



## Lesson 34 Examples

**How many Playing Tricks can we count if these hands are played in spades?**

♠KQJ9652  
♥873  
♦6  
♣53

If the remaining spades are evenly divided between the other hands you will make 6 trump tricks. 6 Playing Tricks, and 6HCP

♠QJ984  
♥8  
♦KQ63  
♣AK2

You expect 2 or 3 spade tricks, 1 or 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. It counts as 6 Playing Tricks (15HCP)

♠AK72  
♥QJ6  
♦Q105  
♣KJ5

Not many Playing Tricks at all but 16HCP.

**What would you bid with these West hands if South was dealer and opened 1♦?**

♠KQJ952  
♥K7  
♦1086  
♣93

1♠, whether Vul or not  
Only 9HCP but 5+Playing Tricks

♠Q7  
♥A9  
♦1063  
♣AQJ852

2♣ Vul or not. 6 Playing Tricks  
An overcall may have opening strength – or not

♠Q1072  
♥KJ6  
♦AQ10  
♣KJ4

1NT – balanced 16-18HCP  
with stoppers in diamonds

♠A953  
♥J2  
♦AQ1064  
♣A7

Pass – what else? When an opponent bids your best suit there is nothing to do but wait and see.

♠K5  
♥AQJ1063  
♦7  
♣10982

2♥ Vul or not. 5+Playing Tricks, opening strength and a very strong suit

♠KJ7  
♥KJ73  
♦Q62  
♣A104

Pass. No good suit, not enough PT for an overcall, Not enough HCP for 1NT. Too flat for a takeout double. Heigh ho.

**Overcalling in the ‘Sandwich Position’:**

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
???			

♠K7  
♥KQJ1092  
♦A42  
♣72

6+PT, this hand is worth 2♥  
at any vulnerability

♠8742  
♥AQ83  
♦KJ6  
♣AQ

Pass –with both opponents bidding partner may have very little. We have 16 HCP but no good suit. North’s 1♦ bid devalues ♦KJx

**Responding to overcalls**

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
-	1♦	1♠	Pass
???			

♠K75  
♥KJ1092  
♦842  
♣72

Raise to 2♠. 3-card support is enough. When we know of an 8+card spade fit there is no need to bid another suit.

♠Q8  
♥AQJ863  
♦J653  
♣9

A minimum 2♥ bid. To bid a new suit needs a very good suit, no 3-card support for partner and some hope of game if he can support you



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### *Coping with overcalls*

What should we bid as West if partner opened 1♣ and South overcalled 1♥?

♠KJ932  
♥K74  
♦86  
♣963

1♠. When we can make the bid we would make without the overcall we have no problem

♠Q75  
♥K9  
♦Q1063  
♣A852

3♣. Just what we would bid without the overcall.

♠K72  
♥9842  
♦Q102  
♣J94

Pass. We cannot bid 1NT without a *stopper* in hearts. The only other bid we might make is 2♣, but partner has another chance to bid, and will do so if this is our hand.

♠843  
♥J62  
♦A1064  
♣K73

Pass. We would have bid 1♦ but we need 10+HCP and a 5+card suit when we have been forced to respond at a higher level.

♠K82  
♥QJ63  
♦J987  
♣Q2

1NT. We have an excellent heart stopper, and sound values. (We need not stretch to bid 1NT when partner has another chance to bid.)

♠A75  
♥KJ73  
♦K62  
♣1054

2NT. Again, sound heart stoppers and no reason to think there is a better strain than no-trump.

We are West. Partner opens 1♥ and South overcalls 2♦. What do we bid?

♠K9532  
♥Q6  
♦AJ42  
♣72

2♠. 10HCP and 5 spades. Enough to bid at the 2-level

♠KQ2  
♥J65  
♦KJ6  
♣Q832

2NT. Balanced 12HCP with diamond stoppers

♠QJ54  
♥Q7  
♦J62  
♣Q832

Pass. Without the overcall we would bid 1♠, but we are not strong enough for 2♠.

♠A8  
♥65  
♦KJ10643  
♣832

Pass. When opponents want to play in our best suit we just have to let them. Do not double for penalties, they have somewhere better to play!