


Basic Beginning Bridge Lesson 5 – Supplemental

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

1 No Trump Opening Bids - Examples

1) ♠AQ62 ♥AQ82 ♦KT6 ♣74  ***Open 1 No Trump***

- 15 high-card points. Balanced hand (4 – 4 – 3 – 2). No 5-card major suit. If partner has an 8+ point hand and four hearts or spades, Stayman is a possibility. A solid 1 NT hand.

2) ♠982 ♥AQJ83 ♦A4 ♣KQ3  ***Open 1 No Trump***

- 16 high-card points. Balanced hand (5 – 3 – 3 – 2). The alternative bid is 1 Heart (about 50% of players would make that bid) with a rebid of the 3-card club suit over a 1 Spade bid by partner.

3) ♠AKQ2 ♥T843 ♦4 ♣AKJ3  ***Open 1 Club***





- 17 high-card points. Not a balanced hand (low diamond singleton). All high-card points in two suits. Not a good 1 No Trump choice.

4) ♠AQT ♥Q43 ♦KQ832 ♣A6  ***Open 1 No Trump***

- 17 high-card points. Balanced hand (5 – 3 – 3 – 2). No 5-card major. A good 1 NT hand.

No Trump Responses - Examples

Opening bid of 1 No Trump for each of the following hands:

- 1) ♠986 ♥KJT ♦AT6 ♣9876  **Bid 2 No Trump**
 - 8 high-card points. Balanced hand. No 4-card or longer major suit. Worth an invitational bid to game. If partner has 17 high-card points, they'll raise to 3 No Trump.
- 2) ♠K92 ♥943 ♦A7653 ♣96  **Pass**
 - 7 high-card points. Balanced hand. No 4-card or longer major suit. No chance for game.
- 3) ♠A92 ♥32 ♦Q64 ♣AJT83  **Bid 3 No Trump**
 - 11 high-card points. Balanced hand. No 4-card major suit. Enough for game. Bid it.
- 4) ♠AQ2 ♥A6 ♦K863 ♣K752  **Bid 4 No Trump**
 - 16 high-card points. Balanced hand. No 4-card major suit. The 4 No Trump bid is invitational to slam. If partner has 17, they'll bid 6 No Trump. With 15, they'll pass. With 16, they'll guess – slam or pass – based on the structure of their hand (tens, nines, length, etc.).

Suit Bid Responses - Examples

Opening bid of 1 No Trump for each of the following hands:

1) ♠J82 ♥K7654 ♦2 ♣J765  **Bid 2 Hearts**

- 5 high-card points. This hand will take more tricks in hearts than in 1 No Trump. The short diamond suit is great for ruffing. Partner will probably pass, but you'll pass any other bid.

2) ♠A8762 ♥3 ♦Q54 ♣9832  **Bid 2 Spades**

- 6 high-card points. If partner actually has 4 or more spades and 17 points, they'll bid 3 Spades. Otherwise, they'll pass.





3) ♠K83 ♥Q9853 ♦AQ53 ♣3  **Bid 3 Hearts**

- 11 high-card points. If partner actually has 3 or more hearts, they'll bid 4 Hearts. Otherwise, they'll bid 3 No Trump.

4) ♠AKT762 ♥8 ♦AK73 ♣K93  **Bid 3 Spades**

- 17 high-card points. Partner has at least 2 spades. With your 6 spades, you have an 8-card fit. Bid 6 Spades over any bid by partner. There are more advanced slam bidding methods.

Collective No Trump Openings – Examples

- 1) ♠AK2 ♥K8 ♦AJ632 ♣A76  ***Open 1 Diamond***
- 19 high-card points. Too high for 1 NT (15 – 17) and too low for 2NT (20 – 21). If partner bids 1 Heart or 1 Spade, jump to 2 No Trump to show 18 – 19 high-card points. If partner bids 1 No Trump or 2 Clubs, bid 3 No Trump (jump in no trump).
- 2) ♠AT8 ♥Q3 ♦AQ63 ♣AKQ3  ***Open 2 No Trump***
- 21 high-card points. Balanced hand. Stoppers in three suits.
- 3) ♠A82 ♥K3 ♦Q654 ♣A983  ***Open 1 Diamond***
- 13 high-card points. Balanced hand. No 5-card major suit. With 4 – 4 in the minors, bid 1 Diamond. Plan to rebid 1 No Trump if partner bids 1 Heart or 1 Spade. Bid 2 No Trump (lowest available no trump bid) if partner bids 2 Clubs. If partner bids 1 No Trump (6 – 9 points), pass.
- 4) ♠AK2 ♥K8 ♦AK73 ♣KQ43  ***Open 2 Clubs***
- 22 high-card points. Balanced hand. Too high for 2 No Trump (20 – 21 high-card points). The Two Club bid shows 22+. You'll rebid 2 No Trumps after any partner response.

Stayman Convention

- A way to find a 8-card major fit after a 1 No Trump opening bid
- If you have four or more hearts or spades and 8+ high card points
 - Make an **artificial bid**: 2 Clubs (the Stayman convention)
 - This bid has nothing to do with clubs; it says you have 4+ hearts or spades or both.
- Opener rebids:
 - 2 Diamonds (artificial) – “partner, I don’t have 4 hearts or 4 spades”
 - 2 Hearts – “partner, I have 4 or more hearts (and maybe spades too)”
 - 2 Spades – “partner, I have 4 or more spades (but not hearts)”

Stayman Responder Rebids

- After opener's 2D:
 - 8 – 9 high card points → bid 2NT (invitational)
 - 10+ high card points → bid 3NT
- After opener's 2H:
 - 2NT to show 8 – 9 high card points and 4 spades
 - 3NT to show 10+ high card points and 4 spades
 - 3H to show 8 – 9 total points and 4 hearts; opener raises to 4H if maximum (17+ points)
 - 4H to show 10+ total points and 4 hearts
- After opener's 2S:
 - 2NT to show 8 – 9 total points and 4 hearts
 - 3NT to show 10+ total points and 4 hearts
 - 3S to show 8 – 9 total points and 4 spades; opener raises to 4S if maximum (17+ points)
 - 4S to show 10+ total points and 4 spades

Stayman Details

- When not to use Stayman with a 4-card heart or spade suit?
 - When you have a very balanced hand (e.g., 4 – 3 – 3 – 3) with no ruffing value.

- What if you have both a 5-card and 4-card major?
 - Rebid in your longer suit at the 2-level (8/9 pts) or 3-level (10+ pts).

- Example:

1NT	pass	2C	pass	
2D	pass	3H	pass	→ 3H says “I have 5 hearts and 4 spades and 10+ points”
4H	all pass			→ partner bids 4H with 3 hearts; or 3NT with 2 hearts

Stayman Responses - Examples

Opening bid of 1 No Trump for each of the following hands:

1) ♠T982 ♥K8 ♦AJ632 ♣86  ***Bid 2 Clubs***

- 8 high-card points. If partner bids 2 Diamonds or 2 Hearts, bid 2 No Trump (invitational). If partner bids 2 Spades, bid 3 Spades (invitational). Partner will go to game with 17 points.

2) ♠AT8 ♥A763 ♦T8 ♣K643  ***Bid 2 Clubs***

- 11 high-card points. If partner bids 2 Diamonds or 2 Spades, bid 3 No Trump. If partner bids 2 Hearts, bid 4 Hearts. You have enough for game either way.

3) ♠AT82 ♥KJ3 ♦Q54 ♣J93  ***Bid 3 No Trumps***

- 11 high-card points. 4-card spade suit, but also 4 – 3 – 3 – 3 distribution. The only reason to ask about a spade fit is if you can ruff – but you have no short suits. Enough for the 3NT game. Bid it.

4) ♠A762 ♥QJ8 ♦AK73 ♣K3  ***Bid 2 Clubs***

- 17 high-card points. If partner bids 2 Diamonds or 2 Hearts, bid 6 No Trump. If partner bids 2 Spades, bid 6 Spades. There are better slam-bidding techniques available, but for now just bid the slam.

Transfer Bids

- An alternative way to show 5 hearts or spades
 - Use transfers in place of the natural 1N – pass – 2H or 2S or 3H or 3S bids.
- With 5+ cards in hearts or spades:
 - Bid 2D (artificial) – requires opener to bid 2H
 - Bid 2H (artificial) – requires opener to bid 2S
- Responder rebid:
 - Pass – if the responder's hand is weak (< 8 high card points)
 - 2NT – with 8 or 9 high card points (invitational)
 - 3H or 3S – with 8 or 9 total points (invitational)
 - 3NT – with 10+ total points and a normal 5-card heart/spade suit; partner will correct to 4H or 4S if they have support.
 - 4H or 4S – with 10+ total points (with a strong 6+ suit)

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 NT Opening and Responding to Partner 1 NT Opening
 - 2 NT Opening
 - Stayman
- A Teacher First has a summary of NT opening bidding:
 - <https://www.ateacherfirst.com/bridge-lessons/step1/>
 - Read “Lesson 2 – Opening 1 NT”. Note: they prefer 1 Major over 1 NT.
 - Read “Lesson 2 – Responding to 1NT Opening Bid – Beginner” (simple approach)
 - Read “Lesson 2 – Responding Using Stayman and Jacoby” (more efficient)
 - Read “Lesson 3 – Opening Bids – Very Strong Hands”.