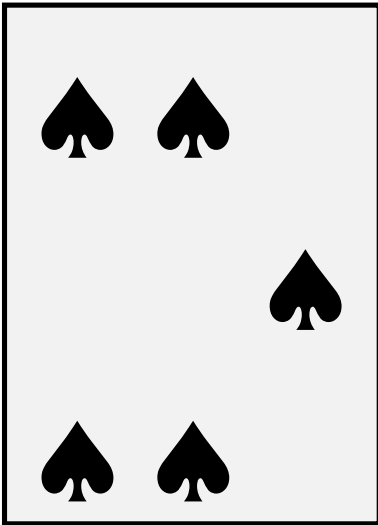


“Not everything that can be counted - counts;
and not everything that counts, can be counted.”

- *Albert Einstein*



five

- Raise responder's major
- Bid a new suit "up the line"
- Bid a new suit at the two-level
- Re-bid your primary suit
- Bid no trump
- Raise responder's minor

Opener's second bid

You got to know your limitations

Range	Strength
Min.	13-15 points
Med.	16-18 points
Max.	19-21 points

chart 5:1

An opening bid of 1♣, 1♦, 1♥, or 1♠ has a point range of 13-21 points. Opener's second bid enables her to 'limit' the strength of her hand to a minimum (13-15), medium (16-18) or maximum range (19-21).

Opener has six options for a second bid.

(Pass is also an option if responder's bid was limiting)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Raise responder's major. | 4) Re-bid your suit with 6+ cards. |
| 2) Bid a new suit "up the line" | 5) Bid no-trump. |
| 3) Bid a new suit at the two-level. | 6) Raise responder's minor suit. |

1) Raise responder's major suit

The first priority is to raise responder's major. Say you opened the bidding 1♥ and partner responded 1♠. With four-card support you could raise to 2♠ (13-15), 3♠ (16-18) or 4♠ (19-21). The level you choose will reflect the point range you hold.

At the table

You open 1♣ and partner responds 1♥. Consider your second bid.

1)	2)	3)
♠ AQ8	♠ A83	♠ AKQ6
♥ 10865	♥ AQ95	♥ 10987
♦ 32	♦ 73	♦ 3
♣ AKJ3	♣ AK65	♣ AKJ6

Hand 1 2♥ shows four-card support in the minimum range (13-15).

Hand 2 3♥ shows four-card support in the medium range (16-18).

Hand 3 4♥ shows four-card support in the maximum range (19-21).

The thing I am most aware of is my limits. And this is natural; for I rarely occupy the middle of my cage; my whole being surges toward the bars.

- Alan Bennett Andre Gide

2) Bid a new suit 'up the line'

The dictum that responder should bid four-card suits 'up the line' also applies to opener's second bid.

You hold: ♠ AQ54 ♥ 65 ♦ A87 ♣ KJ32.

You open 1♣ and partner responds 1♥. With no heart support you should continue "up the line" with a 1♠ bid. Bidding 'up the line' refers to:

1. Bidding at the one-level.
2. Relative to partner's last bid suit.

Bidding 'up the line' is a structured bidding style that makes it easy to locate a 4-4 major suit fit. The importance of continuing 'up the line' is reflected in a deduction made from the auction in



You	Partner
1♣	1♥
1♠	

Figure 5:1. You open the bidding 1♣, partner responds 1♥ and your second bid as opener is 1♠. You have by-passed hearts in order to bid 1♠ and thus have denied holding a four-card heart suit.

figure 5:1

You open each of the following hands 1♣, and partner responds 1♦. Consider your second bid as opener.

1)	2)	3)	4)
♠ AKQ8	♠ J76	♠ AK95	♠ K4
♥ 10852	♥ A93	♥ K3	♥ Q852
♦ 32	♦ A53	♦ K5	♦ AK3
♣ AJ3	♣ A986	♣ A8753	♣ AK92

- Hand 1** Bid 1♥. 'Up the line'. Shows four hearts and is **forcing**.
- Hand 2** Bid 1NT. Denies four hearts or spades (13-15 pts).
- Hand 3** Bid 1♠. 'Up the line'. Shows four spades and is **forcing**.
- Hand 4** Bid 1♥. 'Up the line'. Shows four hearts and is **forcing**.

Forcing means you cannot pass. If opener's second bid continues 'up the line' her strength has yet to be clarified, so the auction is forcing.

3) Bid a new suit at the two-level

If your second bid is at the two-level it must be in a lower ranking suit than your first suit.* You promise at least four cards in the that suit and a minimum to medium strength hand **(13-17 total points).

1) ♠ K8 ♥ A10865 ♦ 32 ♣ AJ73	2) ♠ KQJ76 ♥ A ♦ AJ109 ♣ 963	3) ♠ - ♥ QJ56 ♦ AQ653 ♣ A732
--	--	--

You	Responder	You	Responder	You	Responder
1♥	1♠	1♠	1NT	1♦	1♠
2♣		2♦		2♣	

Hand 1 2♣ shows 4+ clubs and **(13-17).

Hand 2 2♦ shows 4+ diamonds and **(13-17).

Hand 3 2♣ shows 4+ clubs and (13-17).

The point with hand three, is not to bid *2♥ which is higher ranking than your first suit and is also a suit that responder by-passed in the bidding.

* If your second bid is a new suit at the two-level and in a suit higher ranking than your first bid suit, this is called a '**reverse bid**' and it is forcing. We will not delve into 'reverse bids' at this point, although there is an explanation at the bottom of this page.

** If your second bid as opener is a new suit at the two-level (lower ranking than your first suit) your hand strength can overlap a minimum (13-15) and medium (16-18) hand to be from 13 to a bad 17.

Reverse bid

If your second suit is a suit that partner had a chance to bid in the auction but declined to do so, you have made a 'reverse bid'. In hand three above you opened the hand 1♠ and partner responded 1♠. Note that partner bypassed hearts in order to bid 1♠. If you now bid 2♥ (a suit partner has by-passed) you probably do not have a heart fit so the auction will be kept alive as you seek out a better contract. A reverse bid promises (17+).



4) Re-bid your primary suit

“When you re-bid your first suit you are limiting the value of your hand to a minimum, medium or maximum hand”.

If one of the above priorities is not available, you can always re-bid your first suit with *6+ cards in your suit.

1)	2)	3)
♠ K8	♠ KQ6	♠ AKQ873
♥ A108652	♥ A3	♥ AQ5
♦ Q2	♦ AQ10932	♦ Q6
♣ A73	♣ 32	♣ 102

<u>You</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1♥	1♠	1♦	1♥	1♠	1NT
2♥		3♦		2♠	

Hand 1 2♥ *6+ hearts and a minimum strength hand (13-15).

Hand 2 3♦ 6+ diamonds and a medium strength hand (16-18).

Hand 3 2♠ 6+ spades and a minimum strength hand (19-21).

* With some hands you may have to re-bid a suit with only five cards. However, these are exceptions and not to be trifled with at this point.

Partnership bidding

“If we are together nothing is impossible. If we are divided we fail”

- *Winston Churchill*

Longevity

“Because every hand is different, the intellectual challenge of Bridge never ceases. Besides, and more importantly, my father often noted that, ‘If you don't play Bridge, you'll have a miserable old age’. Since that time is getting closer, this is no time for my interest in Bridge to lag or diminish”.

- *Rudy Boschwitz*

5) Bid no trump at the cheapest level

“When you make a no-trump bid, you are limiting the value of your hand to within a range of 2-4 points.”

If opener's second bid is in no trump, it generally shows a balanced hand, while denying the other priorities: support for responder's major suit, a new suit "up the line" or 6+ cards in the original suit.

♠ Q8
♥ Q65
♦ AQ932
♣ A73

figure 5:3

In Figure 5:3 you opened 1♦ and partner responded 1♠. When going through opener's second bid possibilities, your options are eliminated one at a time until you get to where you are now.: Bid no trump at the cheapest level. Respond 1NT, showing a balanced type hand.

♠ A84
♥ AQ865
♦ 32
♣ KJ3

figure 5:4

In Figure 5:4 you opened 1♥ and partner responded 2♦. With 13-15 points, re-bidding no trump at the cheapest level (2NT) states that you do not have any of the priorities aforementioned and that along with a five-card heart suit, you have a balanced hand.

6) Raise responder's minor suit

If partner's response was a minor suit, you should follow the above priorities if possible. With an unbalanced hand and support for responder's minor suit, you can always raise responder's suit.

1)	2)
♠ A	♠ 732
♥ J43	♥ AKJ52
♦ A982	♦ 3
♣ AQJ32	♣ A875

Hand 1 You open 1♣ and partner responds 1♦. You should jump raise partner to 3♦, showing four-card support and 16-18.

Hand 2 You open 1♥ and partner responds 2♣. Raise responder to 3♣ showing you have a two-suited hand and 13-15.

At the table

1)	2)	3)
♠ J985	♠ AKQ8	♠ Q64
♥ J4	♥ 9764	♥ J4
♦ AK963	♦ K974	♦ AQ532
♣ A3	♣ 3	♣ AJ7

figure 5:5

With the three hands in Figure 5:5 you open 1♦ and your partner responds 1♥. Consider your second bid.

- Hand 1** **Bid 1♠.** Your first priority when responder bids a major suit is to show support. If you don't have support, continue "up the line".
- Hand 2** **Bid 2♥.** Your first priority is to show heart support. 2♥ shows a minimum hand, 13-15 and four-card support.
- Hand 3** **Bid 1NT.** You can't support hearts, you can't bid "up the line", you have no other four-card suit to bid, you do not want to re-bid your diamonds with only five, so bid no trump at the cheapest level to show 13-15 and a balanced hand.

1)	2)	3)
♠ J985	♠ 8	♠ 64
♥ AJ432	♥ AQ974	♥ A108764
♦ AK3	♦ KJ94	♦ A73
♣ A	♣ K32	♣ A7

figure 5:6

With the three hands in Figure 5:6 you open 1♥ and your partner responds 1♠. Consider your second bid.

- Hand 1** **Bid 3♠** Jump raise responder's suit. You show four-card support and a 'medium' strength hand (16-18).
- Hand 2** **Bid 2♦** Show your second suit. Now partner will know you have hearts and diamonds and (13 -17).
- Hand 3** **Bid 2♥** Re-bid your hearts to show 6+ hearts and a 'minimum' strength hand (13-15).

Thinking at the table

Deductive thinking is the key to winning at Bridge. What logically follows from the facts, whether known or assumed, is a deduction. While playing Bridge you are in a constant state of making deductions.

1. If your RHO revealed a five-card heart suit in the auction and you have two hearts in your hand while dummy shows up with two hearts (accounting for nine hearts), it is a simple deduction to assume your partner has the remaining four hearts. Elementary, dear Watson.
2. Your RHO opened the bidding 1NT (15-17), you have 14 HCP and dummy turns up with 10 HCP for a total of 40 points (give or take a point). You can deduce that your partner's hand looks like a foot.

Sherlock on the job

“It follows logically from the facts my dear Watson, that one can deduce with certainty, based on his broken watch, the amber colored stains on his shirt, the bruises on his shins, the bump on his forehead, and the Ace of spades playing card stuffed firmly in his mouth, that last evening, at precisely nine o'clock, the deceased gentleman was, while sipping on a brandy, playing Bridge right here in the parlor, partnered with his wife...that is, of course, until he trumped her ace”.

Opportunity

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

- Thomas Edison

An allegedly true Bridge story

Bridge clubs rarely do any business during morning working hours, and those that open as early as lunchtime have few games going until later in the afternoon. On one particular day, a New York club had only four players, thus only one table in play, at the noontime hour. The four contestants were quite companionable and enjoyed their game. However, at one point, one of the four, a young woman, looked at her watch and announced, "I'm sorry to have to break up this very pleasant game, but I'm getting married in half an hour."

Card play technique

More finessing



Figure 5:7

In figure 5:7, you can always win a trick with the ♥A, but would like to score a second trick with the ♥Q. With the ♥K lurking in one of the opponent's hands, you will have to try a finesse. Lead the ♥5 from the S hand towards the ♥Q (the card you want to win). If W holds the ♥K, W must commit herself to playing a heart before N does. This is the main thrust of all finesses: forcing one of the opponents to commit to playing a card before you have to play a card from the hand with the key card. In this case, the ♥Q is the key card in the N hand.

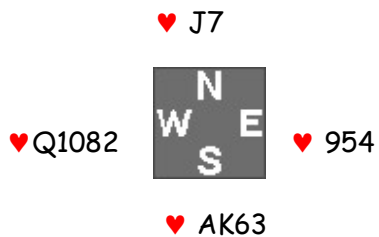


figure 5:8

In Figure 5:8, we have the same type of finesse. This time you are hoping for the ♥J to win a trick even though the ♥Q is outstanding. The ♥A and ♥K will always score two tricks. Any ambition for a third trick lies with the ♥J.

Pearls by Pearl

Pearl was my oldest student when she decided to take up Bridge at 93 years. Her husband had passed and she wanted to get out socially. She was a small frail woman, 85 lbs soaking wet and her body, always elegantly garbed, was like a bag of dried twigs. Pearl was that kind of old where her eyes were always watery and her head wobbled precariously on her shoulders, like that fake dog people have in the back window of their car. But Pearl's mind was sharp and her humor surgical. In one class while explaining the concept that length can be more important than strength, Pearl, fired back "don't kid yourself honey", and the class broke out in a roar. Pearl shared her infectious zest for life in every class and for years later, at the local duplicate club. She passed at 101 years, always claiming it was Bridge that kept her going. Pearl made me think about things. Mostly, she made me laugh.

Department of defence

High - low from a doubleton

If you hold only two cards in a suit and decide that this is the suit you want to lead, you should lead the top card. This is referred to as 'Hi-Lo' from a doubleton. Consider the following holdings:

♥ 92

♥ K8

♥ J2

♥ 32

♥ A2

In each of these heart combinations you have only two cards (a doubleton). If you lead from any of these combinations, lead the top card first followed by the bottom card. This is also referred to as a 'peter' or an 'echo' ('petered' in hearts or 'echoed' in hearts).

The knowledge of which card to lead from particular combinations is essential, When deciding which suit to lead, you will have to consider the auction

Leads

Leads are when you play the first card to a trick. Just remember that in each chapter thus far, you have learned something new about the correct card to lead from specific combinations. These only apply when you are on lead. These do not apply when you are following suit (third hand play), nor do they apply to the manner in which cards are played by the declarer. Those are different situations that call for different techniques.

Never talk about your partner's Bridge mistakes to other players, behind his or her back. It is considered bad form and is not a good look.

"True friends stab you in the front".

- *Oscar Wilde*

Limitations

Knowing the limitations of opener's strength (minimum, medium or maximum) is what puts responder in charge of the auction.



Summary

- Consider opener's **second bid**. Opener can: raise responder's major suit; bid a new suit 'up the line'; bid a new suit at the two-level; bid NT; re-bid her first suit; raise responder's minor suit.
- If responder's first bid has **limited** her hand (such as a no-trump response or a raise of your suit), you can pass if you want.
- Limiting your hand means to reveal to partner the approximate strength of your hand **within a range** of 2-4 points.
- The opener's second bid often can limit the strength of opener's hand to a **minimum** (13-15), a **medium** (16-18) or a **maximum** (19-21).
- There are several variations of a **finesse**. With most, you lead toward the card you hope will win the trick.
- Leads refer to the first card played to a trick. There are guides as to which card to lead from various combinations. From a **doubleton** holding, lead **hi - lo**.
- **Deductive thinking** is part and parcel with solving problems at the Bridge

Nearly Normal Norman says: Deduction is the thought process of a competent player. Think deductively and your game will prosper.



Nearly Normal Norman

Win or lose - do it fairly.

“That is all I have to say about that”.

- Forrest Gump

Exercises - chapter five

A. You opened 1♦, partner responded 1♥ and it is your second bid.

1)	2)	3)	4)
♠ AQ8	♠ 10983	♠ K76	♠ 764
♥ J865	♥ AK5	♥ A64	♥ 5
♦ Q874	♦ AQ65	♦ KJ53	♦ AQJ843
♣ A2	♣ 73	♣ K62	♣ AJ2

B. You opened 1♥, partner responded 1♠ and it is your second bid.

1)	2)	3)	4)
♠ AQ64	♠ J5	♠ Q4	♠ A4
♥ A9843	♥ AQ764	♥ AK1096	♥ AKQ1076
♦ A85	♦ K54	♦ A754	♦ K32
♣ 3	♣ A104	♣ 103	♣ 95

C. You opened 1♠, partner responded 2♦ and it is your second bid.

1)	2)	3)	4)
♠ AJ1064	♠ A9873	♠ AQJ1092	♠ KJ983
♥ AJ3	♥ 83	♥ 85	♥ KQ73
♦ 103	♦ AJ43	♦ 74	♦ 3
♣ KJ9	♣ A4	♣ AQ4	♣ AJ3