

No Trump – No Kidding

Same Words

Different Meaning

Limited Vocabulary

- Many hands to describe.
- We learn that 1 no trump describes a certain type of hand.

♠ K Q 4

♥ 3 2

♦ A J 10 5

♣ K Q J 4

- We would happily open this hand 1 no trump.

Limited Vocabulary

- If your RHO opened 1♥, you could not bid one no trump because you don't have a heart stopper.
- But you have an almost perfect hand for a takeout double.

♠ K Q 5 4

♥ 3 2

♦ A J 10

♣ K Q J 4

- So now, we have two ways to describe exactly the same hand, depending on the situation at the table.

Suppose Instead You are Dealt this Hand.

♠ K Q 5

♥ A J 10 8

♦ Q 4

♣ K Q 4 2

- After RHO opens 1h, you can quite properly, overcall 1nt.
- Because, you have a stopper in hearts.

The Most Common Use for a 1nt Bid is:

- Not as an opening bid and not as an overcall.
- But, as a response to partner's 1 of a suit opening bid.
- If partner opens a minor, your hand might be:
 - ♠ K J 5
 - ♥ Q J 3
 - ♦ 8 4 3
 - ♣ Q 9 4 2
- Any hand between 6 and 10 hcps. /

The Most Common Use for a 1nt Bid is:

- Now suppose partner opens a 1♦ and RHO overcalls 1♠.
- You cannot bid 1nt... No spade stopper.
- But, you have the hand for a negative double.

♠ 9 5

♥ Q J 7 3 (6 points)

♦ 8 4 3

♣ K 9 4 2

The Most Common Use for a 1nt Bid is:

- Now suppose partner opens a 1♦ and RHO overcalls 1♠.
- On this hand you have a spade stopper.
- Bid 1 nt.

♠ K J 5

♥ J 7 3 (7 points)

♦ 8 4 3

♣ Q 9 4 2

The Most Common Use for a 1nt Bid is:

- Now suppose partner opens a 1♦ and RHO overcalls 1♠.
- No spade stopper. You cannot make a negative double.
- Pass is your only bid. The auction is not over yet.

♠ 8 5

♥ J 7 3 (8 points)

♦ J 4

♣ A Q 9 4 2

Suppose Partner Opens 1♥

- You have:

♠ K J 5

♥ 3

♦ J 10 8 4 3

♣ K 4 2

- You don't have heart support or 4 spades to bid at the one level.
- You cannot bid 2♦, because that requires 13+ points
- You want to keep the bidding open in case partner has a big hand.
- 1 no trump describes this hand.

1 No Trump Over a Major Suit

- 5 to 12 points and If partner opened in 1st or 2nd seat is forcing on partner for one round.
- Suppose you have t his hand, when partner opens 1♥.

♠ K J 5

♥ 10 3 (12 points)

♦ K 10 8 4

♣ K Q 4 2

- If partner makes a minimum bid 2♣ or 2♦, you will bid 2nt.
- If partner bids 2♥, you will raise to 3♥.

1 No Trump Over a Major Suit

- You would also use the 1nt to describe this hand, when partner opens 1♥.

♠ Q 9

♥ J 10 3 (11 points)

♦ K 10 8 4

♣ K Q 4 3

- You respond 1nt and, when partner bids, you will bid 3♥.
- Shows a limit raise, with 3-card support.

Let's Look at a Few Other Rebids by the One No Trump Bidder

- Responder's hand:

♠ 9 4

♥ K 10 3 (6 points)

♦ 10 8 4

♣ Q J 8 4 3

North east south west

1♠ pass 1nt pass

2♦ pass 2♠

- You would not dream of bidding 2♣ with this hand, even playing standard.
- Your 2♠ bid here is practically a demand pass.

Let's Look at a Few Other Rebids by the One No Trump Bidder

- Responder's hand:

♠ 4

♥ K 10 5 3 (6 points)

♦ 10 8 4

♣ Q J 8 4 3

North east south west

1♠ pass 1nt pass

2♦ pass pass

- When you pass opener's rebid,...
- You show a fit or partial fit with the second suit.
- It looks to me like diamonds will play better than spades.

Let's Look at a Few Other Rebids by the One No Trump Bidder

- Responder's hand:

♠ 4 3

♥ A J 10 8 5 (8 points)

♦ 10 8

♣ Q J 8 4

North east south west

1♠ pass 1nt pass

2♦ pass 2♥

- Your heart suit is strong enough to bid here.
- Partner is likely to have 2 or 3 hearts...
- It is possible that you have facing 5-2 fits...
- In that case, it is better if the weak hand names the trump.

Let's Look at a Few Other Rebids by the One No Trump Bidder

- Responder's hand:
 - ♠ K J
 - ♥ Q 10 2 (11 points)
 - ♦ K Q 8 5
 - ♣ 10 9 8 4
- When you raise opener's second suit...
- You show a fit and 11 or 12 points.

North	east	south	west
1♠	pass	1nt	pass
2♦	pass	3♦	

When Responder Bids 2 No Trump

- Responder's hand:

♠ K J

♥ Q 10 2 (11 points)

♦ K Q 8 5

♣ 10 9 8 4

North east south west

1♦ pass 2nt pass

- A bid of 2nt, over partner's minor-suit opening, shows 11 or 12 points.
- Balanced hand
- No 4-card major suit.

When Responder Bids 2 No Trump

- Responder's hand:

♠ K J

♥ Q 10 2 (11 points)

♦ K Q 8 5 3

♣ 10 9 8

North east south west

1♠ pass 1nt pass

- If partner opens a major suit, 2 nt shows
- 13+ points.
- With 4+ cards in partner's opening suit.
- The Jacoby 2nt convention.

What if Partner Shows a Really Strong Hand?

- Responder's hand:

♠ K 3

♥ Q 10 2 (7 points)

♦ Q 8 5

♣ 10 9 8 4

North east south west

1♠ pass 1nt pass

3♦ pass 3nt

- Opener has 20 or 21 points.
- Has made a game-forcing jump-shift,
- You cannot support spades.
- You don't have 4 hearts.
- You don't want to bid 4♣.
- Bid 3nt.

What if Partner Shows a Really Strong Hand?

- Responder's hand:

♠ K 3

♥ Q 10 5 2 (7 points)

♦ Q 8 5

♣ 10 9 8 6

North east south west

1♠ pass 1nt pass

3♦ pass 3♥

- Opener has 20 or 21 points.
- Has made a game-forcing jump-shift,
- Here you can show your heart stopper.
- Let partner bid the 3 nt.

Final Thoughts

- In bridge we have a very limited vocabulary to describe and infinite number of hands.
- We must use the same words to describe different holdings.
- We must always remember the situation at the table, at the moment, dictates the meaning of your, and your partner's, bid.
- Be alert.