



BEGINNERS' LESSONS Welcome

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Lesson Five

Balanced Hands



Opener's First Bid

	Points	Description
1♣	12 - 19	4 + clubs
1♦	12 - 19	4 + diamonds
1♥	12 - 19	4 + hearts
1♠	12 - 19	4 + spades
1NT	12 - 14	Balanced hand ... SPECIAL CASE



Basic Rules for Opening 1NT

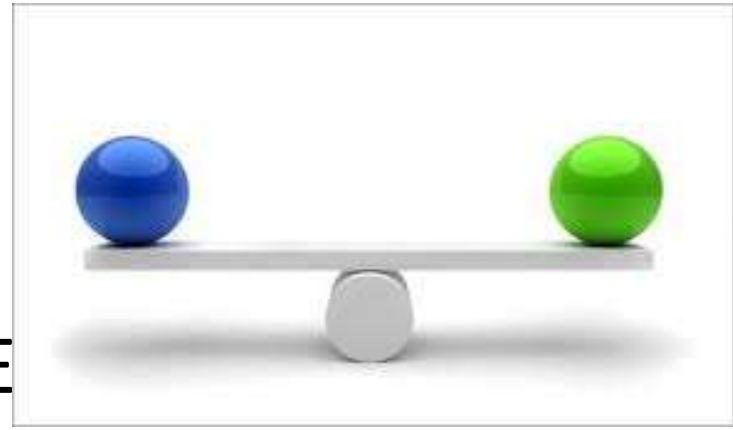
- **12 - 14** points
- Balanced Hand

This bid is your **FIRST** choice
from now on



What is a balanced hand?

- No singleton or void
- Only one doubleton
- Shapes = 4333, 4432, 2335
- 5 card major=SPECIAL CASE



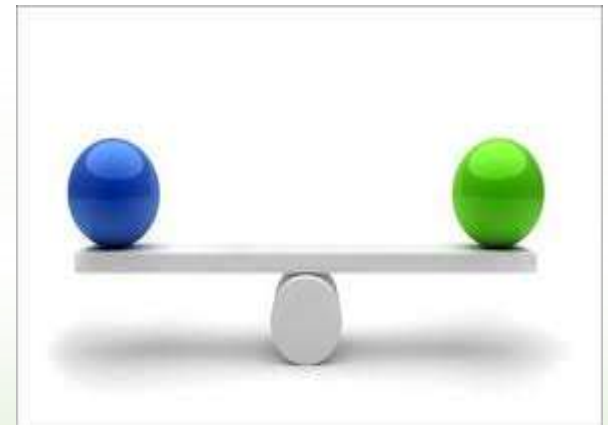
Balanced hands are the most
common



Balanced or Not?



- No singleton or void
- Only one doubleton



Balanced or Not?



- No singleton or void
- Only one doubleton
- No 5-card major



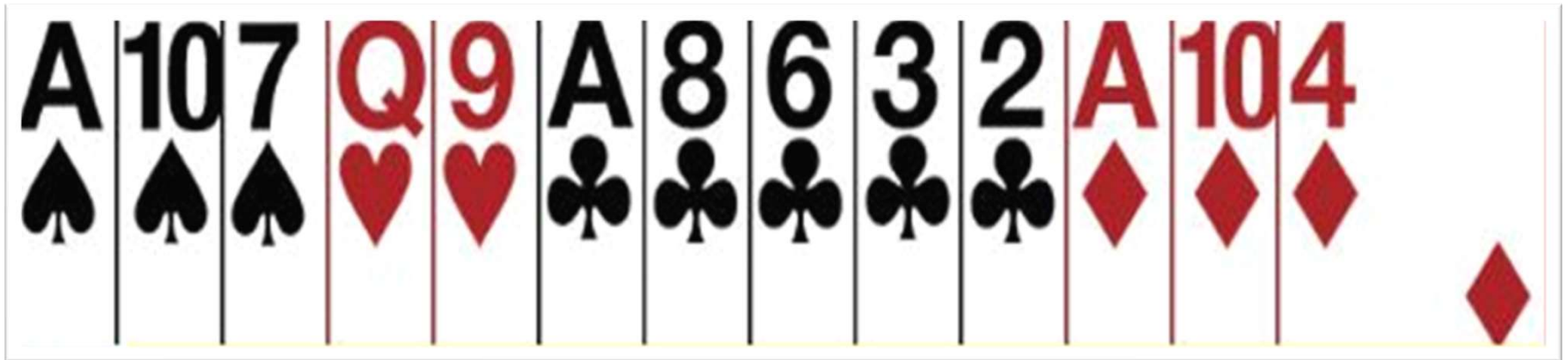
Balanced or Not?



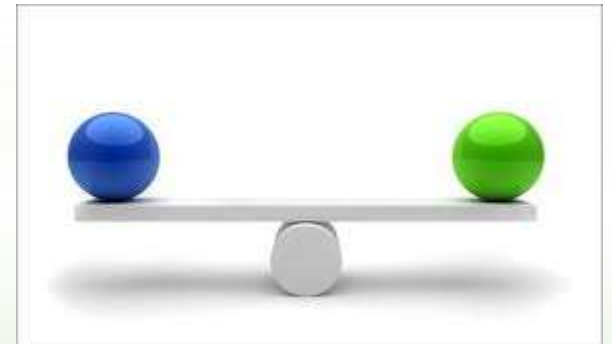
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Balanced or Not?



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Balanced or Not?



- No singleton or void
- Only one doubleton
- No 5-card major



Balanced or Not?



Open 1♠ ↗

↘ Open 1NT



What does responder do?

- Do you want to play in **NoTrumps** or a **suit**?
- Have you got enough **points** to bid or invite game?



Responder is the BOSS
There are ONLY 2 decisions to make



Responses to 1NT – Balanced Hand

- 0 – 10 points ... no GAME possible ... **PASS**
- 11 – 12 points ... GAME is possible ... **Bid 2NT**
- 13+ points ... definitely in GAME ... **Bid 3NT**

Add your points to
partner's KNOWN 12-14
points



What does responder do?



PASS ... not enough for GAME

- NoTrumps or a suit?
- What level?



What does responder do?



Bid 3NT ... enough for GAME

- NoTrumps or a suit?
- What level?



What does responder do?




Bid 2NT ... invite to GAME

- NoTrumps or a suit?
- What level?



Responses to 1NT – Unbalanced Hand

- 0 – 10 points ... no GAME possible

Bid your  + card suit at the 2-level

This is a WEAK TAKEOUT

Partner **MUST** then pass ... **YOU ARE THE BOSS**

Add your points to
partner's **KNOWN** 12-14
points



Responses to 1NT – Unbalanced Hand

12+ points ... GAME Forcing



- Bid your  card MAJOR at the 3-level

(Partner **MUST** agree your suit or bid NoTrumps)

- Bid your  card MAJOR at the 4-level - OR
- Bid your  card MINOR at the 5-level



What does responder do?



Bid 2♥... not enough for GAME

•Opener MUST pass



What does responder do?



Bid 2♦ ... not enough for GAME

•OPENER must pass



What does responder do?



Bid 4♠... enough for GAME ...
known fit

There is a guaranteed fit



What does responder do?



Bid 3♥ ... enough for GAME ... need to check if there is a heart fit

Opener chooses 3NT or 4♥ (with a fit)



BEGINNERS' LESSONS

Please contact me if you have any questions

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