

Basic Beginning Bridge

Lesson 5 – No Trump Opening Bids

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

Objective for Lesson 5

- Main objectives:
 - Learn how to make an opening no trump bid and to respond appropriately
- Secondary objectives:
 - Point ranges for no trump opening bids
 - Guidelines for no trump responding bids
 - Finding a suit fit after a no trump opening bid

Opening No Trump Bids

- 1 no trump opening bid
 - 15 – 17 high card points
 - Balanced hands:
 - 4 – 4 – 3 – 2
 - 4 – 3 – 3 – 3
 - 5 – 3 – 3 – 2
- 2 no trump opening bid
 - 20 – 21 high card points and a balanced hand
 - Stopper(s) in at least 3 suits

Responder Point Ranges (NT Opening Bid)

< 8 Points – pass or bid a long suit

8+ Points – invitational hand

10+ Points – game hand

15+ Points – game or slam

As Responder: Count Your Points!

- If you and your partner total 26 or more points – bid the game!
- If you and your partner total 33 or more points – bid the small slam!
- If you and your partner total 37 or more points – bid the grand slam!
- If your hand is unbalanced, consider exploring a suit contract.

No Trump Responses to 1 No Trump Bid

- Pass
 - Fewer than 8 high card points (but if unbalanced, see suit bids coming up)
- 2 no trump
 - 8 – 9 high card points (invitational) and a mostly balanced hand
 - Opener raises to 3NT with a maximum (17 high card points)
- 3 no trump
 - 10 – 14 high card points and a mostly balanced hand
 - Opener will pass.
- 4 no trump (a **quantitative bid**) - invitational
 - 15 – 17 high card points and a mostly balanced hand
 - Opener raises to 6NT with a maximum (17 high card points)

Filling the No Trump Opening Gaps

- With 12 – 14 high card points and a balanced hand:
 - Bid a suit and then rebid 1NT
 - Example: 1C – pass – 1H – pass – 1NT
- With 18 – 19 high card points and a balanced hand:
 - Bid a suit and jump in NT
 - Example: 1C – pass – 1H – pass – 2NT
- *Open the bidding with 2 Clubs, then rebid NT:*
 - *22 – 24 high card points → rebid 2NT*
 - *25 – 26 high card points → rebid 3NT*

No Trump Opening Summary

- 12 – 14 high card points and a balanced hand – bid a suit, then rebid 1NT
- 15 – 17 high card points and a balanced hand – open 1 NT
- 18 – 19 high card points and a balanced hand – bid a suit, then jump in NT
- 20 – 21 high card points and a balanced hand – open 2NT
- *22 – 24 high card points and a balanced hand – open 2 Clubs, then bid 2 NT*
- *25 or more high card points and a balanced hand – open 2 Clubs, then bid 3NT*

Practice – No Trump Bids and Responses

- How many high card points in opener's hand?
- How many high card points in responder's hand?
- Does responder have a long suit?
- How do you tell partner about your hand?
- What do you think opener will bid next?

Basic Ways of Finding a Suit Fit

- With a 5-card major suit, bid naturally:
 - 1 NT – pass – 2H or 2S shows a 5-card heart/spade suit and weak (< 10 points)
 - Opener will pass unless they have 17+ and 4-card support, where they invite with 3H/3S.
 - 1 NT – pass – 3H or 3S shows a 5-card heart/spade suit and 10+ points
 - Opener is forced to a) bid 3NT with 2 heart/spades; or b) bid 4H/4S with 3+ hearts/spades.
- With a 6-card minor suit and a weak hand, bid naturally:
 - 1NT – pass – 3C or 3D shows 6+ cards in clubs/diamonds and < 8 points.
 - Opener passes.

Practice – Finding a Suit Fit

- How many high card points in opener's hand?
- How many high card points in responder's hand?
- Does responder have 5 or more in hearts or spades?
- How do you tell partner about your hand?
- What do you think opener will bid next?

No Trump Considerations

- What to do if you have 15 – 17 high card points and a 5 – 3 – 3 – 2 balanced hand – with the 5 cards in hearts or spades?
 - Many approaches – initially recommend opening 1NT.
- What if you have an unbalanced hand after partner's 2NT opening?
 - Same approach as with 1NT, but one level higher and with different point ranges.

Summary

- Opening no trump bids: 15 – 17, 20 – 21
- No trump responses – 8 – 9 (game invitational), 10 – 14 (game), 15 – 17 (slam invitational)
- Full no trump bid collection
- Finding a suit fit – 2 Hearts/Spades (weak), 3 Hearts/Spades (game), 3 Clubs/3 Diamonds (weak)