



Lesson 18 Examples

Counting Playing Tricks

♠ AKQJ42
 ♥ A
 ♦ 5432
 ♣ 32

A hand with 14 HCP, but what is its main feature?
 What catches the eye is the powerful spade suit
 If spades are trump the player with these cards has 7 tricks
 in his own hand *with no help from his partner*.
 (♠AKQJ probably draws trump, ♠4 and ♠2 are winners
 as length tricks, and ♥A makes 7 tricks)
 We say that this hand has *7 playing tricks in spades*

♠ 962
 ♥ KQJ1095
 ♦ 83
 ♣ 42

What about this hand?
 It has only 6 points, and it is worthless in any
 suit except hearts
 But if hearts are trump it can make 5 tricks
 with no help from partner.
 This hand has *5 playing tricks in hearts*

♠ KJ42
 ♥ AQ6
 ♦ K9
 ♣ AQ32

A strong hand with 19 HCP, but no
 powerful long suit. It does not have
 very many playing tricks in any suit
 and no 5 card suit

♠ 962
 ♥ QJ10953
 ♦ AK
 ♣ 42

This hand has 6 PT in hearts
 When ♥A and ♥K are knocked
 out there are 4 heart tricks,
 plus ♦AK

♠ KQ2
 ♥ K4
 ♦ J7
 ♣ AQ10964

This is more difficult to compute
 Missing ♣K and ♣J we will make
 4/5 club tricks. ♠KQ are 1 trick,
 ♥K might make another. About
 6 tricks in clubs is a fair assessment

Examples of overcalls

♠ KQJ109
 ♥ 763
 ♦ A72
 ♣ 85

N
W E
S

1♥

South opens 1♥.
 West has 5 PT, 4 spades + ♦A
 He can overcall 1♠.
 To make 1♠ he needs 7 tricks,
 he hopes partner can supply 2 more

♠ 732
 ♥ AJ3
 ♦ AQJ1076
 ♣ 6

N
W E
S

1♠

South opens 1♠
 West can count 6 playing tricks
 He is worth a 2♦ overcall.

♠ A5
 ♥ 7642
 ♦ 6
 ♣ KQJ1092

N
W E
S

1NT

South opens 1NT.
 West can count 6 playing tricks
 in clubs - worth a 2♣ overcall

NB If partner has absolutely nothing West will go down, *but that may not matter* if opponents can make
 a contract of their own.



Lesson 18 Examples

The 1NT overcall

An overcall of 1NT shows a balanced hand of 15-18 points

(It must be stronger than a 1NT opening bid because one opponent has already shown strength)

Because you can expect opponents to lead the suit they have bid you need a *'stopper'* in that suit.

♠ 98
♥ AQ3
♦ A1064
♣ KQJ2

	N	
W		E
	S	

1♥

South opens 1♥.

You are West with a balanced hand of 16 points

If North leads hearts you will make two heart tricks - you have two *stoppers* in the suit.

You overcall 1NT.

With the same hand, if South opened 1♠ you cannot bid 1NT because you have no *stopper* in spades.

(We will look at what you can bid in a future Lesson)

The Jump overcall

This is an overcall made one level higher than necessary

It shows a relatively weak hand with a decent 6-card or longer suit (about 6 - 10 HCP)

♠ AQ10976
♥ Q8
♦ 63
♣ 984

	N	
W		E
	S	

1♦

South opens 1♦

You have a decent 6-card spade suit but little strength

You bid 2♠ - showing a good suit but not many points.

Note: for a jump overcall you need a good 6-card suit and 6 – 10 HCP, the same values for opening an Acol weak two, which we will cover later.

Examples of overcalls

N/All Vul

Pass

♠ AK
♥ 75
♦ 1086
♣ QJ10972

	N	
W		E
	S	

Pass

1♠

6PT in clubs - a minimum 2♣ overcall, (for the lead)

S/None Vul

♠ 52
♥ KQJ102
♦ K62
♣ 832

	N	
W		E
	S	

1♦

4PT + ♦K as a plus value
A minimum 1♥ overcall

E/All Vul

♠ AJ95
♥ AQ9
♦ Q8
♣ K864

	N	
W		E
	S	

1♥

15-18 balanced, with stoppers in hearts A 1NT overcall