

U3ABC10 Practice Session: Reinforcement for modules 6-9

Welcome!

No new lessons this week, but you were encouraged to revise modules U3B06A-U3ABC09 because...

This practice session gives you a good mix of hands, to practice all the bidding we've taught you so far, including:

- Opening 1NT with a balanced hand and responding
- Opening 1NT with a balanced hand and transferring to a major
- Opening one of a suit with an unbalanced hand, responding and rebidding
- Opening one of a suit with a balanced hand, responding and rebidding

But just like in real life, they aren't in that order. Or any order.

-Ed

Additional (Advanced) Discussion

In these notes, **anything in green** is a bit more advanced, so it's optional reading for the adventurous!

The Hands

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ A986		
	♥ J3		
	♦ A954		
	♣ A42		
♠ J42		♠ T73	
♥ KQT872		♥ A94	
♦		♦ QJT86	
♣ K865		♣ 97	
	♠ KQ5		
	♥ 65		
	♦ K732		
	♣ QJT3		

Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q #136

North has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

South has 11 HCP and a balanced hand. This isn't quite enough to be sure of making 3NT, as that requires 25 HCP. They bid 2NT to tell partner they have 11-12 HCP, asking them to bid 3NT if they have the maximum 14 HCP.

North does not have the maximum 14 HCP, so they pass 2NT.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

Notice that the 1NT and 2NT point counts are not precise, they are ranges (12-14 and 11-12) so if you opened 1NT with 13 points and partner replied 2NT, you might have 24 points or 25 points in total; if you're feeling optimistic you might try your luck with 3NT!

25 points does NOT guarantee that you'll make 3NT, but you probably will. That's what makes Bridge a game, not a science.

East	South	West	North
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ A6		
	♥ JT32		
	♦ J987		
	♣ 763		
♠ JT3		♠ Q874	
♥ A9876		♥ KQ4	
♦ 2		♦ A43	
♣ AKJ8		♣ Q42	
	♠ K952		
	♥ 5		
	♦ KQT65		
	♣ T95		

Board: 2 Dealer: East Lead: ♦K #1641

West has 5 Hearts and 13 HCP, so they start by bidding 2D, asking partner to transfer 2H.

East bids 2H as requested, what does West bid next?

They have 13 HCP, and partner has 12-14, so the partnership has 25-27. You need 25 points for 3NT or 4H, but which is the better contract? West bids 3NT to tell partner:

- I have exactly 5 Hearts
- We have enough points for game in NT or Hearts
- You decide!

Yes, it's a proper dialogue. East can pass to play in 3NT or bid 4H to play in 4H. With just two Hearts, they'd pass 3NT, as they've only got a 5-2 fit, not enough. With three Hearts, they would probably bid 4H unless they hate the idea; with four or more Hearts, they would bid 4H.

With three good Hearts, East is happy to bid 4H, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

Additional (Advanced) Discussion

East only has three Hearts, so could pass 3NT, especially as they have a 4333 hand, but they have two good Honours in Hearts, so they decided on 4H.

I wonder which you chose - some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer No Trumps

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ K842		
	♥ A954		
	♦ 96		
	♣ T32		
♠ J7		♠ T9	
♥ QJ632		♥ K	
♦ AQ4		♦ T8732	
♣ J97		♣ A8654	
	♠ AQ653		
	♥ T87		
	♦ KJ5		
	♣ KQ		

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ J832		
	♥ 4		
	♦ Q742		
	♣ KQJ9		
♠ AQT		♠ K7	
♥ QT32		♥ AJ976	
♦ A3		♦ KT95	
♣ T854		♣ A2	
	♠ 9654		
	♥ K85		
	♦ J86		
	♣ 763		

Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♥Q #2565

South has 15 points and a balanced hand, with a good 5-card Spade suit. They open 1S and plan to rebid 1NT to show their shape and points.

North has just 7 points, a balanced hand, and four Spades. They're strong enough to raise partner to 2S, but not strong enough to bid 2H; a new suit at the two-level promises 10+ points. And anyway, you shouldn't bid a new suit when they have 4-card support for partner's major. So they bid 2S.

This single raise promises 4 Spades and 6-9 points.

South can see a combined point count of 21-24, so despite partner's support there's no need to bid further; not enough for game. They might be tempted to bid 2NT, but a suit contract usually makes one more trick than a NT contract – and is usually a bit safer.

Board: 4 Dealer: West Lead: ♣K #1676

East has 5 Hearts and 15 HCP, so they start by bidding 2D, asking (telling) partner to bid 2H.

West bids 2H as requested, what does East bid next?

They have 15 HCP, and partner has 12-14, so the partnership has 27-29 – enough for 3NT or 4H, but which is the better contract? East bids 3NT to tell partner:

- I have exactly 5 Hearts
- We have enough points for game in NT or Hearts
- You decide!

Yes, it's a proper dialogue. West can pass to play in 3NT or bid 4H to play in 4S. With just two Hearts, they'd pass 3NT, as they've only got a 5-2 fit, not enough. With three Hearts, they would probably bid 4H unless they hate the idea; with four or more Hearts, they would bid 4H.

With four Hearts, North is happy to bid 4H, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

Additional (Advanced) Discussion

If West had three Hearts, they might pass 3NT if they had a 4333 hand and no Honours in Hearts, but would usually bid 4H. Then again, some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer playing in No Trumps

North East South West

1♦ Pass 1NT Pass
3NT Pass Pass Pass

♠ J9732	♠ AQ6
♥ 972	♥ AKJ
♦ Q8	♦ AJ76
♣ AK4	♣ 873
	♠ T8
	♥ QT83
	♦ K9532
	♣ 62
	♠ K54
	♥ 654
	♦ T4
	♣ QJT95

Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♠3 #2976

North has a strong, balanced hand with 19 HCP. The best way to show that is to bid 1 of a suit, then on the second round you can jump to 3NT. So North starts by bidding their longest suit, 1D.

South has a bare 6 HCP, so is not strong enough to bid their long suit (2C requires 9+ points), doesn't have 4 Diamonds, so can't bid 2D, so their only sensible bid is 1NT (6-9 HCP).

North adds up the HCP, reaching the magic 25 – just enough for 3NT. Fingers crossed – those Clubs look bad...

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

One unfortunate thing about this hand is that South bid NT first so they're Declarer and North's hand is Dummy, revealing where all those points are to Defence. Can't be helped.

East South West North

1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♣ Pass Pass Pass

♠ Q654	♠ 92
♥ AT762	♥ KJ98
♦ J85	♦ QT762
♣ 4	♣ J9
	♠ KJ3
	♥ 53
	♦ 93
	♣ AKQ752
	♠ AT87
	♥ Q4
	♦ AK4
	♣ T863

Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♦A #2792

East has 13 HCP and a nice 6-card Club suit, so they open 1C. This shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Clubs. They intend to rebid Clubs.

West has 7 HCP and a reasonable 5-card Heart suit, so bids 1H. This shows 6+ HCP and a 4-card Heart suit. It's a change of suit, so it's forcing for one round.

East can't support partner's Hearts, doesn't have another suit to bid, and can't rebid 1NT (as that would promise a balanced hand and 15-16 HCP), so rebids 2C. This bid shows 12-15 HCP and 5 Clubs, and denies 4 Hearts and denies 4 Spades.

West can see a maximum of 22 HCP, so knows there is no chance of game, so they pass rather than risk bidding on. Their singleton Club is a worry, but 2H or 2S might be an even worse contract.

South West North East

1NT Pass 2NT Pass
Pass Pass

♠ T73	♠ KQ5
♥ AT42	♥ 65
♦ QJT8	♦ K732
♣ 97	♣ QJT3
	♠ J42
	♥ KQJ97
	♦ 6
	♣ K865
	♠ A986
	♥ 83
	♦ A954
	♣ A42

Board: 7 Dealer: South Lead: ♦Q #578

South has 12 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

North has 11 HCP and a balanced hand. This isn't quite enough to be sure of making 3NT, as that requires 25 HCP. They bid 2NT to tell partner they have 11-12 HCP, asking them to bid 3NT if they have the maximum 14 HCP.

North does not have the maximum 14 HCP, so they pass 2NT.

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠9853		
	♥2		
	♦976		
	♣KJ865		
♠AKQT7		♠J6	
♥A953		♥QJT86	
♦3		♦AK842	
♣Q73		♣2	
	♠42		
	♥K74		
	♦QJT5		
	♣AT94		

Board: 8 Dealer: West Lead: ♦Q #3375

West has 14 HCP and a nice 5-card Spade suit, so opens 1S. This shows 4 Spades and 12-19 HCP. Note that, with a 4-card Heart suit and a longer Spade suit, you bid Spades first. (You bid Hearts first if you have 4 Hearts and 4 Spades.)

East has 11 HCP, and two 5-card suits, Hearts and Diamonds. They're strong enough to bid a new suit at the 2 level, but which one? They choose Hearts for two good reasons: it's a lot easier to make game in a Major, and if they get a chance, they can show their Diamond suit on the next round fairly economically. (To show controls and maybe progress to 3NT.)

So East bids 2H, showing a 5-card Heart suit and 9-15 points. This bid is forcing for one round. (Bidding 2H over 1S promises 5 Hearts because by opening 1S, partner has denied having 4 Hearts, unless they have a longer Spade suit – so you must have 5 Hearts to bid 2H over 1S. Phew!)

West can rely on East for 5 Hearts and 9 HCP, adding their own 4 Hearts, 14 HCP and 2 Shortage Points for the singleton Diamond (in a Heart contract) they have enough for game, so bid 4H.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

If you don't find a fit with partner (say the bidding goes 1S-2H-2S-3D), your partner's bidding of two suits shows they probably have stops in those suits, which might be all you need to bid 2NT or 3NT. That's why it's sometimes better to bid a second suit rather than rebidding your first suit – it isn't always about finding a fit, sometimes it's about showing stops.

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠A5		
	♥QT8653		
	♦Q3		
	♣A86		
♠K832		♠JT97	
♥742		♥A	
♦J94		♦8762	
♣Q92		♣KJT4	
	♠Q64		
	♥KJ9		
	♦AKT5		
	♣753		

Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♠J #2707

North has 12 HCP and a 6-card major, so opens 1H. This shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts. They intend to rebid Hearts.

South has 13 HCP so expects to bid to game, but can't support partner's major (yet) with just 3 Hearts. Better to bid their longest suit – Diamonds – and get partner to describe their hand further. Bidding a new suit at the 2 level shows 9-15 HCP and 4 cards, and is forcing for one round.

North now knows they have a total of at least 21-27 HCP, so game is possible but by no means certain! They bid 2H, to show 5 Hearts and a minimal (12-15 point) hand.

South now knows that partner has at least 5 Hearts, so they have an 8-card fit. Even if partner has a 12 point hand, they have a total of 25 HCP, just enough to bid 4H.

East South West North

1NT Pass 2NT Pass
3NT Pass Pass Pass Pass

	♠ 653		
	♥ T987		
	♦ A6		
	♣ JT98		
♠ 87		♠ AT9	
♥ AKJ		♥ Q62	
♦ KJT73		♦ Q985	
♣ 543		♣ AQ2	
	♠ KQJ42		
	♥ 543		
	♦ 42		
	♣ K76		

Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♠K #568

East has 14 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

West has 12 HCP and a balanced hand. This isn't quite enough to be sure of making 3NT, as that requires 25 HCP. They bid 2NT to tell partner they have 11-12 HCP, asking them to bid 3NT if they have the maximum 14 HCP.

East does have the maximum 14 HCP, so they can happily bid 3NT.

South West North East

1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass Pass

	♠ KJ873		
	♥ Q52		
	♦ T43		
	♣ Q9		
♠ 4		♠ A52	
♥ 9763		♥ 84	
♦ K62		♦ Q987	
♣ A8765		♣ T432	
	♠ QT96		
	♥ AKJT		
	♦ AJ5		
	♣ KJ		

Board: 11 Dealer: South Lead: ♦7 #2970

South has 19 HCP and two 4-card majors. With two majors of equal length, you open 1H, to make it easy for partner to show a 4-card Spade suit at the 1-level.

This bid shows 12-19 HCP and 4 Hearts.

North has 8 HCP but only 3 Hearts, so can't raise partner's suit. Their 1S bid shows 4 Spades and 6-15 HCP. This bid is forcing for one round. It doesn't deny support for Hearts.

South now knows they have at least 25 HCP and 8 Spades between them, so bids game (4S) with confidence.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

The doubleton KJ is difficult to value. You could value it as 5 points (3 for the K, 1 for the J and 1 for the doubleton), but most players would take at least one point off.

West North East South

1NT Pass 2NT Pass
3NT Pass Pass Pass Pass

	♠ 75		
	♥ AK62		
	♦ KT4		
	♣ 9532		
♠ A93		♠ K84	
♥ T74		♥ J983	
♦ A72		♦ Q53	
♣ KQT6		♣ AJ4	
	♠ QJT62		
	♥ Q5		
	♦ J986		
	♣ 87		

Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♥2 #640

West has 13 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT, showing 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand.

East has 11 HCP and a fairly balanced hand. This isn't quite enough to be sure of making 3NT, as that requires 25 HCP. They bid 2NT to tell partner they have 11-12 HCP, asking them to bid 3NT if they have the maximum 14 HCP.

East does not have the maximum 14 HCP, so they could pass 2NT, but with 13 HCP, a promising Club suit, and two tens, they decide to risk 3NT.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

West has bent the rules slightly here, as tens aren't really worth half a point each – but it's this sort of nuanced decision that makes Bridge a game rather than a maths problem.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ K543		
	♥ A64		
	♦ Q974		
	♣ K6		
♠ QJT		♠ 8	
♥ KQJT		♥ 9532	
♦ J82		♦ A53	
♣ 954		♣ J8732	
	♠ A9762		
	♥ 87		
	♦ KT6		
	♣ AQT		

Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♥5 #1471
 South has 5 Spades and 12 HCP, so they start by bidding 2H, asking (telling) partner to bid 2S.

North bids 2S as requested, what does South bid next?

They have 13 HCP, and partner has 12-14, so the partnership has 25-27. You need 25 points for 3NT or 4S, but which is the better contract? South bids 3NT to tell partner:

- I have exactly 5 Spades
- We have enough points for game in NT or Spades
- You decide!

Yes, it's a proper dialogue. North can pass to play in 3NT or bid 4S to play in 4S. With just two Spades, they'd pass 3NT, as they've only got a 5-2 fit in Spades, not enough. With three Spades, they would probably bid 4S unless they hate the idea; with four or more Spades, they would bid 4S.

With four Spades, North is happy to bid 4S, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

Additional (Advanced) Discussion

If North had three Spades, they might pass 3NT if they had a 4333 hand and no Honours in Spades, but would usually bid 4S. Then again, some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer playing in No Trumps

East	South	West	North
1♥	Pass	2♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ QJT		
	♥ KQT9		
	♦ 73		
	♣ JT73		
♠ 973		♠ AK5	
♥ J3		♥ A852	
♦ A4		♦ K952	
♣ KQ9854		♣ A2	
	♠ 8642		
	♥ 764		
	♦ QJT86		
	♣ 6		

Board: 14 Dealer: East Lead: ♦Q #223

East has 18 points and a balanced hand, with two 4-card suits, Diamonds and Hearts. They plan to open one of a suit and rebid 2NT to show their shape and points, but which suit? With a major and a minor you will usually choose the major – not least because there's a chance that partner has four and you'll find a fit right away. So they open 1H.

West has 10 points, an unbalanced hand, and a good 6-card minor. They don't have four Hearts so can't support partner's major. They are just strong enough to bid a new suit at the two level, so they bid 2C. Bidding a new suit at the two-level shows 10+ points and 4 cards, and is forcing.

East now knows that West has 10+ points, making a total of at least 28. So, instead of rebidding 2NT, East can rebid 3NT.

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ AQJ84		
	♥ K4		
	♦ 864		
	♣ K97		
♠ 72		♠ 53	
♥ AT2		♥ J987	

Board: 15 Dealer: South Lead: ♣Q #1664
 North has 5 Spades and 13 HCP, so they start by bidding 2H, asking (telling) partner to bid 2S.

South bids 2S as requested, what does North bid next?

They have 13 HCP, and partner has 12-14, so the partnership has 25-27 – enough for 3NT or 4S, but which is the better contract? North bids 3NT to tell partner:

- I have exactly 5 Spades
- We have enough points for game in NT or Spades
- You decide!

♦ Q952	♦ JT7
♣ QJT6	♣ A854
♠ KT96	
♥ Q653	
♦ AK3	
♣ 32	

Yes, it's a proper dialogue. South can pass to play in 3NT or bid 4S to play in 4S. With just two Spades, they'd pass 3NT, as they've only got a 5-2 fit in Spades, not enough. With three Spades, they would probably bid 4S unless they hate the idea; with four or more Spades, they would bid 4S.

With four Spades, South is happy to bid 4S, game. (This type of bid is sometimes called a Correction or Preference Bid.)

Additional (Advanced) Discussion

If South had three Spades, they might pass 3NT if they had a 4333 hand and no Honours in Spades, but would usually bid 4S. Then again, some people prefer playing in a suit, some people prefer playing in No Trumps

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠ 5		
	♥ QJT83		
	♦ QT4		
	♣ KJT8		
♠ KQJ64		♠ AT98	
♥ 954		♥ A762	
♦ AJ		♦ 7653	
♣ A96		♣ 5	
	♠ 732		
	♥ K		
	♦ K982		
	♣ Q7432		

Board: 16 Dealer: West Lead: ♥Q #1341

West has 15 HCP and a nice 5-card major in a balanced hand, so opens 1S intending to rebid 1NT to show their points and shape.

East has just 8 HCP, but good 4-card support plus two Shortage Points for the singleton Club – making 10 points. Just enough to raise to 3S.

Remember that a jump raise of a suit promises 10-12 points and 4+ trumps.

West can see a total of 25+ points, so raises to 4S for game.

Summary

Commentary Synopsis					
	Subject: Reinforcement Practice			Hand #	Main topic
		Bidding Sequence			
1	N	1NT, 2NT		136	NT opener
2	E	1NT, 2D, 2H, 3NT, 4H		1641	NT opener + Transfer
3	S	1S, 2S		2565	Suit opener balanced
4	W	1NT, 2D, 2H, 3NT, 4H		1676	NT opener + Transfer
5	N	1D, 1NT, 3NT		2976	Suit opener balanced
6	E	1C, 1H, 2C		2792	Suit opener unbalanced
7	S	1NT, 2NT		578	NT opener
8	W	1S, 2H, 4H		3375	Suit opener unbalanced
9	N	1H, 2D, 2H, 4H		2707	Suit opener unbalanced
10	E	1NT, 2NT, 3NT		568	NT opener
11	S	1H, 1S, 4S		2970	Suit opener unbalanced
12	W	1NT, 2NT, 3NT		640	NT opener
13	N	1NT, 2H, 2S, 3NT, 4S		1471	NT opener + Transfer
14	E	1H, 2C, 3NT		223	Suit opener balanced
15	S	1NT, 2H, 2S, 3NT, 4S		1664	NT opener + Transfer
16	W	1S, 3S, 4S		1341	Suit opener balanced
		u3aBC10			