Lesson 30 Examples

Which of these hands do you think is the strongest 1NT opening?

♠ 63
♥ A87
♦ KQJ104
♣ K82

The diamond suit will make 4 tricks once the ace is knocked out. Four tricks from 6 points.

♠ KQ
♥ A532
♦ Q653
♣ K64

This is much worse – the doubleton KQ will take only 1 trick.
1 trick from 5 points.

♠ QJ109
♥ K1095
♦ A10
♣ KJ9

The impressive *intermediates* (nines and tens) strengthen the honour cards

Examples of Upgrading and Devaluing Honour Cards

♠ Q2
♥ KJ6
♦ J1072
♣ A984

	N	
W		E
	S	

Partner (East) opens 1♠.
RHO (South) overcalls 2♥
With 11 points you would normally bid 2NT
But if RHO has both ace and queen of hearts you will make 2 heart tricks. From 4 points!
Upgrade your heart honours: your hand is worth 3NT

♠ KQ64
♥ KQ963
♦ 2
♣ AQ4

	N	
W		E
	S	

You open 1♥, LHO overcalls 2♣ and partner bids 2♦. RHO raises his partner to 3♣.
With 16 points your hand is not minimum, but you should *devalue* the queen of clubs. You have no honours or intermediates in partner's suit to support his cards there. Your hand has got worse. Partner's bid was forcing, but now that RHO has bid you no longer have to. Just Pass.

The value of extra trump

♠ A98642
♥ A8732
♦ 8
♣ 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ KJ753
♥ 6
♦ A7543
♣ 95

How many tricks can West make in spades?
West and East have each 8HCP, a combined 16 HCP Yet West has 6 spade tricks, two red aces, and he can ruff three hearts in dummy to make 11 tricks.

On a good day opponents' hearts will split 4-3 and three ruffs will establish a length trick in hearts. Or spades may break 1-1 so you can ruff 4 times in dummy. Making 12 tricks.

♠ 1043
♥ A9652
♦ KQ74
♣ 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

Partner (East) bids 1♥ and South passes.
With 6-9HCP and trump support the 'book' bid is 2♥
But an expert will bid 4♥ directly: this hand is too strong for a weak response of 2♥. Why?

1) You have *five* trump, which makes it easier to draw trump, and leaves more for ruffing with once trump are drawn.
2) Your *singleton club* means you can trump opponents' club honours.

Lesson 30 Examples

Examples of Distributional (or 'fit') Points

♠ A42
♥ Q1043
♦ KQ976
♣ 5

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

East opens 1♥ and you respond 2♦

Partner rebids 2♥ and you have found
an 8-card trump fit. Add 2 points
for the singleton, making a total of 13.
You are worth a raise to 4♥

♠ 7
♥ AJ92
♦ AK1087
♣ KQ4

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

You open 1♦, partner responds 1♥.

You have an 8-card trump fit
Add 2 distribution points for the
singleton, and you have 19, enough
to raise to 4♥

♠ 5
♥ AQ72
♦ J43
♣ KJ1085

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

East opens 1♠ and you respond 2♣

Partner rebids 2♠.
You have 11 points, but there is nothing to make
you feel optimistic about this bidding.
Partner has long spades, but no other suit,
and he has a minimum opening bid.
With no trump fit the best bid is 'Pass'

♠ A9642
♥ 9753
♦ 96
♣ A7

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

East opened 1♠ and West raised to 2♠.

Was that right? East passed with 15 points
and made 11 tricks!
This hand is worth more than 8 points.
Count 1 extra point for each doubleton,
and 1 for the fifth trump.
With 11 points you are worth 3♠

Opening the Bidding with Less than 13 High Card Points

♠ AQJ643
♥ 3
♦ J96
♣ A75

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

Just 12 high card points, but you can
add 2 for the extra trump length in spades.

Open 1♠.
Suppose North bids 2♥ and East raises to 3♠.
What should West bid now?
Now that partner has shown 4-card support your
hand has become stronger. Add 2 more points
for the singleton heart, bringing the total to 16.
Well worth 4♠.

♠ 3
♥ KQJ93
♦ AQ1096
♣ 75

```
      N
   W     E
      S
```

Another 12-pointer, but this hand has great
potential if partner has a fit for either suit.

Add a point for the fifth heart and open 1♥.
Suppose partner bids 1♠, you can rebid 2♦.
If partner were to raise to 3♦ add 2 points
for the singleton spade, 1 for the doubleton
club, and 1 for the fifth diamond, 16 points.
And the hand has plus values because of the
excellent intermediates in the long suits