

Audrey Grant Bridge Basics II

Competitive Bidding Chapter 1

Mark Ducharme

mark.r.ducharme@gmail.com

(603) 321-1696

How is Scoring done in Bridge?

Two factors impact the score for making or defeating the contract:

Vulnerability

Penalty Double

Vulnerability

In duplicate bridge, the vulnerability is assigned to each deal or “board”.

Bonuses and penalties are higher when vulnerable than when non-vulnerable

Penalty Double

The side which does not win the auction can double the contract if it feels declarer can't make the required number of tricks.

This is referred to as a **Penalty Double.**

The penalty double dramatically affects the size of the penalty if the contract is defeated.

Bridge Scoring

Your score is the sum of:

Trick Score
+
Bonus Points
+
Penalty Points

Trick Score

Minor suit – 20 points per trick made in clubs and diamonds

Major suits – 30 points per trick made in hearts and spades

No Trump – 40 for the first trick and 30 for each subsequent trick in no trump

Trick Score – Examples

20 for each minor suit trick above 6 (book)

30 for each major suit trick above 6 (book)

40 for first No Trump trick and 30 for each subsequent trick

- **The contract is 2 diamonds. You make 8 tricks (which is two above “book”). Your trick score is 40.**

$$20 + 20 = 40$$

- **The contract is 1 No Trump. You make 9 tricks (which is three above “book”). Your trick score is 100.**

$$40 + 30 + 30 = 100$$

- **The contract is 3 spades and you make 4 spades. The Trick score is 120.**

$$30 + 30 + 30 + 30 = 120$$

Game Bonuses

The bonus levels for duplicate bridge are as follows
(Differs from social bridge):

300 points for bidding and making a **non-vulnerable game** contract.

500 points for bidding and making a **vulnerable game** contract

50 for bidding and making a **partscore** contract.

Total Score – Examples

- The contract is 2 diamonds. You are vulnerable. You make 8 tricks. Your total score is 90.

$$50 + 20 + 20 = 90$$

- The contract is 1 No Trump. You are non-vulnerable. You make 9 tricks. Your total score is 150.

$$50 + 40 + 30 + 30 = 150$$

- The contract is 3 No Trump. You are non-vulnerable. You make 9 tricks. Your total score is 400.

$$300 + 40 + 30 + 30 = 400$$

- The contract is 4 spades and you make 4 spades. You are vulnerable. Your Total score is 620.

$$500 + 30 + 30 + 30 + 30 = 620$$

Total Score – Examples

- The contract is 1 diamond, vulnerable. You make 10 tricks. **What is your total score?**
- The contract is 2 diamonds, vulnerable. You make 10 tricks. **What is your total score?**
- The contract is 4 diamonds, vulnerable. You make 10 tricks. **What is your total score?**
- The contract is 3 No Trump, vulnerable. You make 11 tricks. **What is your total score?**
- The contract is 3 No Trump, non-vulnerable. You make 10 tricks. **What is your total score?**
- The contract is 4 spades, vulnerable. You make 12 tricks. **What is your total score?**

Penalty Points

If declarer does not make the required number of tricks, the **opponents receive points for each trick by which the contract is defeated**. The penalty depends on the **vulnerability** and whether the contract is **doubled**.

Penalty Points - Examples

If the contract is **not doubled**, the penalty is:

Non-Vulnerable – 50 points per trick

Vulnerable – 100 points per trick

If the contract is **doubled**, the penalty is:

Non-Vulnerable – 100 points for the first trick
and **200** for each subsequent trick

Vulnerable – 200 points for the first trick
and **300** for each subsequent trick.

Sacrificing

If opponents **have a certain game score** and are vulnerable, you can afford to go down:

3 tricks (non-vulnerable, doubled) = 500 points or
2 tricks (vulnerable, doubled) = 500 points

If opponents **have a certain game score** and are non-vulnerable, you can afford to go down:

2 tricks (non-vulnerable, doubled) = 300 points or
1 trick (vulnerable, doubled) = 200 points

This is called a **Sacrifice**.

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Compare these hands

Hand 1

♠ 6
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A K 8 3
♣ A K 8 6

Hand 2

♠ K Q J 10 9 8 7
♥ 5
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 7 3

How many points in each hand?

How many tricks in each hand?

How would you open the bidding?

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

How would you open the bidding with each hand?

Hand 1

♠ 6
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A K 8 3
♣ A K 8 6

Hand 2

♠ K Q J 10 9 8 7
♥ 5
♦ 9 5 2
♣ 7 3

Hand #1, you would open 1 Diamond.

The **classic preemptive opening bid** was introduced to take advantage of hands (similar to #2) which have a good, long suit, but less than opening values.

Opener would start with a bid of 3 Spades with Hand 2

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

An **opening bid in a suit at the three level** describes a weak hand with strength focused in one long suit and the potential to take six tricks.

Usually contains **a 7 card suit with 2 of top 3 honors.**

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids - Why?

It takes up a lot of room on the bidding ladder.

Opener (North) bids 3 spades: East holds:

♠ 5 2

♥ K Q 9 7 3

♦ A Q J

♣ 9 6 5

East was planning to open this hand 1 heart. After North's preemptive bid, east must bid 4 hearts to enter the bidding. If east passes, however, the partnership may miss a good game.

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids –Why?

It takes up a lot of room on the bidding ladder and makes it more difficult for the opponents to bid a good hand.

But, there are risks for the pre-emptive bidder if the partnership fails to make the contract.

To understand how to balance the potential risks against the possible gains, it is necessary to consider the scoring.

Three Level Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

An opening bid of 3 ♣, 3 ♦, 3 ♥, or 3 ♠ shows:

A long suit – usually **seven cards** with two of the top three or three of the top five cards in the suit.

A weak hand – less than the values of an opening hand, usually **5 to 11 points including length**.

Pre Emptive Opening Bids - Purpose

Obstructive

Designed to make it **more difficult** for the opponents to enter the bidding and find their best contract.

Descriptive

Helps partner (responder) decide How High and Where the partnership belongs.

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 6
♥ A Q J 9 8 7 4
♦ 8 3
♣ 9 4 2

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 6
♥ A Q J 9 8 7 4
♦ 8 3
♣ 9 4 2

Yes, the hand has only 7 HCP plus 3 length points
But has 3 of top 5. The hand has six playing tricks.

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 8 6
♥ 4
♦ K J 10 9 8 7 3
♣ J 10 5

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 8 6
♥ 4
♦ K J 10 9 8 7 3
♣ J 10 5

Yes, but barely. The hand has only 5 HCP plus 3 length points but has 3 of top 5. You should consider vulnerability when opening this hand at the 3 level.

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ J 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ K J 5
♦ A 7
♣ 6

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ J 8 7 6 4 3 2
♥ K J 5
♦ A 7
♣ 6

Pass. The quality of this trump suit is very poor. You may not take 3 to 4 tricks. With only 9 HCP's, there is not enough strength to open at the one level.

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 4
♥ A K J 9 8 5 3
♦ 7 3
♣ K J 5

Pre-Emptive Opening Bids

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 4
♥ AKJ9853
♦ 73
♣ KJ5

1 Heart. The hand is too strong to qualify for a pre-emptive opening bid. With 12 HCP's plus 3 length points, open this hand 1 Heart.

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

**An opening preemptive bid at the 3 level is very descriptive;
A good seven-card suit with 5-11 points (including length)**

Opener has 5 or 6 playing tricks

**Responder's decision should be based on
playing tricks rather than high card points**

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Responder has the following options:

Pass

Raise opener's suit

Bid a new suit Bid

No Trump

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ 4
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ J 6 5

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ 4
♥ Q J 9 7 3
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ J 6 5

Pass. You don't like spades but bidding will only get you higher. You have only 1 sure trick also, not enough to bid any more.

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A 7 5

♥ 4

♦ A K 7 5

♣ K 10 8 6 5

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A 7 5
♥ 4
♦ A K 7 5
♣ K 10 8 6 5

4 spades. You like spades and with 3 sure and possibly 4 tricks, you should bid the game.

Reminder: Partner's 3 spade shows 5 or 6 playing tricks.

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Sometimes you raise partner's bid, with **3 or 4 card support** and a weak hand to make it more difficult for the opponents to find a game or slam.

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ K 10 7 4
♥ 8 3
♦ 2
♣ Q J 8 7 5 2

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ K 10 7 4
♥ 8 3
♦ 2
♣ Q J 8 7 5 2

4 spades. You like spades and with a very weak hand, You bid 4 spades to make it more difficult for the opponents. The opponents most likely have game or slam.

This is a sacrifice.

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Bidding a new suit

Responder should have a **good six-card suit** or a longer suit to suggest an alternative trump suit and be able to imagine a game.

A new suit bid below game is forcing even in competition

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Diamonds**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A K J 8 7 6
♥ A Q J 7 3
♦ 4
♣ 5

Responding to Three-Level Opening Bids

Partner opens **3 Diamonds**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A K J 8 7 6
♥ A Q J 7 3
♦ 4
♣ 5

3 spades. Despite opener's preemptive bid in diamonds,
You want to find game in a major suit.

When responder bids a new suit, opener can raise with
support or rebid the original suit without support.

If north rebids 4 diamonds, partner can now bid 4 hearts, hoping
partner will have support for one of the two suits.

Play Hand #1

Play Hand #2

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

An opening bid of 2 ♦, 2 ♥, or 2 ♠ shows:

A six card suit – Two of top three honors, or
Three of top five.

5 – 11 points including length – less
than opening values.

2 Clubs is excluded from the weak opening 2 bid.

This bid will be used in the future to indicate
a strong hand (22 or more HCP)

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 7
♥ K Q J 10 9 8
♦ 10 7 3
♣ 9 6 2

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 7
♥ K Q J 10 9 8
♦ 10 7 3
♣ 9 6 2

Yes. The hand should be opened at **2 hearts.**

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 8 6
♥ Q 5 2
♦ Q J 10 8 7 3
♣ 7 6

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 8 6
♥ Q 5 2
♦ Q J 10 8 7 3
♣ 7 6

Yes. The hand should be opened at **2 diamonds.**

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 10 8 6 5 4 3
♥ A 10 3
♦ 8 6
♣ K J

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 10 8 6 5 4 3
♥ A 10 3
♦ 8 6
♣ K J

No the Suit is too weak. You should pass as opener with this hand.

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 4 2
♥ K 7 2
♦ A K J 9 7 3
♣ J 8

Pre-Emptive Weak 2 Bid

Does the following hand qualify for a pre-emptive bid ?

♠ 4 2
♥ K 7 2
♦ A K J 9 7 3
♣ J 8

No. The hand is too strong
You should **open 1 diamond** with this hand.

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

A weak two hand describes a hand with **four or five** playing tricks. Responder's options are:

Pass

Raise opener's suit

Bid a New suit

Bid 2 NT

Responding to the Weak Two Bid in a Major suit Hearts/Spades

Rule of 17

If responder's total of High Card Points and cards in partner's suit totals 17+, bid game.

If the total is 20+, you want to explore for slam.

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Partner opens **2 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ 3
♥ K J 8 7 5 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ Q 10 5

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Partner opens **2 Spades**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ 3
♥ K J 8 7 5 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ Q 10 5

Pass. If you bid the partnership will only get higher on the bidding ladder with no guarantee of finding a better spot.

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Partner opens **2 Hearts**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A K 8 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ 4
♣ K Q 8 6 5

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Partner opens **2 Hearts**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A K 8 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ 4
♣ K Q 8 6 5

4 Hearts. You have 3 sure and maybe a fourth extra tricks.
Using the rule of 17, this hand is correct to bid game.

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Partner opens **2 Hearts**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ 4
♥ Q 10 8 3
♦ 10 8 2
♣ Q J 8 7 5

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Partner opens **2 Hearts**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ 4
♥ Q 10 8 3
♦ 10 8 2
♣ Q J 8 7 5

4 Hearts. Here, you jump to game only to make it more difficult for the opponents as they likely have game or slam.
This is a sacrifice bid.

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Bidding a New Suit

Partner opens **2 Diamonds**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A K J 8 6
♥ K Q J 7 3
♦ J 4
♣ 4

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

Bidding a New Suit

Partner open 2 **Diamonds**.

What do you bid with the following hand?

♠ A K J 8 6
♥ K Q J 7 3
♦ J 4
♣ 4

2 spades. This is a forcing bid. If opener cannot support Spades and rebids 3 diamonds, then **rebid 3 hearts**.
If opener cannot support 3 hearts and rebids 4 diamonds then bid 5 diamonds.

Responding to the Weak Two Bid

The special meaning of the 2 No Trump response

This response is **conventional** and asks opener for a further description of his hand.

With more than a minimum, **opener can rebid a new suit showing a feature** in that suit such as an Ace or a King.

With a **minimum hand** (5-8 points), opener can rebid his suit at the 3 level.

With a **solid suit**, opener can bid 3 NT.

Play Hand #3

Play Hand #4