ are all WEAK REPLIES and now Opener MUST NOT BID ON. - If your partner does bid on then find a new partner.
320	You get extra tricks by RUFFING IN THE SHORT hand USUALLY DUMMY. If you ruff in the long hand you were making those tricks any way.
321	Top of sequence provided it's in your longest suit is more important than 4th highest of your longest suit against No Trump contracts - with K-Q-J-9-5 you would lead the King - you would not want to lead the 9 and get beaten by declarer's T would you ???
322	Rule of 1- If there is one trump out higher than all yours then don't bother to draw it as it's a bad exchange rate 2 for 1.
323	Lead from your long suit versus No trump contracts as this leads to tricks for the defence that's why you lead your long suit - here lead the 6 from A-Q-T-6-5 the 4th highest of your long suit.
324	Replies after partner opens 1♠ in No Trump as follows (NB Limit Bids show points and shape) a) 1NT - 6-9 balanced, b) 2NT 11-12 balanced c) 3NT 13-15 balanced.
325	If you Rebid 1NT opposite a PASSED PARTNER then you are now showing Balanced hand with 18/19 points- you are on your own so can no longer rebid 1nT with only 15/16- partner might have Zero points.

326	Most of the time when you re-bid in a new suit you are showing 5-4 shape (exception if 4-4-4-1) so partner should now support the first suit with three card support especially if you have three card support for the Major if that was the first bid suit.
327	Don't do CHINESE FINESSES when you try and finesse an unsupported honour- Lead towards the unsupported honour if you want to try and promote it so with: Q 5 4 opposite A 3 2 Do not play that Queen- no mileage whatsoever. Lead the 2 towards the Queen, the card you are trying to promote.
328	During the bidding period, as with Stocks and Shares, hands go up in value and down in value- with a fit hands go up, with a misfit hands go down.
329	A Limit bid shows points and Shape and once you make any sort of limit bid you DO NOT Bid again unless invited to or forced to by partner.
330	To Make a pre-emptive overcall you need to DOUBLE JUMP so over 1♥ you only need to overcall with 3♠ but over 1♥ you now need to overcall 4♣ if you want to make a pre-emptive bid in Clubs.
331	Lead tops of sequences and tops of Interior sequences against No trump contracts but don't bother with anything less than the T so with A-J-T-9-5 lead the Jack but Q-9-8-7 lead the 7.
332	If you see dummy has source of tricks then GO ACTIVE and switch to your good suit or partner's potentially good suit and get your tricks early.
333	Open light in third seat as you no longer need to have rebid ready BUT have good quality suit as you are indirectly saying Lead my suit if we don't win the auction.
334	If one hand has a shortage (for ruffing) then create a different shortage in other hand.
335	Replies in No Trump as follows (NB Limit Bids show points and shape) a) 1NT- 6-9 balanced, b) 2NT 11-12 balanced, c) 3NT 13-15 balanced. With 10 points reply in your longest suit event if it's only 4.
336	If you have fit with partner (4 card support) then you can add extra points for shortages i.e. 3 for void, 2 for a singleton and 1 for a doubleton.- these shortages mean you might be able to ruff i.e. you have "ruffing values" here.
337	When finessing lead from the opposite hand towards the cards you are trying to promote so with: 5-4 opposite K-3 or start from the 5-4 side here as you are trying to promote the King 5-4-2 opposite K-Q-3 start from the 5-4-2 side TWICE as you are trying to promote both the King and the Queen.
338	When rebid in same suit - most of time you will be showing SIX CARD SUIT- weakly retreating to the two level or strongly with a jump to the three level.
339	In 4 th seat 1NT is 10-14 points the protective seat i.e. the bidding goes: N E S W 1♥ NO NO 1NT Now in the pass out seat you need to protect your side's interests so you can bid with less here.
340	In 4 th seat if the bidding goes: N E S W 1♥ NO NO ? To double now only needs 10+ points. The expression for bidding in 4 th seat is that you can borrow a King

341	When declaring, If one hand has a shortage (for ruffing) then create a different shortage in other hand
342	In a No Trump contract, if the opponents lead your really dodgy suit where you only have one controlling card HOLD UP and try and cut communications between the two defenders so that they cannot reap the benefit of their long suit
343	If dummy has three trumps and a singleton this is usually a clear sign to delay drawing trumps so you can take advantage of dummy by ruffing losers (the singleton suit) in dummy while there are still trumps in the dummy.
344	Third hand plays HIGH BUT only as high as necessary so if you have JT6 in 3rd seat play the T and maybe partner might be able to work out you have the Jack and if dummy has J95 and you are third after dummy and have QT3 then the T is "as high as necessary" isn't it if declarer plays the 5 from dummy.
345	Players lose concentration and expect trumps to break 2-2 and are less likely to notice if the suit breaks 3-1 if you play a card of the same colour when discarding and some declarers then forget to draw the last trump.
346	<p>Don't lead unsupported honours because the nasty opposition will merely cover them and you will promote nothing so with:</p> <p>A K 7 6 opposite J 5 3 2 you play off Ace King and hope somebody has doubleton Queen because if the cards are divided like this you look really stupid for playing the Jack</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A K 7 6</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Q 8</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">T 9 4</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">J 5 3 2</p> <p>Playing the Jack merely gives them the T which they would not have made had you played off Ace King from the start!!</p>
347	Partner replies 1♠ and you have a good hand but a Spade void start to backpedal – misfitting hands need to be dropped early.
348	LOW LIKES is ONLY FOR LEADING (not following suit) L L L HIGH HATES is ONLY FOR LEADING (not following suit) H H L
349	When you play Weak No Trump showing 12-14 points then your rebids in No Trumps are as follows 1NT rebid = 15/16, 2Nt=17/18 and 3NT shows 19/poor 20 (just remember it goes up in 2s and all you have to remember is the 12-14 bit !!).
350	<p>If you have lousy trumps DO NOT DESPAIR especially if you have 8 in this scenario:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A 7 6 5 4</p> <p>K Q J</p> <p style="margin-left: 100px;">T 9</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">8 3 2</p> <p>Firstly duck a round and then play Ace and then they can have their winning top card any time they like- you do not need to draw it now.</p>
351	If you have all winners left bar one then play them out finishing in the closed hand and maybe one of the defenders will keep the wrong card.
352	If you have a competitive auction with them bidding onto 4H the experts Say that if in Doubt you should always bid 4♠ over 4♥ if in doubt.
353	<p>If you bid a minor and then a major and then repeat the Major you are showing 6-5 shape because if you had 5-5 shape you would have opened the Major in the first place. so here open 1♦ here and then bid spades and spades again:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">♠ J T 9 5</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">♥ Q</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">♦ K Q T 6 5 4</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">♣ A</p> <p>NB You bid spades twice but partner can work out you have 6 Diamonds.</p>

353	<p>If you bid a minor and then a major and then repeat the Major you are showing 6-5 shape because if you had 5-5 shape you would have opened the Major in the first place. so here open 1♦ here and then bid spades and spades again:</p> <p>♠ J T 9 5 ♥ Q ♦ K Q T 6 5 4 ♣ A</p> <p>NB You bid spades twice but partner can work out you have 6 Diamonds.</p>								
354	<p>In third seat you can Open light but treat your light opening bid like an Overcall and only do so if you want the suit led so:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ A Q 6 5 4</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ Q 6 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♥ K J 6</td> <td style="border: none;">♥ K J 7 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♦ 9 4</td> <td style="border: none;">♦ A 9 8 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♣ 7 6 5</td> <td style="border: none;">♣ 9 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Here Open 1♠ in third seat In third seat here JUST PASS</p>	♠ A Q 6 5 4	♠ Q 6 5 4	♥ K J 6	♥ K J 7 2	♦ 9 4	♦ A 9 8 7	♣ 7 6 5	♣ 9 3
♠ A Q 6 5 4	♠ Q 6 5 4								
♥ K J 6	♥ K J 7 2								
♦ 9 4	♦ A 9 8 7								
♣ 7 6 5	♣ 9 3								
355	<p>Strictly speaking if you have seven card suit and a 4 card Major you should not open with a pre-empt as you might miss out on fit with partner in that four card major. The same applies for Weak twos as well.</p>								
356	<p>If declarer is drawing trumps and expects trumps to break 2-2 and the trumps break 3-1 then discard a card of the same colour and a careless declarer will not notice and think he has drawn all the trumps.</p>								
357	<p>ARYPS (Always Return your Partner's suit even if there is still an Ace in dummy- don't be intimidated by that Ace.</p>								
358	<p>If you are unable to get to dummy because you cannot see an entry there, why not ruff something to get there.</p>								
359	<p>I know lots of people like 5 card Majors BUT if you are playing 12-14 points No Trump and pc up 5332 hand with 5 horrid spades open 1NT rather than 1♠ and then you will not have rebid problems later in the auction so:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ Q 9 6 3 2</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ Q 9 6 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♥ A K 4</td> <td style="border: none;">♥ A K 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♦ K J 5</td> <td style="border: none;">♦ K Q 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♣ 9 4</td> <td style="border: none;">♣ Q 2</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Plying weak No Trump open 1NT rather than 1♠ Playing Strong No Trump open 1NT rather than 1♠</p>	♠ Q 9 6 3 2	♠ Q 9 6 4 2	♥ A K 4	♥ A K 4	♦ K J 5	♦ K Q 5	♣ 9 4	♣ Q 2
♠ Q 9 6 3 2	♠ Q 9 6 4 2								
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♦ K J 5	♦ K Q 5								
♣ 9 4	♣ Q 2								
360	<p>If you cannot remember a point count for a certain bid then try to make bids that sound like your hand :- so with:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ A Q 9 6 5 2</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ A K Q 8 7 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♥ K J 4</td> <td style="border: none;">♥ K Q 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♦ K 5</td> <td style="border: none;">♦ 7 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">♣ 7 4 2</td> <td style="border: none;">♣ 9 4</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">open 1♠ ready to rebid 2♠ open 1♠ but now ready to rebid 3♠</p>	♠ A Q 9 6 5 2	♠ A K Q 8 7 6	♥ K J 4	♥ K Q 7	♦ K 5	♦ 7 2	♣ 7 4 2	♣ 9 4
♠ A Q 9 6 5 2	♠ A K Q 8 7 6								
♥ K J 4	♥ K Q 7								
♦ K 5	♦ 7 2								
♣ 7 4 2	♣ 9 4								
361	<p>Apart from 1NT being a limit Bid it is very PRE-EMPTIVE and sometimes stops the opponents reaching their optimum contract. So prefer to Open 1NT rather than 1♣ if the situation should arise.</p>								
362	<p>Playing Weak No Trump, with 4-4-3-2 and 16 points open 1♥ rather than 1♠ and then this gives you the best chance to find fit in either Major. so with:</p>								

	<p>♠ A K 9 2 ♥ Q 9 5 4 ♦ A K 4 ♣ 4 3 Open 1♥ here</p>																				
363	If you cannot remember how many have gone in a suit then WORK BACKWARDS and try to remember how many you started with in the suit you are contemplating (usually trumps) so if you think you had five to start with and you still have three in your hand then probably two rounds have gone i.e. 8 cards gone in the suit.																				
364	When dummy comes down, surreptitiously reorder your cards in your hand so that the suits line up so if trumps are on dummy's right then in your hand the trump suit needs to be on your left, and so on - then it's much easier to think in STRAIGHT LINES when working out your winners and losers.																				
365	If Partner opens 1♠ and you reply 1NT and partner rebids 2♠ you must now SAY NO BID- you made the limit bid and now partner is IN CHARGE- He is captain of the auction.																				
366	<p>If you have KQ5 in one hand and 432 in the other, lead from the 432 side twice – lead up towards the honours in following scenario:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">K Q 5</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">A 8 7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">J T 9 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">4 3 2</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">South</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Lead from South twice and hope West has missing Ace.</p>			K Q 5			West	A 8 7			J T 9 6			4 3 2					South		
		K Q 5																			
West	A 8 7			J T 9 6																	
		4 3 2																			
		South																			
367	With Q65 opposite A92 play the 2 towards the Queen to try and get an extra trick.- Do not play the Queen as the opponents will just cover the Queen with their King and you will achieve nothing- that is technically known as a “Chinese Finesse”.																				
368	When you Count winners you look at both hands together and you can only count definite tricks- If you do not have the Ace of a suit then NO WINNERS YET.																				
369	If dummy has a shortage this is usually a sign to delay drawing trumps so you can do some ruffing in dummy while there are still trumps in the dummy.																				
370	If partner has not bid, then against No Trump, you lead top of sequence in your longest suit but if you have no sequence then and only then do you lead the 4th one down.																				
371	With Q opposite JT98 please persevere with this suit because once you have forced out their AK you will establish two tricks for yourself.																				
372	To support an overcall you only need three card support since partner is now promising 5 card suit for the overcall.																				
373	<p>If you are not sure what to bid, then try to make the least ambiguous bid possible, so on the following hand:</p> <p>♠ K Q 5 ♥ A K Q J 5 4 ♦ 9 ♣ T 5 4</p> <p>if the first person opens with weak 2♦, your correct bid should be Double followed by bidding Hearts but if you were not 100% sure then make the unambiguous bid of 3♥ straight away and you will get your message across.</p>																				
374	5-4-2-2 shape is NOT BALANCED so please do not open 1NT with this shape even if it looks balanced and you have 13 points- open the longest suit instead.																				
375	Please be competitive ,so with:																				

	<p>♠ A Q J T 6 ♥ 9 4 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 8 5 4</p> <p>Despite only having 7 points please overcall 1♠ when they open 1♥ or 1♦ and then bow out- don't you want partner to lead a Spade? Don't be a slave to points counts.</p>
376	Please don't pre-empt if your highest card in your seven card suit is just the Jack- all your values should be in the seven card suit.
377	<p>Once there is a FIT do remember to UPGRADE HANDS. e.g. with:</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ J 9 7 6 2 ♦ A K 5 3 ♣ 9 5 4</p> <p>If partner opens 1♥ upgrade your hand now and reply 3♥ not a measly 2♥.</p>
378	Be aware of entries in each hand at trick one.
379	Partner opens 1 of a Minor and you have totally balanced 4-3-3-3 hand with a 4 card Major reply 1 of the Major rather than 1Nt- this is known as NOT DENYING a FOUR CARD MAJOR.
380	If you have a DOUBLETON ACE its ok to lead against a suit contract if you are looking for a ruff.
381	To make a pre-emptive overcall you need to make a DOUBLE Jump so over 1♥ then 3♠ and 4♣ and 4♦ would all be pre-emptive overcalls.
382	At TRICK 1 Be aware of ENTRIES to both hands after the lead.
383	<p>Playing weak No Trump, please remember to open 1NT with:</p> <p>♠ 7 6 5 ♥ A K Q 6 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ K 5 4</p> <p>As you are balanced with 12 points - you do not need an honour in every suit.</p>
384	After drawing trumps, attempt to count a second suit and be surprised when the second suit gets established.
385	Sometimes a Hand can become open book where you know where all the points are. You are declarer with 13 points, dummy has 10 points and one of the opposition opened 1NT (12-14) points so you can calculate last person has 1 or 2 points at the most.
386	With 15 points and six card suit prefer to rebid 3H on board rather than just 2♥- ideally rebid 2 and half hearts Make bids that reflect your hand's strength rather than just rebid 2♥ on all hands from 11 up to 18 honour points.
387	If there is a shortage in EACH HAND (dummy and declarer's) and a common trump suit then this is usually indicator to not draw trumps too early.
388	A-Q opposite 5-3 THINK FINESSE and play the 5 and try the Queen (50% chance is better than no chance).
389	Lead the unbid suit and be especially pleased when partner turns up with both the Ace and king.
390	Once partner has overcalled you can support with three as partner is now promising a five card suit or better.

391	<p>If you have two cards in both partner's suits then put partner back to the first suit as that is likely to be five and the second suit might only be four. so when the bidding goes: 1♥ 1♠ 2♦ and you have:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ K J 5 4 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ A J ♣ 7 6 5 4</p> <p>you must now remember to "give preference" to 2♥</p>
392	<p>Please count both winners and losers on all hands to see if you need to establish extra winners or you need to dump or ruff losers.</p>
393	<p>I recommend that you open 1NT with all 5-3-3-2 hands even with 5 card Major and then you will not have rebid problems later.</p>
394	<p>Once partner has overcalled you can support with three as partner is now promising a five card suit or better.</p>
395	<p>If you have totally balanced (4-3-3-3)13 points with 4 Hearts you cannot reply 2♥ after partner opens 1♠ as that shows 5 card suit so just go straight to 3NT showing 13-15 points balanced.</p>
396	<p>Once partner bids a suit you like, your hand goes up in value so bid accordingly and don't be shy in bidding on.</p>
397	<p>When you lead an Ace from your AK suit do not be in hurry to automatically play the King at trick two, especially if you see the Queen on the table and there is the possibility that declarer might ruff your King.</p>
398	<p>Don't forget the dustbin bid of 1NT when replying and you are unable to respond in a lower ranking suit at the 2 level. Sometimes you will have to reply 1NT even when you are not as balanced as you might like to be:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 4 2 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A Q 9 5 4 ♣ J 5 4 2</p> <p>Here you must reply 1NT when partner opens with 1♥ or with 1♠.</p>
399	<p>When you reply in a new suit you re only showing 4 card suit. The only time you show 5 is when the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♥ otherwise you are only promising 4 card suit.</p>
400	<p>If your partner overcalls 1NT then if you, the partner of the overcaller, reply 3♠, 3♥ 3♦ and 3♣ these are strong Game Forcing replies, the same as if partner had opened 1NT.</p>
401	<p>Whenever you have minor suit strength steer the contract towards 3NT- so much easier to make 9 tricks than 11.</p>
402	<p>When you reply in a new lower ranking suit you are only showing 4 card suit. The only time you show 5 is when the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♥ otherwise you are only promising 4 card suits e.g. 1♠ - 2♣ reply shows 4 or more Clubs and likewise 1♠ - 2♦ reply shows 4 or more Diamonds.</p>
403	<p>When you reply in a new suit you re only showing FOUR card suit. The only time you are showing a five card suit is when the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♥ otherwise you are only promising FOUR card suit.</p>

404	Make bids that reflect your hand so if you have six card suit and 17 points make sure you JUMP in your suit.
405	On most hands you must draw trumps so you do not lose the existing winners and potential winners in your other suits- this is the case on the majority of hands.
406	If partner reverses (bids beyond barrier bid) and you have a good 8+ points then you can go directly to 3NT if you want to do so- bidding 2NT would now be very minimum.
407	After 1NT overcall replies of 2♠ or 2♥ or 2♦ by 4th player (overcaller's partner) are all weak the same way that they would be if partner had opened 1NT.
408	If your partner overcalls 1NT then if you reply 3♠, 3♥, 3♦ and 3♣ these are strong Game Forcing replies, the same as if partner had opened 1NT.
409	Sometimes you have to dump losers or trump losers or even a combination of both before drawing trumps especially if you do not have the trump Ace.
410	If you make a load of tricks at the beginning and then run out of steam then you have probably played the hand incorrectly as you have not built tricks early enough.
411	If a low card is led at trick 1 and you win the first trick with the Ten then you know that the person who led has led, has led from the Queen in a situation like this: AJ8 Q543 96 KT72
412	Please don't overcall on Jack high suits as you really do not want the suit led do you?
413	When you overcall you can have anything from 8/9 points up to about 15/16 - very wide ranging.
414	If you make a load of tricks at the beginning and then run out of steam then you have probably played the hand incorrectly as you have not built tricks early enough.
415	You can dump losers or trump losers or even a combination of both.
416	When dummy comes down, line your cards up with dummy's cards (red black) so you can count your tricks in straight lines.
417	Please evaluate hands with KQJXX as opposed to King one suit queen in another and Jack in another and be aware that the first holding is potentially 4 tricks - upgrade these holdings- everybody loves an upgrade don't they?
418	1NT overcall is 16-18 so when you the partner have 9/10+ points you can go straight to 3NT as the partnership total is at least 25 and is enough.
419	If your partner overcalls 1NT then if you reply 3♠, 3♥, 3♦ and 3♣ these are strong Game Forcing replies, the same as if partner had opened 1NT.
420	So as not to get blocked do remember that playing the high Card from the short hand also applies when you do not have the top cars so with K 8 opposite Q J 9 5 4 you must play that King first.
421	Sometimes you need to establish second suit- knock out their Ace- before drawing all the trumps- by doing this you keep trumps in both hands and less chance of losing control of the actual trump suit itself.
422	With KQT opposite 54 lead up to the King Queen TWICE. Get into the 54 side twice to finesse up to the honours you are trying to promote (in this case the King and Queen.
423	Don't forget to make dustbin bid of 1NT if you are not strong enough to reply in your lower ranking suit at the two level. so with: ♠ 6 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ Q 6 5 4 3 ♣ J 8 6 5 4

	reply 1NT here when partner opens 1♠ despite holding a singleton Spade and not being balanced.																												
424	If partner pre-empts and you have singleton in partner's suit do not panic JUST PASS.																												
425	When you have same suit as the opponents best to not get involved and you should just PASS.																												
426	With great source of tricks in the Minors- go for 3NT please ☺- trying to avoid 5♦ and 5♣ if at all possible.																												
427	Partner leads Queen (top of sequence) and you in 3rd seat have the Ace. 3rd hand plays high (that Ace) and must not let declarer make a singleton King from the closed hand.																												
428	Against their weak No Trump (12-14) remember to Double their 1NT opening bid with ANY 15 POINT Hand.																												
429	Please do not lead from an AKxx suit a low card against a suit contract - it is manic to do so.																												
430	<p>If responder bids 1NT FOLLOWED BY NEW SUIT at two level this IS WEAK & LONG and opener is now expected to say NO BID as responder has rejected partner's Suit(s). Responder must have at least SIX CARD Suit to now make this bid. e.g.</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>5 4</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>Q T 9 6 4 2</td> <td>South Hand</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>J 3 2</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>K 3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table style="margin-left: 40px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">N</td> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">E</td> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">S</td> <td>W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>NO</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>NO</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>now is "sensible" and partner had better Pass.</td> </tr> </table>	♠	5 4			♥	Q T 9 6 4 2	South Hand		♦	J 3 2			♣	K 3			N	E	S	W	1♠	NO	1NT	NO	2♦	NO	2♥	now is "sensible" and partner had better Pass.
♠	5 4																												
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♦	J 3 2																												
♣	K 3																												
N	E	S	W																										
1♠	NO	1NT	NO																										
2♦	NO	2♥	now is "sensible" and partner had better Pass.																										
431	After 2NT, 3♣ reply should be STAYMAN and if you have 9 points and five card club suit just reply 3NT straight away.																												
432	Do remember to reply 2♠ after 1NT opener from Partner with five card suit and 2 points, otherwise your hand is worthless unless you play in the spade suit as trumps.																												
433	Against No trumps you lead from your longest suit, not tops of doubletons or singletons - you only do that when you are leading against a suit contract.																												
434	Partner replies 2♠ to your 1NT opener, you say NO BID in an instant - save all your thinking for a different hand.																												
435	Against the Weak No Trump Please remember to Double their 1NT opening bid with ANY 15 POINT especially with 5 and 6 card suits.																												
436	When YOU DEFEND SECOND HAND PLAYS LOW- no need to play a high card as partner is finishing the trick off. The second hand low rule and third hand high rules ONLY APPLY to the TWO DEFENDERS.																												
437	If there is an intervening bid and you reply 1NT you will have GOOD VALUES in intervener's suit.																												
438	COUNT YOUR WINNERS when dummy comes down- and line your suits up parallel with dummy as it's easier to count them (so in your hand the trump suit will now be on your left).																												
439	To do a WEAK JUMP OVERCALL you need 6 card suit and 6-10 points. Better to play weak Jump overcalls rather than Strong Jump overcalls as they come up much more often.																												
440	If you are about to lead a Heart against a No Trump contract and that suit has been bid by the opposition THINK AGAIN and lead an unbid suit.																												

441	Once your partner, when overcalling, says Double of One of a suit you are compelled to REACT which means most of the time you bid your best suit at the lowest possible level showing 0-7 points only.
442	Sometimes you need to have a DUMP (of losers) before Drawing trumps. This is particularly applicable if you do not have control of trumps.
443	If you bid 2 suits then most of the time your first suit will be FIVE- the exception and it is rare would be the 4-4-4-1 hands. This is very important as far as partner is concerned as now partner can support your first suit with three knowing a 5-3 fit exists, especially if partner had opened 1♥ or 1♠.
444	If you repeat a suit most of the time you will be showing SIX- the exception would be when you are minimum and cannot show your second suit as that would be a reverse. e.g. ♠ A J 4 3 ♥ K Q T 5 4 ♦ K 6 ♣ 3 2 Here open 1♥ and plan to rebid 2♥ if partner were to reply in either 2♣ or 2♦.
445	Top of sequence in your longest suit is more important than 4th highest against their No Trump contract. With KQJ954 you would not want to be a cheap skate and lead the 9 and let declarer win the first trick with the T would you?
446	You correctly lead an Ace from an AK holding- DO NOT be in a hurry to play your King next unless partner encourages or you see that it is safe to do so - if the Queen is in dummy you do not want to be in a hurry to set that Queen up, by immediately cashing the King.
447	The Second Hand plays low, Third hand plays High is only for the two defenders- declarer can do what he likes.
448	If your partner bids 2 suits then most of the time his first suit will be FIVE- the exception and it is rare would be the 4441 hands and once you know partner's first suit is five you are now duty bound to support the first suit with three especially if partner's first suit was a Major.
449	Downgrade misfitting hands and upgrade hands where you have an immediate FIT.
450	Please count your WINNERS when dummy comes down and line up the suits parallel with dummy and then it's easier to count- Winners are the tricks you can make without losing the lead i.e. DEFINITE TRICKS without doing any work at all. A K Q opposite 4 3 2 are three winners. K Q J opposite 4 3 2 are NO WINNERS YET- you have to dislodge their Ace.
451	Finessing: - lead up to the card you are trying to finesse so with A Q J 7 6 opposite 5 4 3 lead from the 5 4 3 side TWICE to finesse their King.
452	If you have five card Major and weak hand just bid 2♠ or 2♥- you do not bother with Stayman- Stayman is looking for a four card fit and you have five yourself so do not need four now.
453	You can get extra tricks from suit establishment or from finessing or a combination of both.
454	While building tricks (establishing winners) in your longest suit DO NOT play the controlling cards in the other three suits. You need those cards as entries.
455	If there is an intervening bid and you reply 1NT you should have GOOD VALUES in intervener's suit e.g. N E S 1♣ 1♠ ?? 1NT is now fine and logical with :- ♠ K 7 6 ♥ Q 8 7 6 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ 9 5 4

456	When playing a weak No trump system, with two 4 card suits and 4-4-3-2 shape and 15-19 points you open 1 of the suit and rebid in No Trump next- you should not try to show the other suit. So my own choice in these situations is to open 1 of the Major. (but it is not written in stone which of the four card suits you should open.)
457	Use the Rule of 20 and open the bidding with two five card suits and 10 High Card Points or 10 points and a six card suit and a four card suit - both these hands should be opened 1♠ ♠ A Q 6 5 4 ♠ A 8 6 5 4 3 ♥ K J 5 4 3 ♥ A Q 6 5 ♦ 4 2 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 5 ♣ 3 Open 1♠ and rebid 2♥ on both these hands.
458	When the bidding goes 1♦ – 1NT reply this categorically says I have no 4 card Major.
459	When YOU DEFEND SECOND HAND PLAYS LOW- no need to play a high card as partner is finishing the trick off. The second hand low rule and third hand high rules ONLY APPLY to the TWO DEFENDERS.
460	Playing Acol with only 4 card Majors only with three card support for the Major and a doubleton or singleton somewhere prefer to reply 2 of the Major rather than 1NT as you have "ruffing values".
461	When YOU DEFEND SECOND HAND PLAYS LOW- no need to play a high card as partner is finishing the trick off. The second hand low rule and third hand high rules ONLY APPLY to the TWO DEFENDERS
462	A reply in a New suit is 100% forcing and that's why the opener should have a rebid ready if the bidding goes: 1♥ 1♠ Pass find a new partner quickly.
463	When you make a pre-emptive Opening bid of 3 of a suit you really need all your values in the suit and it is a good idea to have 3 of the top five honours, nothing less than QJT in your long suit.
464	Playing weak or strong No trump, with balanced hands, when responding. If you cannot bring the total to 25 then PASS. So opposite weak No trump (12-14) even with Balanced 10 points PASS and opposite strong No Trumps (15-17) even with Balanced 7 points just PASS.
465	With 65 in the majors if Heart suit is longer pretend they are same length as you want to show them both and on board 10 you will bid Spades first. so with: ♠ QT984 ♥ AKT753 ♦ T ♣ 5 open 1♠ ready to rebid 2♥
466	Leading Tops of Sequences is important and you also lead Top of Interior sequences to. so lead: Queen from QJT54 or QJ932 and Queen from AQJT5 or AQJ9 Jack from JT943 or JT86 Jack also from AJT954 or AJT83
467	Against a No trump contract when two low cards have already been played make sure you play High (3rd Person plays High) and do not be a cheap skate.

468	Please build tricks in your longest suit when playing a No Trump contract.- the bridge term for this is SUIT ESTABLISHMENT and if you have QJT64 opposite 5 3 2 it is your job to immediately use your Queen and Jack to force out their Ace and King to eventually build/make/establish 3 tricks.
469	If your partner replied 1NT to your 1♦ opener you know he does not have 4 spades or 4 Hearts otherwise he should have bid 1♥ or 1♠. Use this information when making your next bid.
470	26 (maybe good 25 points with Tens or 5 card suit) is the MAGIC NUMBER for Game contract of 3NT. 4♠ 4♥ and 90% of Game contracts are played in one of these denominations, so if your partner has already opened and you have 13 points then if you bid less than one of these contracts you have certainly underbid.
471	If you do not have top trump card (Ace) then take a discard before drawing trumps.
472	If you have bad 7/8 points and are not good enough to introduce your suit at two level then use the dustbin bid of 1NT even with a singleton so with: ♠ 8 ♥ Q T 7 6 5 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ J 5 4 reply 1NT when partner opens 1♠
473	If you see declarer has a great suit in dummy to discard all his losers, then you, as a defender, must start cashing Aces and Kings where you can.
474	You should really only count shortage points if there is a FIT and you have four card support. The rest of the time length points should be applied.
475	Do not pre-empt if you hold a 4 card side suit Major as you may easily miss out in fit with partner who might just have four of that Major.
476	Sometimes you give partner PREFERENCE- this is not the same as supporting and merely says you prefer that suit 😊 so with: ♠ 7 5 2 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ Q 8 4 2 ♣ 9 5 4 partner opens 1♠ and you reply 1NT partner now rebids 2♥ showing 5-4 shape remember to show preference for Spades and rebid 2♠ DO NOT fall into trap of preferring Hearts- YOU DON'T
477	You can do Stayman with weak hands (provided you are on the same page as partner) and you do not need any points at all but you NEED SHAPE 5-4 or better. so with: ♠ 9 8 7 5 3 ♥ 9 6 4 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 7 6 Reply 2♣ and if partner then bids 2♠ or 2♦ you merely Pass If partner replies 2♦ you now bid 2♠ your five card suit. If partner were to then bid on FIND a NEW PARTNER.
478	When defending try and count declarer's points and you can see dummy and you can see your own hand and then you can work out what partner has especially if declarer opened 1NT an exact limit bid.
479	If a finesse has worked once as in the following scenario return to the other hand and as you enjoyed it so much do it again and if necessary do it a third time too. North A Q J T

	<p style="text-align: center;">West K 9 8 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 4 3 South</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">East 3 2</p>
	<p>Finesse from south and when it works play a DIFFERENT SUIT in order to get back to south in order to finesse again through West (THREE TIMES ALTOGETHER)</p>	
480	<p>Once you make any limit bid e.g. opening 1NT or replying 2♥ to partner's 1♥ opener or opening any sort of pre-empt. DO NOT BID AGAIN as you said it all on your first bid UNLESS partner invites you or forces you to bid again.</p>	
481	<p>When you overcall you can have anything from 8/9 points up to about 15/16 – very wide ranging. If you have 8 points to 15 points still only overcall 1♠ and leave all the jumping to the High jumpers at the track.</p>	
482	<p>If partner replies 1♥ and then rebids 2 this is now weak and long and you should probably Pass with a minimum hand and not panic especially if you only have one or none- Don't worry partner will have six and the hand should only be played in Hearts at the lowest possible Level SO PASS.</p>	
483	<p>With 2 or at most 3 points against a No Trump contract don't bother leading 4th highest of you longest suit try and FIND PARTNER and make a short suit lead preferably an unbid Major. e.g. bidding goes 1NT 3NT and you have:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 9 2 ♥ j 9 5 4 2 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ J 5 4</p> <p>Lead 9 and hopefully find partner with five good spades little point in leading from your long suit as you are not going to get in are you?</p>	
484	<p>Long in Trump lead length- this means that if you have 4 or more trumps and another long suit (4 or more) lead the long suit and maybe declarer will have to ruff and then maybe eventually lose control of the actual trump suit.</p>	
485	<p>Please build tricks in your longest suit especially in No Trumps. (The bridge term for building tricks is suit establishment).</p>	
486	<p>Against a No Trump contract with KQT9XX it is correct to lead the KING- top of sequence.</p>	
487	<p>Playing in a 5-2 fit can be healthier than leaving partner in 1NT with a weak hand (most of the time). so immediately reply 2♠ or 2♥ or 2♦</p>	
488	<p>When YOU DEFEND - SECOND HAND PLAYS LOW- no need to play a high card as partner is finishing the trick off. The second hand low rule and third hand high rules ONLY APPLY to the TWO DEFENDERS.</p>	
489	<p>Against a no trump contract, if somebody leads a TWO you immediately know they have PRECISELY a FOUR CARD SUIT, so you know the distribution of the whole suit at trick one.</p>	
490	<p>Do Not play the controlling cards in their suits. They lead a suit, you win the Ace and also have the King- DO NOT PLAY THAT KING!!!</p>	
491	<p>Never be intimidated by a lone Ace in dummy, play the suit back especially if partner led the suit.</p>	
492	<p>If you repeat a suit most of the time you will have SIX since you didn't rebid in No Trump or support partner or try and introduce another suit.</p>	

493	You cover an honour with an honour if you can promote something for your side i.e. the defending side) so if you see QJT in the dummy now do not cover as all the cards you might wish to promote for yourself or partner are all on show in the dummy.
494	After your Double, if partner replies 1NT to the double it shows values in opener's suit and about 8/9 points and balanced. e.g. N E S W 1♥ DBL 1NT you as South would have: ♠ 5 4 ♥ K J 9 6 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ 9 5 3 2
495	Finessing: - lead up to the card you are trying t finesse so with AQJ76 opposite 543 lead from the 543 side TWICE to finesse their King.
496	With two five card suits in all situations please bid the higher (High Fives).
497	With a VERY BAD hand don't bother to lead 4th highest lead against their No trump contract but better to try and find partner and make a short suit lead so with: ♠ 7 6 ♥ J 9 7 6 5 ♦ 8 5 4 2 ♣ 9 2 try leading 7♠ and be delighted when that's partner's suit.
498	Do not suffer from Singleton Syndrome- if partner pre-empts and you only have ONE card in the suit don't panic- you still have EIGHT between you don't you? And you merely Pass or even support the pre-empt with good outside values.
499	In theory 1♠ 2♣ reply show's 6-9 points and 4 card support BUT IF you have card support 6-9 points and ruffing values 9 maybe a singleton or doubleton elsewhere on the hand it is better bridge to reply 2♠ rather than 1NT. with a hand like this :- ♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A 8 6 5 ♣ K 8 7 6 Reply 2♠ here after 1♠ opener with these ruffing values in Hearts.
500	Please build tricks in your longest suit (SUIT ESTABLISHMENT) which is no necessarily the suit with all the honours In this suit 9 8 7 6 5 4 opposite T 3 2 if we get lucky and force out their Ace King queen jack and all these honours tumble in two rounds we end up with 4 tricks.
501	While building tricks in your longest suit DO NOT play the controlling cards in the other three suits. You need those cards as entries.
502	9 points opposite 12-14 points 1NT opener never gets you to Game (25) so just Pass.
503	With K6 opposite AJ75 play the King first and then the 6 and TRY THE JACK finessing the opponent's Queen (hoping second person who played low has the missing Queen).
504	With T9762 opposite 8543 you need to knock out their top cards straight away to build 3 tricks and hope their suits break 2-2.
505	When defending a No trump contract, the reason the defenders lead from their long suit is to ESTABLISH WINNERS for the DEFENDING SIDE.
506	Remember to give preference when partner offers you two suits, so with: ♠ 8 6 4 ♥ J 6

	<p> ♦ A 7 6 5 4 ♣ Q 6 5 1♠ 1NT 2♣ 2♠ </p> <p>Now bid 2♠ when partner offers you Spades first and then Clubs (as spades is more likely to be longer in opener's hand).</p>		
507	Against a No Trump contract, If somebody leads a TWO you immediately know he has PRECISELY a FOUR CARD SUIT, as there is nothing lower than a two and you can now work out whole layout of one suit just from the lead as you can see your own hand and dummy so can work out how many cards are in the other defender's hand.		
508	You cannot remember what has gone, try and remember what you started with or how many cards dummy started with in a suit. So if you remember that you started with five and now have three left then by a process of elimination means you must have played two rounds- i.e. Eight have gone.		
509	Small cards in a long suit are PRECIOUS as they can become winners so don't throw them away.		
510	Rule of 1- if there is one trump out that is higher than all yours then don't bother to draw it. It's a bad exchange rate. It's a bad exchange rate.		
511	If opener repeats a suit, opener is very likely to now have SIX as he did not attempt to show another suit or go into No Trumps, or even support responder's suit.		
512	Theory of Final Destination- if you bid 1NT directly its 6-9, if you bid something on the way its still 6-9, this applies in all bidding situations, if you reply 2♥ to 1♥ directly its 6-9 with 4 card support, if you introduce a suit and then retreat to 2 of same suit it's still 6-9 but now only 3 card support.		
513	However bad your hand is, do remember, against a no Trump Contract when partner leads a low card you in THIRD SEAT must play high and make declarer work hard for the current trick.		
514	Please watch the cards carefully and if you can win first trick with the NINE then DON'T WASTE that PRECIOUS QUEEN.		
515	=514		
516	If somebody leads a TWO you immediately know they have PRECISELY a FOUR CARD SUIT.		
517	Open weak 2s with six card suits, weak 3s with seven card suits and weak 4s with eight card suits- you should not deviate and open weak 2 with seven card suits as that's mere CHICKEN and goes against the philosophy of pre-emption		
518	Declarer is drawing trumps (SPADES) and the trumps break 4-1 if you are the one with the singleton make sure you follow suit with a CLUB as its a black card and declarer's can be careless and not notice you discarding- red cards will stick out more..		
519	Playing weak No Trump and 4 card suits, With two four card suits and 15 -19 points prefer to Open 1 of a Major so with ♠ J54 ♥ AK87 ♦ Q65 ♣ AJT7 open 1♥ – if you do open 1♣ DO NOT then try and bid the other suit or partner will think you are 5-4 shape won't she?		
520	<p>If partner replies in a new suit and then jumps to 3 of your major it shows 10-12 points BUT ONLY THREE CARD SUPPORT otherwise partner would have replied 3 of your suit first time around. e.g:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> ♠ A Q 7 6 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ Q J 8 7 ♣ 9 4 </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> ♠ 8 7 ♥ A Q 9 5 4 ♦ A T 6 5 ♣ J 4 </td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; margin-left: 100px;"> 1♥ 1♠ 2♦ 3♥ NO BID (I hope) </p>	♠ A Q 7 6 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ Q J 8 7 ♣ 9 4	♠ 8 7 ♥ A Q 9 5 4 ♦ A T 6 5 ♣ J 4
♠ A Q 7 6 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ Q J 8 7 ♣ 9 4	♠ 8 7 ♥ A Q 9 5 4 ♦ A T 6 5 ♣ J 4		

	YOU
534	You can lead from an Ace against a No Trump contract especially if partner bid the suit or you have AKQ54.
535	With KQT opposite A987642 make sure you Ace your Ten to be in correct hand after playing the KQ first.
536	With KQT6 opposite 543 firstly play low towards the KQT side and when Ace beats your King then THINK FINESSE of TEN LATER in the hand when you get back to the 5 4 3 side in situations like this :- <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 100px;"> K Q T 6 J 7 2 A 9 8 5 4 3 </div>
537	When you have balanced hand with a suit wide open still bid No Trumps – most of the time partner will have stopper in that suit and if the opposition has not overcalled in that suit it is likely to be breaking 4-4 so don't fret.
538	The BEST WAY to try these finesses is to lay out ONE SUIT ONLY on a square table and do it for yourself with all the cards showing.
539	Playing weak No Trump, when partner replies 2NT to your 1NT this is inviting and all you happen to worry about is are you 12 or are you 14? As a mental exercise, you could work out that partner had 11/12 points to have made this invitational reply.
540	1NT with a 3♠ answer is very strong and if opener has three card support she goes 4♠ and with only 2 card support she puts herself back into 3NT.
541	If you don't make a direct bid to game but bid something in between it is CONSIDERED INVITATIONAL. In sequences such as 1NT- 2NT is inviting to 3NT or 1♠ -2♠ - 3♠ is now invitational to 4♠.
542	1NT is the catch all reply showing 6-9 points and balanced hand or a weak hand unable to go to the two level commonly called the Dustbin bid. so if partner opens 1♠ and you have: <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> ♠ 7 ♥ K Q 9 7 ♦ J 9 6 5 2 ♣ J 3 2 </div> Even though you are not balanced use the 1NT catch all dustbin bid here.
543	If you don't make a direct bid to game but bid something in between it is CONSIDERED INVITATIONAL in sequences such as 1NT- 2NT inviting to 3NT or 1♠-2♠ - 3♠ is now invitational to 4♠.
544	Sometimes you cannot draw the last winning trump or they will defeat you so you will have to dump a loser first- they can have their winning trump any time they like, it's the only one out- Rule of 1- if there is one trump out only that is higher than all yours then no necessity in drawing it – two for one is not a good exchange rate.
545	If a finesse has worked once and you really enjoyed it, DO IT AGAIN and make sure you get into the correct hand first, to do so.
546	With Minor suits steer the contract towards 3NT BUT with long Spade or Heart suit prefer to be in 4♠ or 4♥.
547	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; text-align: center;"> <div> With KQ54 A83 JT9 762 Lead from the 762 TWICE </div> <div> KQT6 J54 A98 732 Play the 2 and be prepared to try the T </div> </div> <p>The BEST WAY to try these finesses is to lay out ONE SUIT ONLY on a square table and do it for yourself with all the cards showing.</p>

548	Do not lead 4th best with AJ865 against a slam - it can only help declarer out.(This might sound like a very obvious thing not to do BUT I have witnessed this happening on more than one occasion.
549	Please stop ruffing in the Long Hand- it might make you feel good but generally speaking it does not generate extra tricks.
550	Playing Acol with a weak No Trump (12-14 points) then if you have 15-19 points balanced then open your longest suit and rebid in No Trumps as follows 1NT rebid is 15/16, 2NT is 17/18 and 3NT is 19 points all balanced.
551	At trick One count all your winners to ascertain how many extra tricks you need to generate to make your contract. Winners are DEFINITE TRICKS that require no work AK opposite Q65 is 3 winners BUT KQJT opposite 9876 is NO WINNERS YET- you have to WORK to FORCE OUT THEOR ACE.
552	To overcall you should have GOOD QUALITY FIVE CARD SUIT. - Points is less important than suit quality.
553	Before you make your opening lead REMEMBER THE AUCTION - maybe partner bid and you need to lead partner's suit.
554	Every time you make your bi consider the following 1. Am I opening? 2 Am I responding? 3 Am I overcalling? and try to stop using the mere word bid each time say OPEN say RESPOND and SAY OVERCALL
555	If you OPEN 1NT you are showing 12-14 points Balanced If you RESPOND 1NT you are showing 6-9 balanced (often called the dustbin bid) If you OVERCALL 1NT you are showing 16-18 Balanced with stopper in opener's suit
556	Length is Strength in the bidding and even more so in the card play- you must go to your longest suits to generate extra tricks from SUIT ESTABLISHMENT so with: QJ8765 opposite T4 you must PERSEVERE with this suit forcing out the opponent's' Ace and king to leave you with 4 Established winners
557	Top of Sequence in your LONGEST suit OVERRIDES 4th highest in your long suit so with K Q J 9 5 you would certainly lead the King- you would not want to lead the 9 and let declarer win the first trick with the Ten would you - you would be a cheapskate.
558	When you follow suit you follow suit with the LOWEST of TOUCHING HONOURS- this is the opposite of leading, when you would lead top of touching honours.
559	You really should ONLY COUNT SHORTAGE POINTS if there is a FIT- no other time please - the rest of the time it is your long suits that are so important and that's why you can length points then.
560	You lead your longest suit against No trump contracts because you are trying to establish your suit before declarer can establish his.
561	Please don't play back the controlling cards in the opponents suit when they lead the suit.
562	Top of a sequence overrides 4 th highest when leading against a No Trump contract. With KQJ96 please lead the King – you would not want to lead the 9 and let declarer win the first trick cheaply with the 9 would you?
563	AKQ654 is worth 6 tricks a lot of the time when assessing your hand during the auction so BE PREPARED to UPGRADE such a holding. Everybody loves upgrades don't they?
564	If possible, declarer should try and win last trick and be in closed hand at trick 12 so the opponents might save the "wrong" card.
565	Playing 12-14 Weak No Trump, if partner replies in lower ranking suit at two level then a rebid by opener of 2NT now shows 15/16 and a rebid of 3NT shows 17/18. The reason you can do this is because partner is now promising more points when they respond at the two level in a lower ranking suit.

566	If they open and you have SAME SUIT – you are AT CONFLICT with them so say NO BID.
567	If you haven't got an obvious entry such as an Ace or King to get back to dummy or hand then TRUMP SOMETHING to create the entry you lack.
568	4-3-3-3 hand never seem to generate that extra trick so downgrade balanced 4-3-3-3 hands - nobody likes downgrades but that what you have to do here.
569	If somebody leads a 2 (4 th highest) he has exactly 4 card suit as there is nothing lower than a Two.
570	Leading 4th highest usually applies to No Trump contracts - also it is third choice after partner's suit and top of sequence in longest suit which both override 4th highest.
571	Don't underlead Aces against suit contracts - this means if you have sit such as A765 you either don't lead this suit at all (preferable) but if you do lead then lead the Ace.
572	=571
573	When you defend and partner has led an Ace you play a HIGH CARD TO ENCOURAGE (7 or 8 or 9)- I love you partner please continue the suit. When you defend and partner has led an Ace you play a LOW CARD TO DISCOURAGE (2 or 3 or 4) – Get lost try something else to please me.
574	When you know where hand is going bid up quickly. When you are not sure where hand is going bid slowly and exchange information to get to best fit.
575	You try and cover an Honour with an honour if you can promote something for yourself or something for partner so if you see all the goodies JT9 on the table or you think declarer has them in the closed hand then don't bother to cover. <p style="text-align: center;">QJT9 dummy K632 YOU</p> do not cover here.
576	When bidding a suit generally shows SIX but sometimes you cannot help yourself if no other bid appeals, perhaps you cannot rebid your second suit as it's beyond your barrier bid and that would show extra strength.
577	hardest thing in the world is to bid slams and sometimes you just GO FOR IT- partner opens 1NT and you have 18 points and six card Spade suit TAKE YOUR CHANCES and REPLY 6♠ immediately- no science just add you hand to partner's 12-14 and what are you frightened of? BRIDGE IS A WE GAME NOT AN I GAME.
578	Don't use the word BID but be EXACT FROM NOW ON – Use OPEN REPLY and OVERCALL and then you are less likely to get muddled when talking about hands.
579	In a No trump contract, please please LEAD PARTNER'S SUIT (ALPS Always lead Partner's Suit) especially if partner overcalled and if it turns out he had a really bad quality suit and the lead turns out bad CHANGE YOUR PARTNER.
580	Please get into good habit- Partner leads a suit and you like it plays the high card to ENCOURAGE and that low card to DISCOURAGE when FOLLOWING to PARTNER'S LEAD
581	Singleton Honour cards such as QJ or King or Queen on tier own must be downgraded as they can easily be snapped up by the opposition's Aces and Kings. QJ by itself is nowhere near as good as QJ109 so remember to downgrade that QJ- I know nobody likes downgrades but occasionally you have to accept that.
582	Dummy has long suit that could all become winners so the defenders must keep same long suit- it's known as keeping length with dummy.
583	When playing out a hand WORK HARD and make sure you build tricks and not cash tricks that were always making.
584	2nd hand plays low 3 rd hand plays high ONLY APPLIES to the 2 DEFENDERS.

585	With a Balanced 12-14 points please do not overcall. You are asking for trouble if you overcall with these hands.
586	When your partner leads a King analyse the lead and say to your self-partner has probably got KQJ or KQT and use that information to help you, the other defender, to defend properly and start counting your possible winners whilst defending. It's not just a lead.....
587	Top of sequence overrides 4 th highest in all situations because if you had KQJ95 you would not like to led that 9 and get beaten by declarer's T would you? - You are not a cheapskate are you?
588	If you are likely to forget how many cards have gone in a suit do the following: a) Take a mental photograph of your hand immediately it is dealt; b) Half way through the hand when you forget try to remember what you started with and then work backwards e.g. You can't remember how many clubs have gone- OH I have two left and I had five to start with then 10 must have gone 😊
589	Counting hands quickly just remember that AKQJ is always 10 and AKQ is always 9 and KQ is always 5 and KQ plus KQ is always 10 so try and spot these combinations when adding up your points and the adding up process will be that much quicker- Try it and see.
590	When you set up a winners in the long hand make sure you retain the Ace of that suit as an entry.
591	ONLY RUFF if you are getting extra tricks – don't ruff in long hand because more chance of losing control of the suit a quite frankly one only does it because it makes you feel good.
592	Once partner makes an Informative Double then you must REACT as follows :- a) Bid your best suit with - 7 points b) Jump in best suit with 8+ points c) Bid Opener's suit with 12+ points d) Pass with a stack of Opener's suit and at least 9/10 points and maybe five or six card suit there.
593	The acceptable Blind Leads against a suit contract are: - a) Top of a Sequence b) Singleton c) Top of a Doubleton d) Top of Nothing or MUD if you prefer i.e. Middle Up down from three rubbishy cards.
594	If declarer is drawing trump or playing off a long suit and you are not sure what to keep then you should keep the same long suit you see in dummy- this is known as "keeping length with dummy" so the small cards in that suit do not suddenly get established.
595	Partner overcalls and you have 14 points balanced ONLY INVITE 2NT in case partner has a bare 8 points.
596	When dummy goes down you should count BOTH WINNERS and LOSERS in all contracts No Trump and Suit contracts.
597	If dummy has three trumps and a shortage somewhere this is usually a clear indicator to delay drawing trumps so you can do some trumping in the dummy while trumps are still there.
598	You MUST REMEMBER to USE DIFFERENT LANGUAGE FOR DIFFERENT BIDS, the same as life, you don't go around telling everybody you love them- some you love some you hate and some you tolerate and it's the same with bidding conveying different messages MATCH THE MESSAGE YOU WANT TO SEND to THE BID.
599	After 1NT replies of 3♠ 3♥ 3♦ 3♣ are all VERY STRONG responses 13/14+ points and now Game forcing Opener must keep bidding until Game has been bid.

600	The Double of their 1NT opener is for PENALTIES-(BLOOD) and shows 1 more point than their maximum so if they open 1NT (12-14) it shows 15 or more points and partner should do their utmost to leave it in and watch as 1NT goes two or three down (most of the time).
601	With balanced hands containing 13/14 points PASS if you are sitting over an opening bid- there is no known overcall for this hand so JUST PASS.
602	If you cannot remember what has gone work backwards. Maybe you have two left and you remember that you started with three so 8 cards must have gone.
603	As responder Instead of saying I've only got.... Points you now say WE'VE GOT.... POINTS YES.....
604	With KQJ opposite AT654 do not be afraid of overtaking round to be in correct had to continue playing the suit without have to waste entries elsewhere.
605	With: (West) AQT5 opposite 7632 (East) Think double finesse and try the Ten first time around after playing the 2 from East
606	Only count one suit at a time- count trumps first then forget all about them, then try and count a second suit.- that all most experts do.
607	If you have 6+ points and cannot bid new suit at 2 level then your bid is either 1NT or 2 of same suit.
608	Please start to in your mind saying WE HAVE, WE CAN, What are we afraid of? So if partner has already opened and you have 14 points yourself, now say WE HAVE LEAST 27 points between us What are we afraid of? And so on.
609	Get your terms sorted out before you start so you know the context of the auction- stop using the word bid: To open 1♥ requires 13 + HCP's To reply 1♥ only needs 6+ HCP's. To overcall 1♥ need 8/9 + HCP's.
610	The reason you lead top of a sequence from something like QJT is that eventually you might build a trick for the defence in that suit
611	When you decide on a finesse you must decide which hand to start from. You decide what card you wish to promote and then you must start from the opposite hand so with: K 6 opposite 3 2 You want to promote the King so start from the 32 side leading up to that honour
612	LENGTH POINTS count all the time – when opening 1 of a suit, when replying in a new suit and when overcalling in a suit. SHORTAGE POINTS only count when there is a FIT i.e. you have four card support.
613	Lead top of doubleton in your partner's bid suit.
614	Bids are as they sound so when the bidding goes: 1♥ - 1♠ 2♣ - 2♦ 2♥ by the opener now says I am MINIMUM.
615	If partner invites you and you have maximum 8 points (or almost maximum) do accept the invitation and bid onto Game.
616	Top of sequence against No Trump contract overrides 4 th best so when you have JT985 lead the Jack not the 8.
617	Rule of 1- if there is one trump out only that is higher than all your then no necessity in drawing it – two for one is not a good exchange rate.
618	One your partner has made an informative double REMEMBER there are only 14 possible points left between you and the other player.

635	You count winners (definite tricks) to see how many more tricks you NEED TO GENERATE You count losers (optimistically) so as to see where you need to be careful- maybe you need to dump a loser early.
636	If dummy has two or three trumps and a doubleton somewhere clear the doubleton first and ruff then you can ruff a loser in dummy before drawing trumps (often called ruffing in the short hand).
637	You need to deliberately lose the trick (known as holding up) when you might only have the Ace of the suit led to try and cut communications between the two defenders so that the person who led will not be able to get 4 or 5 tricks from the suit he led.
638	Be aware that T2 opposite KQJ54 the T is now the High card in the short hand and is good enough to force out their Ace.
639	Practice VISUALISATION EXERCISES ad DECLARER . You are in charge of the of the E/W hands here and can see the AQ and the 54 try to visualize their cards, the ones in red: <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>North</p> <p>7 6</p> <p>West A Q 5 4 East</p> <p>K 2</p> <p>South</p> </div>
640	In order of priority, the most important leads versus No Trump contracts are: a) Partner's Suit ALPS. b) Top of a Sequence ONLY if it's in YOUR LONGEST SUIT . c) 4 th one down in your longest suit.
641	The 4 main leads when making a Blind Lead against suit contracts are 4 TOPS as follows:- a) Top of a sequence so when you lead Queen from QJT not only is it a guideline BUT partner now knows you have the Jack and T to follow b) Singleton hoping to ruff something before declarer has had a chance to draw trumps c) Top of a Doubleton for the same reason d) Top of Nothing to be safe
642	Playing a weak 12-14 point No Trump, the bidding goes 1NT and you reply 3♠ this is Game forcing promising 13+ points and five card suit. Opener is now expected to bid 4♣ with three card support or put herself back to 3NT with only 2 card support. (NB with 1 card support your partner will certainly find a new partner next time ☺)
643	Be aware that with 83 opposite AKJT972 you can play the 8 and stay in correct hand to repeat the finesse if needs be.
644	Normally in No Trumps you might have to hold up if you have ONLY ONE CONTROLLING CARD in the suit they lead and hopefully you might CUT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DEFENDERS . Maybe you only have the Ace of their suit.
645	Never be afraid of joining in- if one side has a FIT then mathematically the other side ALSO has a FIT .
646	Please stay with one suit at a time when playing out and then you will remember more easily what has gone.
647	The INFORMATIVE DOUBLE is AN OVERCALL .
648	When playing out stay with one suit at a time then you can more easily keep track of HOW MANY "CARDS" HAVE GONE in the suit.

649	In bidding Length is strength, and in card play even more so, as you try and BUILD TRICKS (known in bridge jargon as SUIT ESTABLISHMENT) in your LONGEST SUIT even when you do not have the Aces and Kings of that suit.
650	Remember NOT TO LIE TO PARTNER but remember to TELL THE TRUTH when making these limit responses. 1♠ - 2♠ 4 card support and 6-9 points 1♠ - 3♠ 4 card support and 10-12 points 1♠ - 4♠ weak freak 7-9 points and 2 five card suits or similar 1♠ - new suit and then 4♠ 4 card support and 13-15 points – often called a Delayed Game Raise
651	Never be shy in introducing 6/7 card suits. You cannot come to much grief with such suits.
652	With J T 8 6 2 K 5 3 opposite A Q 9 5 Be aware that you have QJT98 between the two hands and you can play the 8 and let it run when finessing and that will keep you in correct hand to repeat that finesse.
653	Try and remember what your partner led because if you get the lead you should be playing back a card from the suit led initially.
654	If there is a choice between Opening 1♣ or any other 1 of a Suit bid or 1NT there is NO CHOICE – you OPEN 1NT. Then you will have no rebid problems as no rebid is now necessary.
655	The best lead in bridge are Ace from Ace King holdings as it allows you to win first trick and LAD—Look at dummy and plan ahead.
656	When you open 1NT with bare 12 points you do not have to have an honour in every suit as long as the shape is correct 4333.
657	a) 1NT – 2♠ is weak zero plus points and five card suit - Don't you dare bid on Partner or else b) 1NT – 3♠ is strong 13/14+ points and five card suit NOW GAME FORCING - Don't you dare Pass now - you must bid on (either to 4♠ with three card support or 3NT with only two card support. With one card support you will need a new partner soon as nobody will play with you again!!
658	With singleton Ace opposite K Q J 4 play this suit VERY EARLY before it gives you grief and you are blocked (you have no low cards in that short hand to feed over to the long hand - the K Q J 4 hand.
659	Please play one suit at a time so you can keep track how many have gone.
660	LAD- "Look At Dummy" and just play the highest card necessary please.
661	Don't lie to partner and relay wrong message :- a) 1♥ – 2♥ is 6-9 points and 4 card suit so when you have 10 points... b) 1♥ - 3♥ is 10-12 points and 4 card support.
662	With KQT97 it is so close to being the sequence of KQJ so do lead that King.
663	Reply in a major rather than going directly to 1NT so that you do not lose your major Suit fits. It is commonly known as not denying a four card Major.
664	Please be aware of entries to each hand at trick 1.
665	Partner opens 1NT and you have enough immediately to go to Game then bid 3NT. 2NT is only inviting.
666	Leading an Ace when you hold both Ace and King is one of the BEST Leads in bridge against suit contracts. You are going to win first trick and can then see dummy and plan ahead and partner may even give you a signal this point
667	Leading a singleton against a suit contract is good for your bridge health BECAUSE you might get to trump before declarer has had a chance to draw trumps.

668	When you defend your aces and Kings are meant to beat declarers Kings and Queens so be patient and in second seat don't be in a hurry to play that Ace or King.
669	When dummy comes down do please PLAN AHEAD and if dummy does have 3 trumps and a shortage somewhere do not be in hurry to draw trumps but attempt to trump something in that dummy, the short hand.
670	Playing Acol with all four card suits don't forget with 4441 Hands to open the suit below the singleton and with a singleton Club its best to Open 1♥ and now you give yourselves (you and partner) the ideal way to find any fit that might manifest itself especially in the Majors.
671	Partner opens 1NT (12-14) and you have 8 points and 4432 shape, just PASS. The hand is going nowhere. (NB The 6 points you might be thinking of, ONLY APPLIES if partner OPENS 1 OF A SUIT).
672	To open 1NT you do not have to have an honour in every suit, so with: ♠ 5 4 2 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ A 6 5 ♣ A K Q 6 Open 1NT and here you have two suits without Honours.
673	The best lead in bridge is Ace when you have an AKxx suit- because you can win first trick look at dummy and see if partner encourages or discourages (BUT only lead that Ace if you have King as well).
674	Please share information during the auction and you will get to your common suit- if you are lucky enough to have two suits- bid them both if possible.
675	I think the best piece of advice for inexperienced players with regards to bidding Slamming is JUST GO FOR IT.
676	As a defender, if declarer bid a suit during the auction, try to keep cards in that suit, otherwise declarer might get extra tricks in that suit near the end of the hand that she is not entitled to- this is called keeping length with declarer.
677	If you have a really good hand such as 19 points but partner Passes your opening bid of 1♦ NOW be careful your hand opposite NOTHING results in just part score and now be happy to DEFEND.
678	With an AKXX suit against a suit contract lead the Ace- one of the best leads in bridge, you win first trick, you see dummy, and now you can plan ahead.
679	Most of the time you will only generate extra tricks if you do your trumping in the short hand (i.e. the hand with fewer) trumps, maybe only three and this is usually a SIGN TO DELAY DRAWING ANY TRUMPS YET so you still have trumps in that short hand.
680	When dummy comes down declarer counts his winners and how he is going to generate extra tricks. THE DEFENDERS MUST DO THE SAME !!!
681	To support an overcall the main thing to consider is DO YOU HAVE THREE CARD SUPPORT? With 3 card support raise one level. With 4 card support raise to 3 Level With 4 card support raise to 4 level- This is known as bidding to level of the FIT.
682	When partner leads King and you have A85 DON'T BE LAZY- remember to show ATTITUDE and play that EIGHT to ENCOURAGE. Partner will probably be able to work out that you have the Ace as declarer was not able to beat the King Lead, but that's beside the point. Partner likes it when you show good attitude to her lead

683	Please use the correct three bidding terms all the time OPENING, RESPONDING and OVERCALLING and then it puts all the auction it all into proper perspective.
684	The three main leads in order of importance against their NO Trump Contract are: a) Partner's suit if partner joined in b) Otherwise Top of a sequence in your LONGEST SUIT c) Otherwise 4 th one down in your LONGEST SUIT
685	Once partner opens 1NT the RESPONDER should now be SAYING WE HAVE.
686	If you have enough points between you even if its borderline go onto Game.
687	When you have QJT as far as you are concerned it doesn't matter which one you lead BUT You lead Queen from QJT to TELL PARTNER you have Jack Ten to follow.
688	With AJT opposite KQ985 be aware that with such a good trump holding you can overtake the third round to be in the Right hand when the trumps break 4-1, you will still be able to draw that last trump.
689	To make 6NT partnership needs 33 points and to make 7NT partnership need 37. If you hit these numbers go directly to 6NT or 7NT. If you might hit these numbers then you can invite.
690	Opening with 4441 hands you open suit below singleton BECAUSE you are giving partner a chance to immediately bid the likely singleton suit and you will now be able to make your rebid in control that ♦s why ones bid the suit below the singleton. Same reason you bid 4 card suits UP THE LINE.
691	If there is an opening bid then Pass Pass to you in 4 th seat you can make all your bids with three less points - it is perfectly now sensible for 4 th player to say Double with as few as 10 points rather than sell out. It's called the PROTECTIVE POSITION as it protects your side's interests.
692	With two four card Majors open 1♥ and then you can get to a fit more easily in either Major as partner might reply 1♠ and a fit comes to light immediately, but if you open 1♠ and partner has 4 Hearts it is much more difficult now to get to the Heart fit.
693	There are three types of informative double as follows:- a) 13+ points and tolerating the other 3 suits; b) 16/17 and very good six card suit of your own - double and then bid that suit; c) 19+ and balanced ♦ i.e. too strong for immediate 1NT overcall - Double and then bid NT next.
694	An Informative Double or take-out double is an INTERVENING BID and should only be used if the other overcalls are not available (i.e. simple or strong or 1NT overcalls).
695	There are guidelines and there are guidelines but it's always best to understand them so when you open the suit below the singleton with 4441 hands it's because you can GIVE PARTNER THE PLATFORM to now bid the suit without getting too high so with the 4441 hand with a singleton Heart you open 1♦ and when partner probably and unobligingly replies 1♥ you can safely be in control when you now rebid 1♠ can't you?
696	With 5332 and 14 points please Open 1NT and not fall in love with your five card suit.
697	Be immediately aware of ENTRIES at TRICK 1, when dummy goes down. Don't fritter them away.
698	With KQJ opposite AT543 play the King Queen and when you play the jack don't be afraid to ACE IT to be in CORRECT HAND ♦ the LONG HAND.
699	When partner leads Queen promising Top of a Sequence he is doing it to tell you he has Jack and Ten later on and it's the start of something big "hopefully".

700	During the bidding assess a long suit and see how many potential tricks in that long suit- AKQ432 is likely to be all six on a good day and certainly five- it's not just any 9 points TRY AND VISUALIZE how the other 7 cards are distributed amongst the remaining 3 players.
701	You generate extra trump tricks by trumping in the short hand, the hand with less trumps.
702	The guideline 2nd hand plays low and 3rd hand plays high ONLY APPLIES to the TWO DEFENDERS. Declarer can play whatever he wants.
703	Once partner has overcalled you know what to lead and as you saw today some contracts went off after leading partner's suit.
704	Get your long suit going so that the small cards get ESTABLISHED.
705	The main leads against a No Trump contract in order of preference are:- a) Partner's suit if partner has bid during the auction b) TOP of a sequence in your longest suit c) 4 th one down in longest suit with no sequence in it d) 2nd one down from bad suits nothing higher than a Nine (so if needs be partner will know to SWITCH).
706	Be aware of all your entries (Access cards to your hand and dummy) at trick 1 while you are planning - Hang onto them and don't waste them.
707	If you try and play in tempo - not quickly- you will be able to count more easily 4 8 12 etc. and so on rather than just going into a daze.
708	Before leading RECAP the AUCTION and try and visualize what your partner the other defender might have.
709	A lot of the time the Saying "ONE TWO THAT WILL DO" is applicable BUT if you open 1♠ with 18/19 points and partner replies 2♠ IT CERTAINLY WON'T DO NOW DO, just rebid 4♠ straight away
710	Make bids that sound like your hand so make sure you rebid 3♥ with a 6 card suit and 16+ points as you have 3 more than you would have needed for a minimum opener.
711	It is all well and good knowing you lead top of sequence but you need to know why as follows: a) Partner knows you have very good holding such as KQJ9 when you lead that Queen b) You don't want to be a cheap skate and let declarer win first trick with the Ten in above example.
712	To Reply to partner's Opening bid of One of a Suit you need SIX OR MORE points the term 6-9 points as a reply only applies when replying two of same suit or 1NT.
713	An Informative Double is an Overcall and it is the overcall when no other overcall is available i.e. when you cannot overcall in a suit or in No Trumps or make any sort of Jump Overcall.
714	When you play 2C Stayman you EITHER need :- a) 5+ in Majors and nil Points and basically it is same as weak take-out OR b) 11+ points and two four card suits one of which should be a major and basically it is same as a minimum 2NT response when you would have needed 11+ points
715	If you try and play more quickly it is easier to count HOW MANY HAVE GONE and then you can easily identify after you have counted 4, 8, 12 that the last card left must have become a winner.
716	When they double your partner's Opening Bid of 1 of a Suit REDOUBLE says we have balance of Power 8+ points.
717	3rd Person plays high enough to make declarer work hard for the current trick- don't be a cheap skate.
718	Bridge is a partnership Game so when partner replies 2♣ to your 1♠ opener and you have six spades and 4 clubs, now support the clubs rather than repeating your Spade suit. YOU HAVE SUPPORT for the clubs don't you??

719	If your longest suit is just 8 high and you are 4-3-3-3 with 15-19 points you have no choice but to open that suit ready to rebid in No Trumps next- also the opponents are now not likely to lead that suit.
720	Take out one suit from a pack of cards and practice basic finesse positions https://www.haroldschogger.com/videos.htm ONLY examples 1 2 3 until fully understood.
721	With KQJ4 opposite 652 you MUST WORK and play off that King and then you build two tricks- in bridge terms this is SUIT ESTABLISHMENT.
722	Having made an bidding bid of 1 of a Suit do remember you PROMISED A REBID and you have to make your second bid when it's your turn (unless player on your right joins in and now you are off the hook and are allowed to Pass with minimum hands
723	Please claim early once you know all the rest of the tricks are yours. If you play one card at a time when you have 3 obvious winners in your last 3 cards it is not nice as it is intimidating and you should claim quickly.
724	Please don't deny a 4 card Major when responding even if you are balanced and even if your highest card is only the 9.
725	To Open with a pre-empt yes you have to have seven card suit but also 7- 10 points so don't open 3♠ if your highest card is just the Jack or 10. All your honours should really be concentrated in that seven card suit with no outside values.
726	With two five card suits please bid the higher one first even if the other looks much better.
727	Rebidding with a Jump in your long suit shows 15/16 Honour points and six card suit - more importantly 6/7 playing tricks.
728	To pre-empt 2 of a suit or 3 of a suit you need 6- 10 honour points more importantly LESS THAN OPENING BID VALUES.
729	It is not a good idea to lead a suit that they bid especially in a No Trump Contract.
730	Against Weak No Trump Opponents with ANY 15 POINT HAND do remember to double their weak No Trump promising only 12-14- It is always 1 more than their maximum.
731	Leading against No Trump Contracts: When partner has NOT BID i.e. BLIND LEAD a) Top of a sequence in LONGEST SUIT b) 4 th one down with a suit with at least one honour c) 2 nd one down from BAD SUITS.
732	When dummy comes down red black red black, declarer needs to line her cards up parallel and then it's much easier to count winners (and losers).
733	To make a small slam in NT requires 33 points and 37 points for Grand Slam with BALANCED HANDS. HOWEVER with SUIT BIDDING, shape comes into focus and LESS POINTS ARE NEEDED especially with a FIT.
734	When you LEAD you lead top of sequences. When you FOLLOW SUIT you do the opposite and follow with the lowest of touching cards.
735	A limit bid is any a bid that gives EXACT information in terms of POINTS and SHAPE. Once you make a limit bid PARTNER IS IN CHARGE. You can only bid gain if FORCED to do so or INVITED
736	To open 2♣, the strongest opening bid in most systems you need 23 or more points or TEN PLAYING TRICKS in Spade or Hearts i.e. Game in your own hand.
737	THINK OPENING BID, THINK REPLY. THINK OVERCALL and stop using <u>bid</u> as it MEANS NOTHING.
738	If you open 1NT you have MADE A LIMIT BID and PARTNER is IN CHARGE and you should not bid again unless invited or forced.

739	Stop being a slave to points only. With six and seven card suits your hand goes through the roof even with 10/11 points
740	Playing against weak No Trump opponents who promise 12-14 points for their 1NT opener, If you now partner overcalls 2♥ when there has been a 1NT opener you can deduce partner has at most 14 point because if partner had 15 she would have DOUBLED in the first place.
741	One should not use Stayman with 4333 hands as you have no ruffing values and even if there were a fit, 9 tricks in NT might be easier than ten in the Major fit..
742	After partner leads, you, in 3 rd seat, NEED TO PLAY HIGH to try to win the trick and also to make declarer work hard for the current trick...
743	If you double their 1NT it ALWAYS shows 1 more point than their Maximum so over weak No trump it shows 15 and over the 15-17 No trump it shows 18 or more
744	With doubleton Spade and 3 hearts prefer to reply 2♥ when partner opens 1♥ rather than 1NT even though you do not have 4 card support as you have ruffing values in your Doubleton suit. Even in Acol most hands that are opened 1♥ the opener will more often than not have 5 card suit.
745	When defending please LOOK AT DUMMY (LAD) before playing your next card UGH.
746	If you ruff in long hand you do not get extra tricks. If you ruff in short hand (mainly dummy) then you do get extra tricks as you have not depleted your trump length in the long hand.
747	Top of sequence overrides 4 th highest IN YOUR LONGEST SUIT if you are lucky enough to have a sequence in that suit.
748	Once your partner has opened 1NT YOU ARE IN CHARGE as partner made the limit bid.
749	If your partner opens 1♦ or 1♣ and you are balanced but have a FOUR CARD MAJOR reply 1 of a that Major. NEVER DENY A FOUR CARD Major when responding (at the 1 level).
750	When the bidding goes 1♦ -2♦ reply from partner and you have good balanced 18 points just bid 3NT. we don't like the Minors do we. It's easier to make 9 tricks than 11.
751	Partner opens 1NT (12-14) and you have 12 points you cannot go straight to 3NT. However, you can reply 2NT INVITING partner to go onto 3NT with maximum hand or a good 13 count- maybe some tens or a five-card suit.
752	If your partner has overcalled during the auction remember to lead the suit partner Bid (ALPS- Always Lead Partner's Suit). (Don't divorce the bidding from the card play).
753	When you defend DON'T JUST CASH ACES- Aces are mean to beat declarer's Kings and Queens.
754	Generally, it is a good idea to Return your partner's suit if you obtain the lead, i.e. whatever he led initially- comeback the same suit especially if they have led a singleton then they want a ruff ARYPS Always Return your partner's suit.
755	<p>. When there is a choice between Opening 1 of a Suit and 1NT there is NO CHOICE you Open 1NT the LIMIT BID. so with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♠ A Q J 6 ♥ K Q J 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ 7 6 5 <p>open 1NT here (12-14points). NB ALL REBID PROBLEMS OCCUR BECAUSE SOMEBODY FORGOT TO OPNE 1NT IN THE FIRST PLACE.</p>
756	When talking about hands USE THE CORRECT TERM - DO NOT use Opening all the time SAY OPEN REPLY and OVERCALL avoid using just the word Bid and then it will eventually all make more sense.

757	Line your card up the same as dummy and then you can always think in straight lines provided that dummy lays the cards down Red/Black/Red Black and when you adjust your cards in the closed hand do it surreptitiously or everybody (watching you UGH) will work out your shape.
758	If Right Hand Opponent opens 1 of a suit and you are next player (the overcaller) and you have balanced 13/14 points then you PASS. There is no legitimate bid to make in this position. You are asking for trouble if you overcall!!
759	<p>Once the auction is underway both opener and responder bid up the line if either has two four card suits when responding. This means they would bid the first suit available:</p> <p>♠ K Q J 6 ♠ A K Q 4 ♥ J 6 5 4 ♥ J 8 7 6 ♦ 8 7 ♦ 7 ♣ 9 5 4 ♣ K Q 7 6</p> <p>Left hand: Now reply 1♥ when partner opens 1♦ Right hand: Having opened 1♣ (suit below singleton partner replies 1♦ now you rebid 1♥` - first available suit up the line.</p>

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- (1) (1)Tip No. 8 out of 94 tips from experts in link : <http://bridge-tips.co.il/?p=7886>
- (2) (2)Translator's note: Of course, prior agreement with the partner in your announcements methods to prevent misunderstandings, see Example here in Hand3\.. : [PDF B\weakness take out bid.pdf](#)