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*Lesson 3 How to bid 1NT and Play in NT*

**Opening with 1NT**

Balanced hands holding 12-14 High Card Points (HCP) are opened 1NT.

A balanced hand is one that does not contain any very short suits.

Suitable shapes are:-

4333 4432 5332

There is no disagreement about 4333 and 4432but bridge players are divided about 5332 if the 5 card suit is H or S. This you need to resolve with your partner.

**Responding to a 1NT opening**

With 0-10 points and no 5 card suit responder passes.

With 0-10 points and 5 D,H,or S bid 2 of the suit

With 11 or 12 points bid 2NT (opener raises to 3NT holding 14 points)

With 13 points or more raise to 3NT.

With a 6 cars suit in H or S and 9-11 points bid 3 of the suit.

**Playing in NT contracts**

**There are four ways to win tricks.**

**By holding top cards**

A23 opposite K45 will give you 2 tricks.

**By establishing high cards**

K Q J 5 opposite 10 4 will give 3 tricks once the opponents A has been driven out

**By establishing a long suit**

A 2 3 0pposite K 7 6 5 4 will yield 4 tricks against normal distribution

I trick must be lost and it is generally best to lose it straight away.

**By Finessing**

A J 3 2 opposite K 10 4 5 will yield 3 or 4 tricks depending on the position of the Q

A Q opposite 2 3 has a 50% chance of making 2 tricks

A J 10 opposite 2 3 4 hs a 75% chance of making 2 tricks

**Probable distribution of the opponents cards**

If the opponents hold an even nuber of cards expect then to be divided unevenly 6 missing cards will be divided 4-2

8 missing cards will be divided 5-3

I the opponents hold an odd number of cards they will be divided as evenly as possible.

5 missing cards will be 3-2

7 missing cards will be 4-3