



Seminar 5 - EBU - Beginning Bridge Book 1 Pages 19-22

How the Bidding works, Opening 1NT & Balanced hand Responses

In Mini Bridge when you contract to make 7 tricks in No Trumps or a Suit Contract, the scoring starts from the 7th trick. So, if you make 8 tricks in spades then you get $2 \times 30 = 60$ pts as the trick score. The Bidding works in the same way, everything starts from the 7th trick.

Each player in turn (starting with the dealer) gets a chance to '*make a Bid*'. The bids that you can make start at 1 (7 tricks) and rise through all the suits & no trumps to 7 (13 tricks).

They are ordered sequentially by **suit rank** and then by **no of tricks**.

Suit Ranks

Highest first so **Spades**, **Hearts**, **Diamonds** and the lowest suit is **Clubs**. However **No Trumps** is the highest denomination and is above spades.

Bids in order of sequence (**lowest bid first**)

Rank	Bid	What you are bidding to make
1	Pass	Nothing
2	1♣	7 tricks with clubs as trumps.
3	1♦	7 tricks with diamonds as trumps
4	1♥	7 tricks with hearts as trumps
5	1♠	7 tricks with spades as trumps
6	1NT	7 tricks with No Trumps
7	2♣	8 tricks with clubs as trumps.
8	2♦	8 tricks with diamonds as trumps
9	2♥	8 tricks with hearts as trumps
10	2♠	8 tricks with spades as trumps
11	2NT	8 tricks with No Trumps
12	3♣	9 tricks with clubs as trumps.
13	3♦	9 tricks with diamonds as trumps
14	3♥	9 tricks with hearts as trumps
15	3♠	9 tricks with spades as trumps

16	3NT	9 tricks with No Trumps
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This sequence continues until you get to the 7th level

Rank	Bid	What you are bidding to make
32	7♣	13 tricks with clubs as trumps.
33	7♦	13 tricks with diamonds as trumps
34	7♥	13 tricks with hearts as trumps
35	7♠	13 tricks with spades as trumps
36	7NT	13 tricks with No Trumps

7 No Trumps being the highest bid you can make.

Once a bid has been made, then the next player to bid cannot make a lower bid (other than Pass).

There are 2 other bids which you will encounter called Double & Redouble, but these will be dealt with in a subsequent seminar.

The bidding ends when a bid from the table above is followed by 3 consecutive passes. However, every player has at least 1 chance to bid, (so on the 1st round 4 passes are required to end the bidding).

The bids are held in a 'Bidding Box' see 'You Tube video' for more details.

Opening the Bidding

Opening the bidding occurs when one player (starting from the dealer and rotating clockwise) decides to make a bid other than a Pass. Whether you can make a bid (other than a Pass) depends on how many **High Card Points** you hold.

In Mini Bridge you have become familiar with adding up your points and working out which pair have the highest number of points. Now we can no longer announce our points to the table, we must keep this information to ourselves.

We try to communicate to our Partner **how many points** we hold, and which are our **best suits** by using the bidding table above.

To open the bidding (be the 1st player to make a bid other than a Pass) you should have a minimum of 12 High Card Points.

Once either your partner or your opponents have opened, the requirement to have a minimum of 12 points to make a bid (other than Pass) changes. We will cover these requirements in subsequent seminars.

For this lesson we are focusing on one opening bid only, that of 1 No Trump.

This tells partner that you have between **12 & 14 High Card Points** and a balanced hand. We will discuss the meaning of a Balanced hand in the Seminar.