

Some Interesting and Instructive Bidding Problems

Playing 2/1- Situation 1

- What will you rebid with this hand?

♠ A Q J 8 4 2

♥ A J 9 7

♦ 6 5

♣ 3

North east south west

1♠ pass 1nt pass

- Would you rebid your spade suit?
- Many players would, but it is best to rebid a good 4-card side suit when you have 6-4 distribution.
- If you had a weak side suit, rebid spades.

Situation 2

- You are south

♠ 9 8 5 4 2

♥ 9 7

♦ 6 5

♣ K 10 6 3

North east south west

1♣ pass pass 1♠

2♦ pass

♠ 3

♥ A 8 5

♦ A K 10 8

♣ A Q J 8 4

- What is the situation here?
- West has made a balancing bid.
- What does your partner have?
- Should you do anything?
- Bid 3♣.

Situation 3

- You are south

♠ K Q J 10 6 2

♥ A 7 2

♦ A Q

♣ 8 5

North east south west

1♦ pass 1♠ pass

2♣ pass

- What is the situation at the table?
- What would 3♠ mean?
- What are you thinking?
- Some would bid 4♠.
- Best bid 3♥.
- 4th suit forcing to game.
- Partner has several bids possible.

Situation 4

- You are north

♠ Q J 10

♥ A K 7 6 2

♦ K 10 9

♣ 8 5

North east south west

1♥ 1♠ pass pass

- Your spade holding tells you that partner is not trap-passing.
- Partner almost surely has a very weak hand.
- Your bid is pass.

Situation 5

- You are north

♠ Q J 10

♥ A K J 6 2 (18 points)

♦ A J 10

♣ Q 10

North east south west

1♥ 1♠ pass pass

- Different situation, you have 18 points.
- How do you communicate that to partner?
- Bid 1nt...
- You don't have a minimum. You would have passed.
- You don't have 15-17 or you would have opened 1nt.
- The only hand you can have is 18 or 19.

Situation 6

- You are south

♠ 7 2

♥ Q 10 9 5 4

♦ 8 6 4 2

♣ Q 5

North east south west
1♣ pass

North east south west
1♣ pass pass 1♦
dble pass

The “Box Principle.”

- Some souths might want to bid 1♥ here, but pass is best.
- But suppose the bidding goes....
- Partner knows your hand is 0-5 points.
- Partner has forced you to bid.
- Partner might have a really good hand.
- Bid 2♥.

Situation 7 – the Box Principle

- You are south

♠ K 8 4

♥ Q 10 3

♦ K 9 4

♣ J 8 5 3

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

- Once your hand is in a box and partner invites you to go on, ask yourself:
- Given that partner knows my hand, do I have the top of the box or near the bottom?
- Bid accordingly.

Situation 8 – the Box Principle

- You are south

♠ K 4 2

♥ Q 10 3 2

♦ K 9

♣ J 8 4 3

North	east	south	west
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
1nt	pass		

- In this case, it is your partner who has put her hand in a box.
- 12-14 points and relatively balanced.
- You can see you are clearly at the best contract.

Situation 9

- You are south

♠ J 9 7 4 2

♥ 8 6 3

♦ 5

♣ Q 10 4 3

North	east	south	west
1♦	dbld	pass	

- What agreement do you have for a response over an opponent's takeout double?
- Some like to play any bid but a redouble as weak.
- Some play a 1-level bid is made with the same hand you would have if the takeout double had not occurred.
- Either way this hand is a pass.

Situation 10

- You are south

♠ J 9 7 4 2

♥ 8 6 3

♦ 5

♣ Q 10 4 3

North east south west

1♦ dble pass 1♥

dble 2♥

North's hand

♠ A K 8 5

♥ 7 (17 points)

♦ A Q 10 9 4

♣ A 7 5

- What does north's double mean?
- North's double is a cooperative double.
- It is not a penalty double, unless you want to defend.
- So. what should you do with your 3 points?
- North's bid says I think we should be competing.
- Bid 2♠

Situation 11

- You are north

♠ 2

♥ A Q 8 6 5 3

♦ A J 10

♣ K Q 3

North east south west

1♥ 1♠ pass pass

dble

South's hand

♠ K 10 9 8 2

♥ 10

♦ K 7 5 4

♣ J 4 2

- What sort of hand does north need to make the reopening double?
- Short in the opponent's suit.
- Some defensive values.
- What sort of hand does south need to pass for penalty?

Situation 12

- You are north

♠ 2

♥ K Q J 6 5 3

♦ K 8 5 2

♣ A 8

- The situation is different here.
- East made an overcall.
- Your hand is not a very good defensive hand.
- Rebid your excellent suit.

North east south west

1♥ 1♠ pass pass

2♥

Situation 13

- You are north

♠ 2

♥ K Q J 6 3

♦ K Q 10 9 2

♣ Q 10

North east south west

1♥ 1♠ pass pass

2♦

- The situation is different here.
- East made an overcall.
- Your hand is not good for defense.
- Ask partner to take a choice of your good suits.

Situation 14

- You are south

♠
 ♥ A J 9 2
 ♦ K 8 7 2
 ♣ A K Q J 4

North	east	south	west
-----	3♠	dble	4♠
5♥	pass	??	
North's hand			

♠ 9 8 5
 ♥ K Q 10 8 7
 ♦ A Q 9 4
 ♣ 5

- North-south vulnerable. East-west not vulnerable.
- The opponents are bidding to keep you from finding your best contract.
- What sort of hand does north have to bid 5♥?
- What should you do given what you expect partner to have?
- 6♥

Situation 15

- You are south

♠ 2

♥ Q 9 2

♦ K 8 7

♣ A Q J 6 4 3

North east south west

1♣ pass 1♠ pass

2♣ pass ?

♠ K J 7 4

♥ 8 7

♦ Q 9 4

♣ K 9 5 2

- South should raise to 3 clubs for two reasons.
- Maybe (not likely) they can make 5 clubs.
- If south passes, their opponents might find a way of getting into the bidding.

Final Thoughts

- The meaning of bids is always determined by the situation at the table.
- So, you must always be analyzing the situation at the table.
- Good bridge players are willing to examine their hand, know what others at the table have bid, and make judgments based on what you've learned.
- You've heard the old song, "you've got to know when to hold 'em and know when to fold 'em."
- That concept applies to bridge, as well.