

Games where Robot participation is free.

When you go to the BBO website, **before you log in as a player**, you are offered a choice of games, as follows:

JUST PLAY BRIDGE

is a free **solitaire** bridge game.

- Live scoreboard
- Robot partners/opponents
- Total points

Unlimited hands, no performance pressure.....and your partner and opponents are robots.

Good technique always for playing with and against robots is to keep track of what the robot is thinking.

When you make a bid, click on it to learn what the robot thinks you are describing. You can also slide your mouse over your intended bid (before clicking it) to see how the robot will take it.

When the robot (partner or opponent) makes a bid, a pop-up screen will tell you what the robot is saying about its bid. And you can click at any time on the bidding to see what has been bid and what the robot meant.

BRIDGE 4

is a free solitaire bridge game.

- Sets of four boards
- Live scoreboard
- Robot partners/opponents
- Total points

Play four hands. Your partner and opponents as robots. You get a total score at the end of four hands, and also how you stand compared to everyone else online that was playing the same set of hands. You are the only one who knows the results (which is sometimes a good thing), and the robots don't care.

You can repeat these 4-hand games as often as you wish.

JUST DECLARE

is a free solitaire bridge game.

- Live scoreboard
- Robot partners/opponents
- Total points
- No bidding, the contract is pre-determined

Excellent for practicing your declarer play, in particular working out the distribution of hands from the bidding.

BBO gives you the contract, and the bidding, and you are the declarer. You can click on the contract box to see the bidding sequence, and you can click on each bid to see what was meant by it.

Tip: Before you commit to this game, make sure you read the previous section on how the BBO robots defend. Knowledge is power.

BRIDGE MASTER

This game appeals to all levels of player, and is a teaching tutorial.

Bridge Master is an educational program designed to improve your declarer play. The program presents you with a series of instructional deals to play. You are always declarer. The deals are carefully constructed exercises designed to illustrate an important declarer play technique; if you take the correct line of play you will always make your contract. On the other hand, if you make any mistake, the program will always defend perfectly and defeat your contract. A **Show solution** button is available to explain the correct line of play as well as the thinking process that leads to the solution.

Select Deal

There are 5 difficulty levels, each containing tens of deals named A-1, A-2... B-1, B-2, etc. To start playing, click on the desired skill level, then click on a deal to select it. The deal will be loaded to the table and you will be able to play it.

Select skill level	Select deal
Level 1 - Beginner	A-1
Level 2 - Intermediate	A-2
Level 3 - Advanced	A-3
Level 4 - Expert	B-1
Level 5 - World Class	B-2

To review the bidding, which sometimes contains valuable clues for solving a deal, click on the rectangle showing what contract is in play.



The  selection tool at the top left corner of the table allows you to **Undo** or **Redeal** during the play.

Navigate through the deals using the **Next Deal / Previous Deal** buttons, or click **Select deal** again to choose another skill level.

Show Solution

Click the **Show solution** button to view the correct line of play as well as the thinking process that leads to the solution. Click the **Voice** button to listen to the explanation. Use the **Next**, **Previous**, **Rewind** buttons to move forward/backward through the solution.

MATCHPOINTS

This game is designed to improve your results in pairs scoring.

Again you are playing unlimited hands with a robot partner, against robot opponents. You bid and play/defend the hand, and get a cumulative result against all the other pairs who played the same hand. The result can be depressing or pleasing, but again the robots are neutral, and do not comment on your actions.

IMPS

This game is designed to improve your results in team games, through IMP scoring. Again you are playing unlimited hands with a robot partner, against robot opponents. You bid and

play/defend the hand, and get a cumulative result against all the other pairs who played the same hand.

All of the above games are excellent (and anonymous) self-development vehicles that employ free BBO robots.

However, if you wish to play the same games AFTER LOGGING IN.....you can do so, and then click on Solitaire. The same game options will pop up, but the difference is that your BBO friends can see you are logged in, and contact you.

Suggestion: If you are not yet comfortable with the BBO robots, practice in these areas to master their systems and play/defense strategies. At the same time your bridge game will benefit from the practice, and you will be ready for the more competitive, and expensive, uses of BBO robots.

There are two other vehicles for **free** play using robots, BUT, you must log in with your BBO handle and password first before they are available.

2.7 BBO WEEKLY INSTANT TOURNAMENT

Log In, then click on Instant Tournaments, then click on Weekly Free Instant Tournament, and you will enter a competition (usually matchpoints, and usually against 14 others) where you play 8 hands with a partner robot, and against robots, and are given a score after the 8 boards.

You will note that all other Instant tournaments have an entry fee, the reward for winning or placing being ACBL masterpoints (not a great draw in the UK) or BB\$ which are credited to your BBO\$ account.

2.8 FREE TOURNAMENTS

Log In, then click on Competitive, then on Free Tournaments.

Two types of free tournaments are usually available. First, a Daylong Tournament which alternates daily between matchpoints or IMPS. Anyone can enter, at any

time during the day, and you play at least 8 boards with a partner robot, and against robots, and are given an interim score when you finish, and a final score after the tournament completes.

Often, upwards of 15000 people played in the tournament that day, and you get your ranking in the tournament somewhere along that continuum

To get your ranking after the tournament has completed, go to History, and click on that tournament.

The second type of free tournament often available is a Weeklong tournament, (again matchpoints or IMPS, again you with the robots,) except this time you get your final score after the tournament completes.

What are Daylong Tournaments?

Daylongs are a type of tourney where you get up to 24 hours to complete your game. You can register, play at your own pace, leave the table, then resume the game any time through the day. You'll get the final results the next day in a BBO mail.

Free Daylong Tournament

BBO offers one Free Daylong every day (alternating between game formats). The Free Daylong uses basic robots. You can join up to 3 Free Daylongs per week (this limit might change in the future).

What are Just Declare?

Just Declare is a special game format that tests declarer ability to the utmost. You are the declarer in every board, with hands predealt and prebid by robots. Play your best, your result is duplicated.

What are Survivors?

Some daylongs are multi-day events we call "Survivors" for short. You have to meet the condition of each day to qualify for the next stage of the event.

What are Multi-session Events?

Some multi-day events calculate overall scores for participants, taking into account the scores of each daily session. You have to meet the condition of each day to qualify for the next stage of the event.

Tournament features

- This tourney may utilize **Best Hand**: The human player receives the hand with the most high-card points at the table or tied for the most high-card points. (Best-hand is defined solely by high-card points and does not take into account hand pattern.)
- This tourney may utilize **Human Declares**: The human player declares for his robot partner when their side wins the contract.
- This tourney may utilize **Deal Pool**: Not everyone will be dealt the same boards.