

Basic Beginning Bridge Lesson 4 – Supplemental

More information: <https://bridge.careytutor.com>

Least Lie Principle

- “Least Lie Principle” is my term for “pick the best bid you can”.
 - You will not always be able to exactly describe your hand with a bid.
 - In that case, you must minimize the discrepancy.
 - Generally, correctly describe your strength, while perhaps fudging your length.

- Example:

- After a 1 Diamond opening bid, you respond with the following hand:

♠A8 ♥98 ♦876 ♣AT9754

- Choose 1 No Trump rather than 2 Clubs. 1 No Trump correctly describes your strength (6 – 9 points), while hiding your long club suit (a 2C bid requires 10+ points).

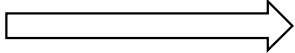
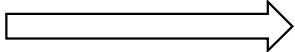
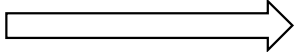
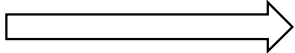
Major Suit Support - Examples

Opening bid of 1 Heart for each of the following hands:

- 1) ♠A8632 ♥Q82 ♦JT6 ♣74 → **Bid 2 Hearts**
- 7 high-card points plus 1 point for the doubleton. Support partner first with 3 trumps. Do not bid the spade suit. With a minimum hand, you are allowed only one forward-going bid.
- 2) ♠982 ♥A983 ♦A4 ♣K632 → **Bid 3 Hearts**
- 11 high-card points plus 1 point for the doubleton. Make an invitational bid (10 – 12 points).
- 3) ♠A982 ♥Q83 ♦4 ♣AK532 → **Bid 4 Hearts**
- 13 high-card points plus 2 points for the singleton (based on 3 trumps). An opening hand opposite an opening hand → bid game. Don't be distracted by the spade suit.
- 4) ♠AQJT7 ♥T743 ♦KQ82 ♣ → **Bid 2 Spades**
- 12 high-card points plus 5 points for the void (based on 4 trumps). This is a great hand. Your jump shift of 2 spades shows 16+. Your next bid will be in hearts. If opener makes a minimum bid, bid 4 Hearts – game is probably good enough. Otherwise, bid 6 Hearts. There are more advanced methods available to better bid slam – see materials online.

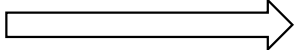
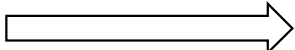
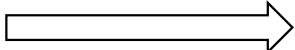
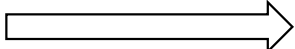
New Suit Response - Examples

Opening bid of 1 Diamond for each of the following hands:

- 1) ♠98632 ♥KJT98 ♦A6 ♣6  ***Bid 1 Spade***
• 8 high-card points. Two 5-card suits – pick the highest-ranking; suit strength doesn't matter.
- 2) ♠K982 ♥9843 ♦A73 ♣96  ***Bid 1 Heart***
• 7 high-card points. Two 4-card suits – bid “up the line” (lowest suit first).
- 3) ♠A92 ♥32 ♦Q64 ♣AJT83  ***Bid 2 Clubs***
• 11 high-card points. No 4-card major suit. 10+ points → level 2 bid allowed. The Bid must be lower in rank than the opening bid (otherwise, it would be a “jump shift”).
- 4) ♠A762 ♥AQJ64 ♦K3 ♣K2  ***Bid 2 Hearts***
• 17 high-card points. Jump shift to show strength. Jumping (2 Hearts rather than 1 Heart) and shifting (new suit) shows 16+.

No Trump Responses - Examples

Opening bid of 1 Heart for each of the following hands:

- 1) ♠982 ♥K8 ♦AJ632 ♣876  ***Bid 1 No Trump***
- 8 high-card points. No 3-card or better support for hearts. No 4-card spade suit. Cannot bid 2 diamonds! That would require 10+ high-card points.
- 2) ♠AT8 ♥A3 ♦T862 ♣K643  ***Bid 2 No Trump***
- 11 high-card points. No 3-card or better support for hearts. No 4-card spade suit. The lack of stopper in diamonds is ok – one open suit is not a killer at the two level.
- 3) ♠A82 ♥K3 ♦Q654 ♣A983  ***Bid 3 No Trumps***
- 13 high-card points. No 3-card or better support for hearts. No 4-card spade suit. No 5-card club or diamond suit. Stoppers in all unbid suits (not critical, but nice to have).
- 4) ♠8762 ♥Q8 ♦AK73 ♣K93  ***Bid 1 Spade***
- 12 high-card points. No 3-card or better support for hearts. Give precedence to the 4-card spade suit over bidding 2 no trump. Partner may have a 4-card spade suit as well.

Minor Suit Support - Examples

Opening bid of 1 Diamond for each of the following hands:

1) ♠982 ♥K8 ♦AJ632 ♣876  ***Bid 2 Diamonds***

- 8 high-card points. One point for the doubleton if supporting diamonds. 5 diamonds. The choice is between 1 no trump or 2 diamonds. In this case, most of the high cards are in diamonds.

2) ♠AT8 ♥A3 ♦JT863 ♣K63  ***Bid 2 No Trump***

- 12 high-card points. No 4-card heart or spade suit. 5 diamonds. The choice is between 2 no trump or 3 diamonds. In this case, with a balanced hand and stoppers in all suits, bid 2NT.

3) ♠A82 ♥K3 ♦Q654 ♣A983  ***Bid 3 No Trumps***

- 13 high-card points. No 3-card or better support for hearts. No 4-card spade suit. No 5-card club or diamond suit. Stoppers in all unbid suits (not critical, but nice to have).

4) ♠8762 ♥Q8 ♦AK73 ♣K93  ***Bid 1 Spade***

- 12 high-card points. Give precedence to the 4-card spade suit over bidding 2 no trump or 3 diamonds. Partner may have a 4-card spade suit as well.

Follow-up Reading

- The ACBL robot-based playing tool is available at <http://www.learn2playbridge.com/map>. Continue the bidding section with some of the hands from:
 - 1 of a Minor Opening and Responding to Partner 1 of a Minor Opening
 - 1 of a Major Opening and Responding to Partner 1 of a Major Opening
- A Teacher First has a summary of opening bidding :
 - <https://www.ateacherfirst.com/bridge-lessons/step1/>
 - Read “Lesson 1 – Opening 1 of a Suit”, pages 5 – 6.