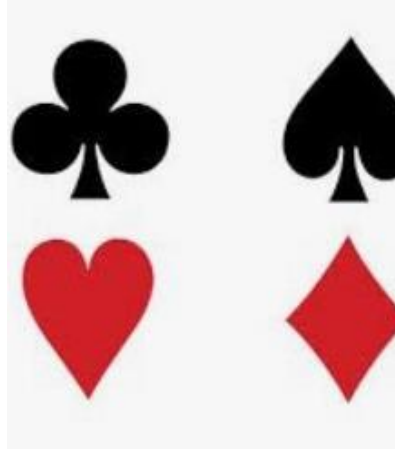


# Christmas Quiz 2023



20 Bridge and bridge-  
related questions-  
the answers

**Q1** All non-vulnerable. You are dealer, playing standard modern Acol, weak NT. You hold

♠ A 5    ♥ K J 2    ♦ Q 8 6 5 3    ♣ K 9 6

What is your bid?

**Answer: 1NT**

You have 13 points and a suitable shape for 1NT. You would never open a 5-card minor suit in preference to 1NT, when your hand is suitable for 1NT, even with a much better suit than the diamonds here.

**Q2** All non-vulnerable. You are dealer, playing standard modern Acol, weak NT. You hold

♠ A K 8 5    ♥ Q J 7 2    ♦ Q 8 3    ♣ A 6

What is your bid? Answer 1♥.

You have the shape for 1NT, but 16 points, so you're too strong.

You will open 1 of a suit, but which one, hearts or spades?

With 2 four card suits in the *majors*, open hearts. If you open 1♠, you might miss a heart fit.

**Q3** All non-vulnerable. You are dealer, playing standard modern Acol, weak NT. You hold

♠ A K 8 5    ♥ A Q 7 2    ♦ K 8 3    ♣ A 6

What is your bid?

**Answer 2NT.** You have a balanced 20 points. What else would you bid?

Q4 Name the city where you can see this bridge



Answer: Sydney

The Sydney Opera House was a bit of a give away!



**Q5** This is the Clifton Suspension Bridge, near Bristol, opened in 1864. Who designed it? (Clue: IKB)



**ANSWER: A great engineer, with an even more wonderful name:  
Isembard Kingdom Brunel  
(I'll accept Brunel, but extra kudos if you got the whole name)**

**Q6** This is a famous bridge in Venice. What is it called? (Clue: R)



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**Answer: The Rialto Bridge.**

It's the oldest of the four bridges spanning the Grand Canal in Venice. It connects the sestieri of San Marco and San Polo. It has been rebuilt several times since its first construction as a pontoon bridge in 1173.

It's a major tourist attraction in the city, which is probably why I took this photo.



**Q7** Name this Italian city

**Answer: Florence. (Or Firenze, in Italian).**

**Q8** Name the famous bridge in the

**foreground Answer: Ponte Vecchio (no extra point for spelling it correctly, just extra kudos) It just means “old bridge”, but it sounds much more romantic in Italian.**

**Q9** Name the river

**Answer: The Arno. Congratulations if you got that one right.**





**Q10** When was the Simon & Garfunkel album “Bridge Over Troubled Water” released?

**Answer:**  
**January 1970**

One of the best albums of all time, for people of my vintage!



**Q11** I'm playing bridge, and pick up my hand of cards. I see the picture cards are marked R, D and V

What country am I likely to be in?

**ANSWER: FRANCE.**

Roi for King

Dame for Queen

Valet for Jack



**Q12** Who is this famous actor and bridge player?

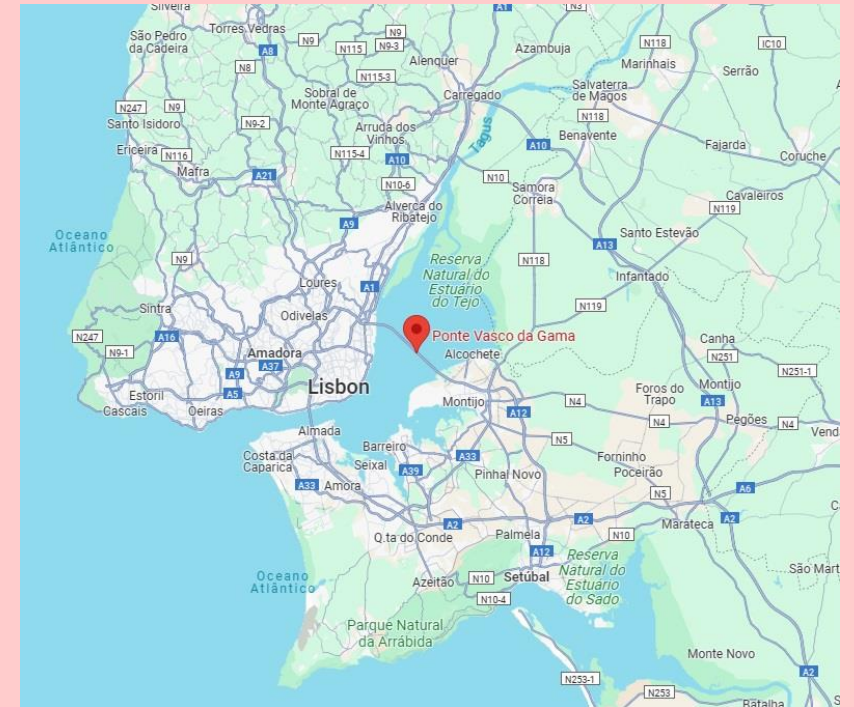
**ANSWER:** The late great Egyptian Omar Sharif (1932-2015) Apparently, a bit of a heart throb, as well as a superb bridge player. Not that I'm jealous or anything....



**Q13** The longest bridge in Europe is the Vasco da Gama bridge that spans the Tagus River in in Lisbon. The longest single span is 420 m (1,380 ft), but what's the total length of the bridge?

**ANSWER (for all the nerds out there)**  
The longest bridge in Europe is 12.3 km (7.7 miles) long!!

For all the non-nerds- I hope you guessed correctly.





**Q14** The film “A Bridge Too Far” tells of a failed attempt to break through German lines by taking a series of bridges in the occupied Netherlands, during World War II. Where was the “bridge too far”?

**ANSWER: Arnhem**

There was also a major battle at Nijmegen, as part of the same campaign (Operation Market Garden) in September 1944.



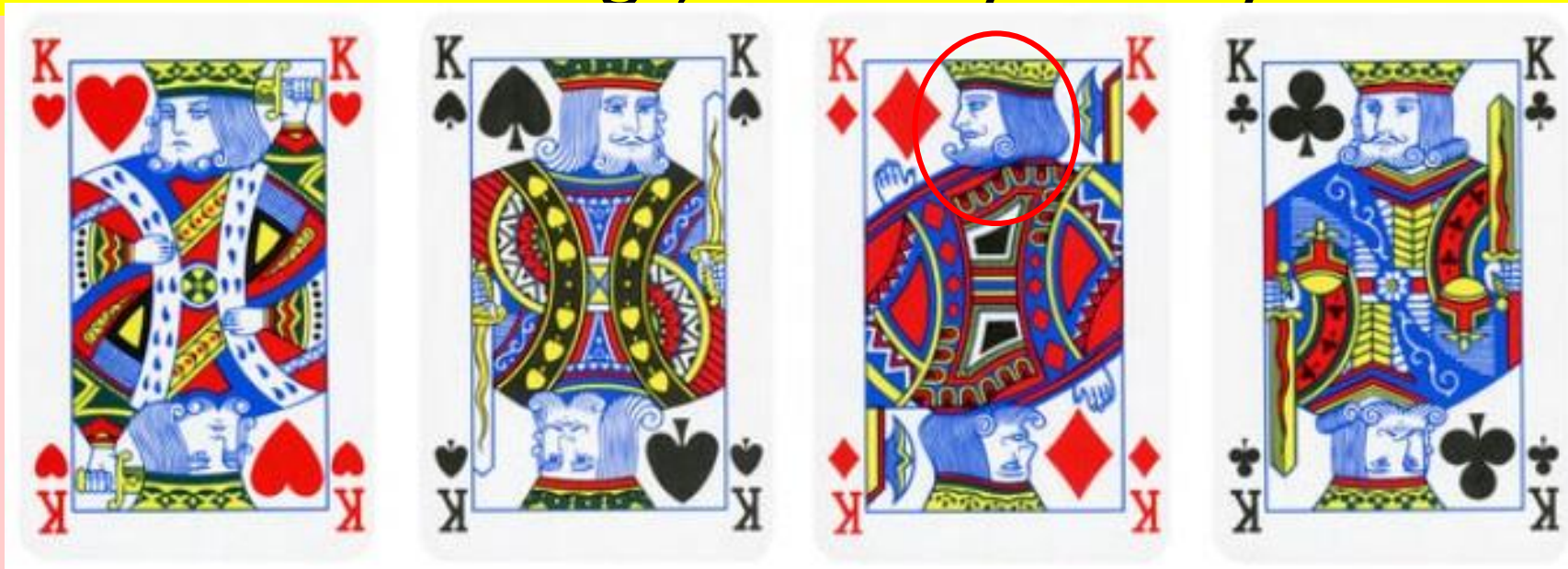
**Q15** When was our wonderful and fascinating game of Contract Bridge first devised?

**ANSWER: 1925**

Similar games already existed, but literally overnight, during a cruise through the Panama Canal, the American Harold Vanderbilt and his entourage invented the scoring scheme which soon became known as Contract Bridge.

**Q16** In a standard pack of playing cards, 3 of the Kings appear more or less face on, but one of them is in profile, facing to the left. Which one is it? **ANSWER ♦ K** .You can see both eyes

on all the other kings, but only one eye on the ♦ K



**Q17** What does the “Rule of 14” refer to?

a) The maximum points with which you are allowed to open 1NT.

No- you can open 1NT with a poor 15, eg a 4-3-3-3 hand

b) The number of points you need to overcall 1NT, when the opponents have opened 1-of-a-suit. No- you’ll want 16+ for that (and a stop in their suit)

c) The number of points you need to make a take-out double of opponent’s 1-of-a-suit opening bid. No- the take-out double is a lot about shape, but you’ll mostly want an opening-strength hand

d) The strength of hand you need to respond to partner’s 1-of-a-suit opening bid with a new suit at the two level. YES. One of the few rules in bridge never to break!



**Q18** In this suit combination, you are trying to make 2 tricks.  
You can easily access either your own hand, or dummy, via other suits.  
Which card do you play first, to have the best chance?

Dummy      ♣ Q 4

Declarer    ♣ A 3 2

**ANSWER c) ♣2 or ♣3**, towards the ♣Q, hoping the ♣K is on your left (a 50-50 shot).

Unless the ♣K happens to be singleton, with the other 7 clubs in one hand, if you play anything else, you will only take 1 trick, your ♣A.

If you lead your ♣Q, it won't win a trick, whichever opponent holds the ♣K.

**Q19** In this suit combination, playing in no trumps, you are trying to make 3 tricks. You can easily access either your own hand, or dummy, via other suits. Which card do you play first, to have the best chance?

Dummy           ♥ J 6

Declarer         ♥ A K 3 2

**ANSWER d)** Play ♥2 (or ♥3) towards the ♥J, hoping ♥Q is on your left. If your left-hand opponent plays the ♥Q, play small from dummy, and you now have 3 tricks with ♥A, ♥K, and ♥J.

If your left-hand opponent plays small, play ♥J, which will hold the trick half the time, when the ♥Q turns out to be on your left.

If you start with ♥A or ♥K, your ♥J is dead (except in the very unlikely event that ♥Q is singleton).

**Q20** You are on lead, defending 4♠. Your side has passed throughout, and the opposition only bid spades. What card do you lead?

♠8 6 5    ♥A K 7 3 2    ♦3    ♣A 8 6 3

ANSWER b) ♥A

This tells your partner you have the ♥K, and gives you a free look at dummy. You could then decide whether to continue with ♥K, or to lead your singleton diamond, or a trump.

A from AK is almost always the best possible lead against a suit contract, better than leading a singleton.

You would NOT lead your unsupported ♣A, or worse still, underlead it by playing say ♣3.

A trump is often a good lead, but here you can wait and maybe do that on trick two.