

Overcalls

If opponents open the bidding and you bid - you are an overcaller.
Your aims are different. You are trying to:

- Win the contract (generally a part score contract)
- Obstruct the opponents
- Suggest a lead to partner

Suit Overcalls

- A **good** 5+card suit (generally a minimum of 2 honours)
- At the 2-level you need a **good** 5+ suit and 10+ points

Responses to a Suit Overcall

• Pass		denies a fit
• Minimum raise	6-11	3+ card support
• Jump Raise	12-14	invitational with 3+ card support
• Bid Game	15+	With 3+ card support

It is important to bid if you possibly can to make life difficult for your opponents.
It is the trump suit that matters – the better the **fit**, the higher you can bid.

1NT Overcall

- 16-18 HCP
- Must have a stopper in their suit – a stopper shows a trick (e.g. Axx, KQx, QJ10)
- N.B. do not overcall 1NT with 12-14

Responses to a 1NT Overcall

Balanced hands:

Pass	0-7	no Game
2NT	8	invitational to 3NT
3NT	9+	bid Game

Unbalanced hands:

2♣/2♦/2♥/2♠	0-7	5+ card suit
3♥/3♠	8+	game force with exactly a 5 card suit (opener will choose 3NT or 4♥/4♠)
3♣/3♦	6-7	6+ card suit and inviting to game NB: if you have a 5 card minor 8+ HCP, bid 3NT
4♥/4♠	8+	game with 6+ suit

Overcalls

1. RHO (Right Hand Opponent) opens 1♥ - what do you overcall with these hands?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ J7654 ♥ 62 ♦ KQ85 ♣ A9	♠ AQ52 ♥ QJ2 ♦ A1085 ♣ A7	♠ KQJ852 ♥ 54 ♦ J76 ♣ 97	♠ 52 ♥ 62 ♦ AKJ754 ♣ K97	♠ Q2 ♥ KJ654 ♦ QJ75 ♣ A7

2. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♣) - 1♠ - (P) - ? The opponents' bids are in brackets and 1♠ is your Partner's overcall

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ A52 ♥ Q62 ♦ J7654 ♣ 97	♠ 52 ♥ K62 ♦ 9754 ♣ AQ97	♠ KJ52 ♥ AJ3 ♦ KQJ74 ♣ 6	♠ QJ2 ♥ K6 ♦ AK1085 ♣ 976	♠ 5 ♥ KJ642 ♦ AJ852 ♣ 97

3. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♦) - 2♣ - (2♦) - ? The opponents' bids are in brackets and 2♣ is your Partner's overcall

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ A52 ♥ AQJ2 ♦ 32 ♣ J854	♠ KJ2 ♥ A962 ♦ AJ10 ♣ Q75	♠ KQJ52 ♥ Q62 ♦ 85 ♣ 985	♠ AQ82 ♥ KQJ982 ♦ 2 ♣ 105	♠ 7 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ A43 ♣ QJ765

4. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♦) - 1NT - (P) - ? The opponents' bids are in brackets and 1NT is your Partner's overcall

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ 96 ♥ AK62 ♦ 86 ♣ KJ1032	♠ Q109763 ♥ 54 ♦ 42 ♣ 985	♠ K43 ♥ J632 ♦ 63 ♣ Q954	♠ Q52 ♥ AK862 ♦ 975 ♣ J7	♠ A5 ♥ QJ73 ♦ 854 ♣ J1085

Scoring – Quiz

1. What do you score for the following contracts?

1.	2♥	(non vul)	making 2	_____
2.	2NT	(vul)	making 3	_____
3.	3♦	(non vul)	making 3	_____
4.	4♠	(vul)	making 4	_____
5.	4♣	(non vul)	making 4	_____
6.	5♣	(vul)	making 5	_____
7.	5♥	(non vul)	making 6	_____
8.	3NT	(vul)	making 6	_____
9.	4♠	(vul)	down 3	_____
10.	5♦	(vul)	down 1	_____
11.	2♠	(non vul)	down 3	_____
12.	1NT	(vul)	down 2	_____
13.	2NT	(vul)	making 3	_____
14.	3NT	(vul)	making 3	_____
15.	2♥	(non vul)	making 4	_____
16.	4♥	(non vul)	making 4	_____
17.	1NT	(vul)	down 2	_____

Overcalls

1. RHO (Right Hand Opponent) opens 1♥ - what do you overcall with these hands?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ J7654 ♥ 62 ♦ KQ85 ♣ A9	♠ AQ52 ♥ QJ2 ♦ A1085 ♣ A7	♠ KQJ852 ♥ 54 ♦ J76 ♣ 97	♠ 52 ♥ 62 ♦ AKJ754 ♣ K97	♠ Q2 ♥ KJ654 ♦ QJ75 ♣ A7
Pass	1NT	1♠	2♦	Pass

2. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♣) - 1♠ - (P) - ? The opponents' bids are in brackets and 1♠ is your Partner's overcall

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ A52 ♥ Q62 ♦ J7654 ♣ 97	♠ 52 ♥ K62 ♦ 9754 ♣ AQ97	♠ KJ52 ♥ AJ3 ♦ KQJ74 ♣ 6	♠ QJ2 ♥ K6 ♦ AK1085 ♣ 976	♠ 5 ♥ KJ642 ♦ AJ852 ♣ 97
2♠	Pass	4♠	4♠	Pass

3. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♦) - 2♣ - (2♦) - ? The opponents' bids are in brackets and 2♣ is your Partner's overcall

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ A52 ♥ AQJ2 ♦ 32 ♣ J854	♠ KJ2 ♥ A962 ♦ AJ10 ♣ Q75	♠ KQJ52 ♥ Q62 ♦ 85 ♣ 985	♠ AQ82 ♥ KQJ982 ♦ 2 ♣ 105	♠ 7 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ A43 ♣ QJ765
3♣	3NT or 5♣	Pass	2♥	5♣

4. What do you bid after the following auction?

(1♦) - 1NT - (P) - ? The opponents' bids are in brackets and 1NT is your Partner's overcall

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ 96 ♥ AK62 ♦ 86 ♣ KJ1032	♠ Q109763 ♥ 54 ♦ 42 ♣ 985	♠ K43 ♥ J632 ♦ 63 ♣ Q954	♠ Q52 ♥ AK862 ♦ 975 ♣ J7	♠ A5 ♥ QJ73 ♦ 854 ♣ J1085
3NT	2♠	Pass	3♥	2NT

Scoring – Quiz

Answers

1. What do you score for the following contracts?

1.	2♥	(non vul)	making 2	110
2.	2NT	(vul)	making 3	150
3.	3♦	(non vul)	making 3	110
4.	4♠	(vul)	making 4	620
5.	4♣	(non vul)	making 4	130
6.	5♣	(vul)	making 5	600
7.	5♥	(non vul)	making 6	480
8.	3NT	(vul)	making 6	690
9.	4♠	(vul)	down 3	-300
10.	5♦	(vul)	down 1	-100
11.	2♠	(non vul)	down 3	-150
12.	1NT	(vul)	down 2	-200
13.	2NT	(vul)	making 3	150
14.	3NT	(vul)	making 3	600
15.	2♥	(non vul)	making 4	170
16.	4♥	(non vul)	making 4	420
17.	1NT	(vul)	down 2	-200

Beginners' Lesson 7: Overcalls & scoring

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 3
♥ 6 5 4 3
♦ A 10 5 3
♣ A K

♠ Q 6 5 4 2
♥ K J
♦ K J 7 4
♣ Q 7

N
W E
S

♠ A K J
♥ A Q 9 7
♦ Q 6
♣ 10 9 5 3

♠ 10 7
♥ 10 8 2
♦ 9 8 2
♣ J 8 6 4 2

West North East South

3 NT All pass

Lead: ♠ 10

East has a perfect 1 NT overcall (16-18 HCP and a good stop in the opponent's suit). West only needs 10 HCP to bid game.

The ♠ 10 lead is the top of partner's suit.

Declarer plays a club, so they can then play a heart towards the ♥ AQ. They play the Q♥ (a finesse), then Ace and another heart.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 10 8
♥ A 9 7 6
♦ 9 6 4
♣ K 7 6 3

♠ A 5 4 3
♥ 4
♦ A Q 10 7 3
♣ Q 9 8

N
W E
S

♠ 9 2
♥ K Q 10 8 2
♦ K J 5 2
♣ 5 2

♠ K Q J 7 6
♥ J 5 3
♦ 8
♣ A J 10 4

West North East South

2 ♥ 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Lead: ♥ A

North opens their longest suit and then raises in partner's spades. EW should compete in hearts. South has great shape and should bid game once the spade fit is known.

Lead is ♥ A - partner's suit.

Declarer must ruff two small hearts in dummy before drawing trumps.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 10 9 8 6
♥ 9 7
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 9 7 6 3

♠ 7
♥ Q 10 6 5 2
♦ K 9 8 6
♣ J 5 2

N
W E
S

♠ K J 5 2
♥ K J
♦ A J 2
♣ Q 10 8 4

♠ A Q 4 3
♥ A 8 4 3
♦ 7 4 3
♣ A K

West North East South

Pass 2 ♥ 1 ♣ All pass 1 NT

South has shown a strong balanced hand of 16-18. North does not have the strength for game and makes a weakness takeout of 2 ♥.

Lead is ♠ 2

Declarer wins with the Q♠, and draws trumps then plays on diamonds.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 10 9 8 6
♥ J
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ J 7 6 3

♠ 7
♥ A Q 10 6 5 2
♦ A 8 6
♣ K 5 2

N
W E
S

♠ K J 5 2
♥ K 7
♦ K J 2
♣ Q 10 8 4

♠ A Q 4 3
♥ 9 8 4 3
♦ Q 4 3
♣ A 9

West North East South

Pass 2 ♥ 1 NT Pass 4 ♥

North overcalls 2 ♥ and South, with an opening hand and good support, bids to game.

Lead is a ♣ 4

Declarer wins then takes the heart finesse which loses. Once back in, draw the last trump and play on diamonds. ♦ A first and then low towards the ♦ Q.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ J
♥ 10 9 4
♦ J 10 9 6 5 2
♣ K 8 2

♠ A K 10 4 3
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ 3
♣ 9 5 4

N
W E
S

♠ Q 6 5 2
♥ A 8 2
♦ A 4
♣ A Q J 7

♠ 9 8 7
♥ J 6 3
♦ K Q 8 7
♣ 10 6 3

West North East South

Pass 1 ♠ 1 NT Pass Pass

2 ♦ All pass

East's overcall shows 16-18 HCP. West is not interested in game with 5 HCP. Notrumps is not a good option, so West makes the weak bid of 2 ♦. East must pass.

Lead is ♠ A. After seeing dummy, North should switch to the ♥ K.

Declarer should keep playing trumps before tackling the club suit.

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ K Q 10 6 4
♥ 4 3
♦ 8 3 2
♣ A Q 3

♠ 5
♥ Q 10 8 7 6
♦ K Q J 9 6
♣ 4 2

N
W E
S

♠ A 9 8 3 2
♥ 2
♦ 7 4
♣ 10 9 8 6 5

♠ J 7
♥ A K J 9 5
♦ A 10 5
♣ K J 7

West North East South

1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass 1 ♥

Pass 4 ♥ Pass Pass

NS bid to their 4 ♥ game.

Lead is ♠ K

Now play the board again in 4 ♠ by West to illustrate the power of big fits with few points.

North leads ♦ K (top of a sequence) or ♥ 6 (partner's suit)

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 5 2
♥ A 10 6
♦ A Q J 8 7 3
♣ J 3

♠ J 8
♥ Q 8 4 3 2
♦ K 4 2
♣ 10 9 2

N
W E
S

♠ K 9 6
♥ J 9 7
♦ 6 5
♣ K 8 7 5 4

♠ A Q 10 7 4 3
♥ K 5
♦ 10 9
♣ A Q 6

West North East South

1 ♦ Pass 1 NT 2 ♠

All pass

Despite both opponents bidding, South is strong enough to overcall 2 ♠.

Lead is ♣ J

Declarer wins and plays a diamond towards dummy. When they get back in, they should return to dummy with a diamond and run the ♠ J hoping to capture the ♠ K (finesse).

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A 8 5 3
♥ Q 10 7 6
♦ 7 4
♣ 9 7 6

♠ 2
♥ K J 8
♦ A K J 10 9
♣ K J 10 5

N
W E
S

♠ K Q 10 9 6
♥ 9 3 2
♦ 8 5
♣ A Q 4

♠ J 7 4
♥ A 5 4
♦ Q 6 3 2
♣ 8 3 2

West North East South

Pass 1 ♦ 1 ♠ 2 ♦ All pass

2 ♠ 3 ♦ 3 ♠

West, with a good trump fit, bids 2 ♠ (6-9 HCP). Both pairs may compete to the 3-level.

Lead is ♠ K against diamonds and ♦ 2 against spades. Again it is worth playing the hand twice. 3 ♦ or 3 ♠.

3 ♠, 1 down is a good result for EW as NS can make 3 ♦