

Practice Hands

Lesson 1

1.1

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North	
	♠ AJ65	
	♥ QJ987	
	♦ AJ5	
	♣ 6	
West		East
♠ K102		♠ Q974
♥ 53		♥ 106
♦ Q842		♦ K96
♣ AQ72	South	♣ KJ53
	♠ 83	
	♥ AK42	
	♦ 1073	
	♣ 10984	

Bidding: North opens 1♥ and South responds 2♥, showing the fit in hearts. Neither East or West should be enthusiastic bidding because there is no long suit to introduce.

Play: West might well start with the ♠4 or ♣3. When on lead, North can **draw trumps** in just two rounds and eventually trump spades in dummy and clubs in hand. 9 tricks is a reasonable assessment.

West	North	East	South
---	1♥	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1.2

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

	North	
	♠ QJ7	
	♥ 52	
	♦ 9864	
	♣ Q643	
West		East
♠ K652		♠ A1084
♥ 10863		♥ A7
♦ KJ		♦ Q10532
♣ 1098	South	♣ KJ
	♠ 92	
	♥ KQJ94	
	♦ A7	
	♣ A752	

Bidding: East deals and opens 1♦. South overcalls 1♥ to show a fair hand with 5 or more hearts. When West responds 1♠, East is happy to show the fit with a raise to 2♠.

Play: South leads the ♥K (top of a sequence). West would do best to force out the Ace of diamonds before drawing two rounds of trumps. East may well make 9 tricks.

West	North	East	South
---	---	1♦	1♥
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Practice Hands

Lesson 1

1.3

Dealer: S	North	
Vul: EW	♠ KJ92	
	♥ Q953	
	♦ A	
	♣ A1054	East
West		♠ 107
♠ A84		♥ 108
♥ KJ62		♦ KJ98
♦ 1074		♣ KQ932
♣ J76	South	
	♠ Q753	
	♥ A74	
	♦ Q6532	
	♣ 8	

Bidding: Neither South nor West have enough strength to open so they leave it to North who opens 1♣. North and South exchange suits “up the line” until the spade fit is found. North should show the spade fit (2♠).

Play: West’s best lead may well be a trump. On the lead of the ♦10 or ♣6, South might have a bit of fun **cross-trumping** the clubs and diamonds after taking the Aces quickly.

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	All Pass	

1.4

Dealer: W	North	
Vul: All	♠ Q102	
	♥ 632	
	♦ K1074	
	♣ K32	East
West		♠ K764
♠ AJ53		♥ KQ1085
♥ 9		♦ 7
♦ J863		♣ ÉAJ5
♣ Q964	South	
	♠ 98	
	♥ AJ74	
	♦ AQ92	
	♣ 1087	

Bidding: East opens 1♥ and gets a 1♠ response from West. East supports spades by bidding 2♠. West should now pass.

Play: North might well lead the 4 of diamonds. South will win with the Ace and look for some other suit to play. West should lead hearts at the first opportunity to establish a trick in the suit.

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

Practice Hands

Lesson 2

2.1

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North	
	♠ AJ62	
	♥ KJ6	
	♦ AJ543	
	♣ 6	East
West		♠ 987
♠ 105		♥ A83
♥ Q92		♦ K87
♦ 1092		♣ ÉQJ105
♣ A8432	South	
	♠ KQ43	
	♥ 10754	
	♦ Q6	
	♣ K97	

Bidding: North opens 1♦ with 14 HCP. South responds 1♥ with 10 points. North bids 1♠ and North-South have found their fit. South bids 2♠ to show that.

Play: East's best lead is the ♣Q. Dummy's King does not take a trick but North can trump the next round in hand. Setting up diamonds before removing E-W's trumps is the key to success.

West	North	East	South
---	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
	All pass		

2.2

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

	North	
	♠ 432	
	♥ KJ1042	
	♦ 1085	
	♣ K6	East
West		♠ K107
♠ AQJ6		♥ A76
♥ 985		♦ AJ72
♦ K63		♣ J93
♣ 1085	South	
	♠ 985	
	♥ Q3	
	♦ Q84	
	♣ AQ742	

Bidding: East deals and opens 1♦ with 13 HCP. South would be unwise to overcall and should pass. West will respond 1♠ and East will bid 1NT to suggest no fit and a balanced hand.

Play: South should lead the ♣4 (fourth highest from a long suit) and North should play the King and another. East need not panic—after 5 club tricks declarer will gain the lead to take at least 7.

West	North	East	South
---	---	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	1NT	All Pass

Practice Hands

Lesson 2

2.3

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North	
	♠ K10732	
	♥ AJ6	
	♦ KQ54	
	♣ 6	
West		East
♠ J6		♠ AQ95
♥ 108432		♥ 97
♦ 82		♦ 106
♣ AKQ5	South	♣ ÉJ10832
	♠ 84	
	♥ KQ5	
	♦ AJ973	
	♣ 974	

Bidding: North opens 1♠ and South responds 2♦, which is Ok with 10 points. North should show the fit in diamonds by bidding 3♦.

Play: West will start with a top club and perhaps **switch** to a heart or a spade. South can draw trumps comfortably in two rounds and trump two losing clubs in dummy to bring the total of tricks to 10.

West	North	East	South
---	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	All Pass	

2.4

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

	North	
	♠ QJ8	
	♥ K75	
	♦ J86	
	♣ J1074	
West		East
♠ 10964		♠ A7
♥ 63		♥ A10842
♦ AQ74		♠ K1053
♣ Q85	South	♣ K6
	♠ K532	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ 92	
	♣ A932	

Bidding: East deals and opens 1♥. West responds 1♠ even though the suit is poor. When East **rebids** 2♦ (a much better bid than 2♥), West is happy to let East play in the fit.

Play: South should resist playing big cards on the first lead but might try the ♠2 or even a diamond East should try to trump a third round of hearts in dummy to **establish** (set up) the suit.

West	North	East	South
---	---	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♦	All Pass

Practice Hands

Lesson 3

3.1

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North	
	♠ AQ753	
	♥ AK64	
	♦ Q3	
	♣ 104	East
West		♠ 94
♠ J6		♥ J102
♥ 987		♦ 965
♦ A1084		♣ ÉKJ853
♣ A762	South	
	♠ K1082	
	♥ Q53	
	♦ KJ72	
	♣ Q9	

Bidding: North opens 1♠ and South responds 3♠, showing the fit and 10-12 Total Points. With 17 Total Points, North should be happy to raise to the 4♠ game.

Play: East would find the ♣5 an attractive lead, or the ♥J. Declarer should draw trumps as soon as possible and try hearts if E-W have not taken their two top clubs. The fourth round of hearts might provide a club discard.

West	North	East	South
---	1♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

3.2

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

	North	
	♠ 832	
	♥ 43	
	♦ A76	
	♣ J7643	East
West		♠ A1075
♠ K6		♥ AQ965
♥ KJ107		♦ Q3
♦ K542		♣ Q5
♣ K82	South	
	♠ QJ94	
	♥ 82	
	♦ J1098	
	♣ A109	

Bidding: East deals and opens 1♥. West will raise to 4♥ with 14 Total Points and that should be the final contract.

Play: For South, the most attractive lead appears to be the ♠Q, although the ♦J might be as good. West should take the lead as soon as possible and draw trumps in two rounds. Declarer should be able to trump two losing spades in dummy for 11 Tricks.

West	North	East	South
---	---	1♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass.		

Practice Hands

Lesson 3

3.3

Dealer: N
 aÉÉ
 Vul: Nil

North		East	
♠ J6		♠ A83	
♥ A107		♥ 9832	
♦ KJ952		♦ 874	
West	South	East	
♠ K974	♠ Q105	♠ A83	
♥ J54	♥ KQ6	♥ 9832	
♦ 3	♦ AQ106	♦ 874	
♣ K872	♣ Q95	♣ ÉA64	

Bidding: South opens 1♦É on

balanced 15 and hears North raise to 3♦. Opposite 10-12 points, South should bid game with 3NT looking by far the better option.

Play: Whether West leads the É♣2 or the ♣4, South will come on lead with a deep stopper and enjoy 5 diamond tricks and 3 heart tricks as well. If West leads a red suit, South will have to lead spades to set up a 9th trick.

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	1♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass.			

3.4

Dealer: E
 Vul: NS

North		East	
♠ Q842		♠ A95	
♥ KQ986		♥ 32	
♦ J64		♦ K76	
West	South	East	
♠ K2	♠ J1076	♠ A95	
♥ 754	♥ AJ10	♥ 32	
♦ A82	♦ Q1093	♦ K76	
♣ AJ952	♣ Q7	♣ K10843	

Bidding: East deals and opens 1♥. West will raise to 4♥ with 14 Total Points and that should be the final contract.

Play: For South, the most attractive lead appears to be the ♠Q, although the ♦J might be as good. West should take the lead as soon as possible and draw trumps in two rounds. Declarer should be able to trump two losing spades in dummy for 11 Tricks.

West	North	East	South
---	---	1♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass.		

Practice Hands

Lesson 4

4.1

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North		
	♠ AQ105		
	♥ K74		
	♦ QJ9		
	♣ AJ9	East	
West		♠ 873	
♠ K42		♥ QJ103	
♥ 952		♦ A87	
♦ 632		♣ ÉQ102	
♣ 8754	South		
	♠ J96		
	♥ A86		
	♦ K1054		
	♣ K63		

Bidding: North opens 1NT to show a balanced hand of 16-18 points. South, holding 11 points knows that N-S have 27-29 points between them and bids 3NT.

Play: East's best lead is the ♥QÉ (top of a sequence). North should win in dummy and 'run' the Jack of spades for a finesse. After playing spades, forcing out the Ace of diamonds should provide declarer with 11 tricks.

West	North	East	South
---	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass.			

4.2

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

	North		
	♠ 64		
	♥ J1097		
	♦ 97632		
	♣ K2	East	
West		♠ A102	
♠ KQJ953		♥ A83	
♥ K62		♦ KQ105	
♦ 8		♣ A84	
♣ 965	South		
	♠ 87		
	♥ Q54		
	♦ AJ3		
	♣ QJ1073		

Bidding: East deals and opens 1NT. West now knows that E-W have a spade fit and can add 3 extra points for distribution. With 28 Total Points 4♠ should be a good contract.

Play: North has an unappealing hand for an opening lead but the ♥J may be as good as anything. West should win and draw trumps in two rounds. Ten tricks are easy if West forces out the Ace of diamonds early.

West	North	East	South
---	---	1NT	Pass
4♠	All Pass.		

Practice Hands

Lesson 4

4.3

Dealer: S	North	
Vul: E-W	♠ KJ95	
	♥ A102	
	♦ K64	
	♣ 1073	East
West		♠ A876
♠ 432		♥ J95
♥ 874		♦ J103
♦ Q765		♣ ÉK64
♣ QJ3	South	
	♠ Q10	
	♥ KQ63	
	♦ A92	
	♣ A985	

Bidding: South opens 1♥ and rebids 1NT over North's 1♠ response. North should raise to 2NT (inviting to game) and South should bid 3NT with a maximum hand (15 not 13).

Play: East might well lead the 5 of diamonds and South can win in hand and tackle spades at once. With three spade tricks set up, South will have nine easy tricks and a tenth when hearts divide 3-3.

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
2NT	Pass	Pass	3NT
All Pass.			

4.4

Dealer: W	North	
Vul: All	♠ Q642	
	♥ A2	
	♦ J1092	
	♣ A108	East
West		♠ J53
♠ A109		♥ KQ10874
♥ J9		♦ 64
♦ AK73		♣ 73
♣ Q952	South	
	♠ K87	
	♥ 653	
	♦ Q85	
	♣ KJ64	

Bidding: West opens 1♣ with a balanced 14 and East responds 1♥. West rebids to show 13-15 balanced and East signs off in 2♥. Note that West should now pass.

Play: South might lead the ♣4 or ♦5. East should drive out the trump Ace as soon as the lead is gained and draw trumps as early as possible. Careful play in the spade suit will bring East to nine tricks.

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass.

Practice Hands

Lesson 5

5.1

Dealer: N
Vul: Nil

	North		
	♠ K75		
	♥ J4		
	♦ KJ975		
	♣ AK6	East	
West		♠ A62	
♠ QJ107		♥ AQ10753	
♥ K96		♦ Q4	
♦ 103		♣ ÉJ3	
♣ 10987	South		
	♠ 984		
	♥ 82		
	♦ A1082		
	♣ Q542		

have

West	North	East	South
---	1♦	1♥	2♦
2♥	3♦	3♥	All Pass

Bidding: North opens 1♦ and East overcalls with 1♥. South bids 2♦ and West should try 2♥. If North bids 3♦, East should compete to 3♥ and that should end the bidding.

Play: South might try the Ace of diamonds since N-S

competed in that suit. N-S can gather four tricks in clubs and diamonds but East will make the rest if the spade finesse is taken.

5.2

Dealer: E
Vul: NS

	North		
	♠ A943		
	♥ 86		
	♦ KQJ95		
	♣ K5	East	
West		♠ 2	
♠ J76		♥ AQ953	
♥ J742		♦ 863	
♦ 42		♣ AQ102	
♣ 8764	South		
	♠ KQ1085		
	♥ K10		
	♦ A107		
	♣ J93		

West	North	East	South
---	---	1♥	1♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass.	

Bidding: East deals and opens 1♥. South overcalls 1♠ and North should be optimistic with such a good hand and an excellent fit. A raise to 4♠ would not be unreasonable.

Play: Even if West leads a club in preference to the obvious heart, South should avoid losing more than 3 early tricks. The contract may well make 11 tricks (5 spades, five diamonds and a heart).

Practice Hands

Lesson 5

5.3

Dealer: S	North	
Vul: E-W	♠ K104	
	♥ J964	
	♦ QJ102	
	♣ 94	East
West		♠ 863
♠ AQJ95		♥ Q108
♥ 752		♦ K752
♦ A93		♣ ÉA83
♣ 52	South	
	♠ 72	
	♥ AK3	
	♦ 64	
	♣ KQJ1073	

Bidding: South opens 1♣ and West has a sound 1♠ overcall. North's only sensible bid is 1NT. After East bids 2♠, South might well try 3♣. If E-W push to 3♠ they may be out of their depth.

Play: South will make 3♣ if an obtainable diamond trick can be gathered from dummy. If East-West can keep declarer out of dummy after forcing out the King of spades, South will most likely fail by one trick.

West	North	East	South
---	---	---	1♣
1♠	1NT	2♠	3♣
All Pass.			

5.4

Dealer: E	North	
Vul: NS	♠ J10	
	♥ 108	
	♦ KQJ1094	
	♣ A98	East
West		♠ KQ65
♠ A73		♥ J643
♥ KQ975		♦ 6
♦ A54		♣ 10754
♣ J2	South	
	♠ 9842	
	♥ A6	
	♦ 872	
	♣ KQ63	

Bidding: West opens 1♥ as dealer and North overcalls with 2♦. East bids 2♥ and South competes to 3♦. If West fails to bid 3♥, East should.

Play: North leads the ♦ King and declarer wins. As long as West trumps two diamonds in the East hand and then forces out the Ace of trumps before drawing the rest, nine tricks are available.

West	North	East	South
1♥	2♦	2♥	3♦
Pass	Pass	3♥	All Pass.