

A No Trump Bidding Quiz

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Today's lesson features No Trump-type hands and how you should bid them in different situations. The reason for this quiz is that you may bid the same hand differently depending upon whether you're the opener, overcaller or responder, and when you're in the direct seat versus the balancing seat. The answers are on the other side.

As always, please don't look at the answers until after the lesson!

1. You are South and your hand is shown below. What would you bid in each of the following bidding sequences?

♠ A J 9 6
♥ A 2
♦ A J 5
♣ K Q 8 6

a.

East	South	West	North
P	1C ?	P	1H

d.

East	South	West	North
1S	1C ?	P	P

b.

East	South	West	North
1S	?		

e.

East	South	West	North
P	1C ?	1S	P

c.

East	South	West	North
P	1C ?	P	1N

2. You are South and your hand is shown below. What would you bid in each of the following bidding sequences?

♠ A J 9
♥ 9 2
♦ A Q 5 4
♣ K Q 10 6

a.

East	South	West	North
1C	?		

c.

East	South	West	North
P	?	1C	P

b.

East	South	West	North
1H	?		

d.

East	South	West	North
P	?		1C

1a. With a balanced 19-count, you should jump to 2NT over partner's 1H bid. Do NOT bid 1S! This is one time that you should bypass a 4-card major in favor of showing your point count and distribution. Of course, your partner can use checkback Stayman or the like to find out if you have four Spades (which you do have) or three Hearts (which you don't).

1b. Over right-hand opponent's 1S bid, you're too strong to overcall 1NT. Instead, you should start by doubling and then bid No Trump. This shows a hand with about 19 high-card points (HCP), which is exactly what you have.

1c. You should bid 2NT. When you open One of a suit and your partner bids 1NT, then a raise to 2NT by you shows a hand that is too good to open 1NT, so 18 – 19 HCP. Of course, your partner will continue to 3NT with anything more than the barest minimum.

1d. You should bid 1NT. No need to jump to 2NT! In this sequence, a 1NT rebid shows 18 – 19 HCP.

1e. Again, you should bid 1NT. The 1NT rebid shows 18 – 19 HCP. Even though you're in the balancing seat. Even though partner could actually have some values in this auction.

2a. Over East's 1C bid, you should overcall 1NT, showing a balanced 15 – 18 HCP with at least one club stopper. Don't let your lack of a heart stopper stop you from making the most descriptive bid for this hand.

2b. Of course, if East opens 1H, you should definitely NOT overcall 1NT! Not with nothing resembling a heart stopper. Instead, you should double. Yes, you have just three spades. It would have been nice to have four. But you don't. Too bad. Double anyway. In fact, this hand definitely satisfies the criteria for a takeout double: An opening hand or better, shortness (at most two cards) in the opponent's suit, and at least three cards in each of the unbid suits.

2c. When West opens followed by two passes, you are in the balancing seat. Your hand is perfect for a 1NT overcall in the direct seat, as in 2a, but it's too strong to bid 1NT in the balancing seat. A 1NT bid in the balancing seat shows a King less than you need in the direct seat, so about 12 – 14 HCP. You're stronger than that! So you should start by doubling and then bid No Trump. If you double in the direct seat and then bid No Trump, as in 1b, this shows about 19 HCP. But in the balancing seat, it shows a 1NT opening hand, so 15 – 17 HCP.

2d. At long last, partnership agreement raises its head! How do you and your partner play the jump to 3NT in this sequence? If you play that it shows 15 – 17 HCP, then your hand is perfect for that bid. But if you play that the jump to 3NT shows 12 – 14 or 13 – 15 HCP, then your hand is too strong for that action. In this case, you should start by bidding 1D. Don't forget that this bid is unlimited and 100% forcing. You can see what partner does next and go from there.