



### Your Partner's 1NT Opening Bid

You and your partner have agreed that an opening bid of 1NT shows 12, 13 or 14 high card points, and a balanced hand.

If your partner has opened 1NT, and you have a balanced hand, there is a good chance that your best contract is No Trumps.

The high card point count between two balanced hands is a fairly reliable guide to the number of tricks that the partnership can make in a No Trumps contract.

So getting the answer right is usually a matter of arithmetic.

### Doing the arithmetic

Your partner opens 1NT and you have:

- ♠ K 10 8
- ♥ K 10 8
- ♦ Q 9 8 7
- ♣ 10 8 6

Your hand is balanced, so you are thinking about no trumps as the best contract.

Your Hand:	♠ 8	♥ 8	♦ 8	♣ 8
Partners Hand:	12 or	13 or	14	
Total	20 or	21 or	22	

Your hand has 8 high card points.

There are definitely less than 25 high card points between the two hands. You will not make the 9 tricks required to get the game bonus in no trumps, so you pass.



Your point count	Range of the two hands	Likely outcome	Reply	Opener's Re-bid
0-10	12-24	Part Score	Pass	Opener probably won't get another bid!
11,12	23-26	Maybe game, maybe part score?	2NT	Pass if 12 or "poor" 13 HCP, 3NT if 14 or "good" 13 HCP
13-18	25-32	Game	3NT	Pass
19,20	32-34	Maybe Game, but 6NT is possible?	4NT*	Pass if 12 or poor 13, 6NT if 14 or good 13
21,22	33-36	6NT is on!	6NT*	Pass
22-24	34-38	Small slam, maybe a grand slam?	5NT*	6NT if 12 or poor 13, 7NT if 14 or good 13
25+	37+	Grand Slam!	7NT*	Pass

\* These raises are known as "quantitative". There are other ways of bidding slams that you will come across later.



### Hand assessment

You will notice in the above table that reference is made to "good" and "poor" hands with 13 HCP. High card points only refer to the A, K, Q and J in isolation; they do not take into account combinations of high cards.

Eg, this hand has 6 HCP but none of the honour cards are sure of taking a trick if the opponents' high cards are badly placed.

♠ Q 6 4 2  
♥ J 4 3  
♦ K 5  
♣ 9 7 6 4

However, this hand also has 6 HCP but is sure to take at least 2 tricks once the Ace of spades has been played out.

♠ K Q J 2  
♥ 7 4 3  
♦ 9 5  
♣ 9 7 6 4



### Supporting cards such as the 10, the 9 and the 8.

♥ J 4 3 2

is a poor holding - if the Jack is beaten by the Ace, King or Queen then the ♥ 4 3 2 are most unlikely to take a trick.

However, ♥ J 10 9 8

is much stronger and it may be possible to establish the supporting cards for a trick, or sometimes more than one.

So, for example, this would be considered a "poor" 13 HCP.

♠ Q 6 4 2  
♥ A 4 3  
♦ A 8  
♣ K 7 6 4

Whereas this hand would be considered a "good" 13 HCP.

♠ J 10 9 8  
♥ 6 5  
♦ K Q J 7  
♣ A Q 10

