



American Contract Bridge League

School Bridge Lesson Series Program

Teacher Manual

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**With
Extensive use of the ACBL Club Series
And English Bridge Union MiniBridge Materials**

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Table of Contents

List of Figures.....	5
Copyright, Credits and Permission to Use.....	6
INTRODUCTION	7
Overview of Teaching Approach	7
Advice from Audrey Grant on Teaching Bridge to Children.....	8
Audrey Grant on Classroom Control and Discipline	8
Use Reinforcement Sparingly: More Advice from Audrey Grant	9
Tips and Suggestions.....	10
When Your Number of Players is Not Divisible by Four	11
LESSON 1:	13
The Deck of Cards and Taking Tricks.....	13
Exercise 1: Rank of the Cards	14
Exercise 2: Shuffling and Dealing.....	14
Exercise 3. Sorting into Suits	14
Exercise 4: Taking Tricks.....	15
Exercise 5: Predicting your Winners.....	17
Exercise 6: Playing in a Trump Contract.....	17
Summary.....	18
LESSON 2:	19
Whist - Playing with a Partner.....	19
Exercise 1: Repeat the Trick-taking and Trump Exercises	19
Exercise 2: Playing with a Partner.....	20
Exercise 3: Picking a Trump Suit.....	21
Exercise 4: Playing with a Dummy	21
Exercise 5: (Optional) Picking a Trump Suit with Partner.....	22
Exercise 6: (Optional) Whist Scoring.....	22
Summary.....	22
LESSON 3:	23
MiniBridge Part 1 (Row 1 Hands).....	23
Exercise 1: Counting High-card points	23
Exercise 2: Points of the Compass	24
Exercise 3: Using the E-Z Deal Cards.....	24
Exercise 4: The First MiniBridge Hand	25
Summary.....	26
LESSON 4:	31
MiniBridge Part 2 (Row 2 Hands).....	31
Exercise 1: Start Keeping Statistics.....	31
Exercise 2: Keeping Score.....	32
Exercise 3: Contracts.....	33
Summary.....	35
LESSON 5:	39

Game Contracts and Promotion (Row 3 Hands).....	39
Exercise 1: Contracts	39
Exercise 2: Scoring with Game Bonuses.....	40
Exercise 3: Promoting High Cards – the Rest of the Hands.....	41
Summary.....	41
LESSON 6:	43
BridgeIt and Length Tricks (Row 4 Hands)	43
Introduce the Game of BridgeIt.....	44
Developing tricks from an eight-card fit	45
Learn Distribution Points.....	45
Summary.....	47
LESSON 7:	49
More BridgeIt and Finesses (Row 5 Hands).....	49
Learn about Finesses	49
How Many Points are Needed for Game?.....	50
Summary.....	51
LESSON 8:	53
Opening the Bidding (Row 2 Hands).....	53
Opening the Bidding.....	53
Defender’s Finesses – Why to Lead Top of a Sequence	55
Summary.....	56
LESSON 9:	59
Responding to 1NT (Row 3 Hands).....	59
Review the 1NT Opening.....	59
How to Respond to the 1NT Opening	59
Summary.....	61
LESSON 10:	63
Responding to One of a Major with a Fit	63
Introduce Dummy Points.....	65
Summary.....	67
LESSON 11:	69
Responding to One of a Suit without a Major Suit Fit	69
Summary.....	72
LESSON 12:	73
Overcalling (Row 7 Hands)	73
Competitive Bidding and Penalty Doubles	73
Counting Losers.....	74
Summary.....	75
LESSON 13:	77
Opener’s (and Overcaller’s) Rebid	77
Summary.....	79

LESSON 14:	81
Responder's Rebid (Row 6 Hands).....	81
Summary.....	84
LESSON 15:	85
Doubles (Row 8 Hands).....	85
Summary.....	87
LESSON 16:	89
Final Week - Hold a Competition.....	89
Appendix A:.....	91
Exercises for Younger Children - Lesson 1	91
Exercise 1: Rank of the Cards	91
Exercise 2: Taking Tricks.....	92
Exercise 3: Following Suit and Sorting.....	93
Appendix B: Worksheet Answers.....	94
Scoring: EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 2 (Answers).....	96
Appendix C: Wizard Tip Cards	99
Row 2 hands	99
Row 3 hands	100
Row 4 Hands	101
Row 5 Hands	102
Row 6 Hands	103
Row 7 hands	104
Row 8 hands	105
Added Hands for Lesson 10	106
Diamond Series hands for Lesson 13	107

List of Figures

Figure 1 - EBU Guide to Sorting	15
Figure 2 - Summary of MiniBridge Cards.....	27
Figure 3 - MiniBridge Scoring.....	28
Figure 4 - EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 1	29
Figure 5 - Statistics Sheet	30
Figure 6 - Scoring Examples.....	34
Figure 7 - Score Cards to Use	36
Figure 8 - MiniBridge Worksheet 2 (not EBU).....	37
Figure 9 - Scoring: EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 2	38
Figure 10 - BridgeIt Announcing Forms	42
Figure 11 - EBL MiniBridge Worksheet 3	48
Figure 12 - Modified EBL Worksheet 5-Finessing	52
Figure 13 - Opening the Bidding	57
Figure 14 - Responding to 1NT	58

Figure 15 - Added Hands for Lesson 10.....	62
Figure 16 - Responding to One of a Suit	68
Figure 17 - Opener's Rebids.....	76
Figure 18 - Responder's Rebids	80
Figure 19 - What Opener Has Shown	82
Figure 20 - Hand Record Template	88

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INTRODUCTION

Overview of Teaching Approach

This material is aimed at teaching Bridge to a target age group of children 11-13 but may be suitable for other age groups. There is an appendix of material for younger children.

Our basic approach is to start with the game of Whist to learn the mechanics of card play and trick-taking. Then we use the ACBL Club Series (Bidding) hands and lesson material with the games of MiniBridge and BridgeIt for the next part of the course, before we start bidding.

MiniBridge is Bridge without bidding. All players announce their points in turn. The side with the most points plays the hand. The partner with the least points puts dummy down and their partner, declarer, chooses a contract while looking at the dummy. The scoring is as non-vulnerable at duplicate Bridge.

BridgeIt is Bridge with bidding for the contract based on knowledge of partner's distribution and high-card points as written on a form in front of each player.

No "Standard American" bidding or use of the textbook takes place until Lesson 8, and by then the concepts of contracts and scoring are well understood.

Each lesson is structured to last for an hour and 15 minutes. Middle school after-school activities are usually one-and-a-half to two hours with a break for a snack. It is easy to stretch them out to last 10 or 15 minutes longer or cut them to an hour by eliminating the in-class use of the worksheet (just play four hands). The same format should be used each week. Students like a familiar structure. The format is:

- A very short interactive talk at the beginning (five minutes maximum).
- Later lessons may include some exercises in the workbook (not needed until Lesson 8) or special worksheets. The worksheets are included in this manual and may be done as optional homework.
- Play the four lesson hands.

By Lesson 3 the exercises use the hands from the special E-Z Deal Club Series cards. Since these hands are shown in the Club Series Book and Teacher's Manual, they are not repeated in full here, although they are analyzed for these classes. There are sample talks in this guide with each new term **bolded**.

Advice from Audrey Grant on Teaching Bridge to Children

Here is what Audrey Grant wrote for the original Pre-Club Manual, which was her reworking of the Club Series material for children.

Young students are different from adult students.

- Young students have a short attention span. Information is presented in small bits and pieces.
- Young students are energetic, playful, and inventive. Tools are provided to help teachers recognize this high energy and guide it.
- Young students won't try to 'digest' material that is over their heads. They'll become irritated, either with the teacher or themselves, and class control problems will result.
- Young students do not have highly developed competition skills. They don't know how to win or lose well. Competition has to be kept out of the learning process.

Some of the bidding in the Club Series is too complex for this age group. Students are directed to these two general concepts:

- It takes 26 combined points to have a good chance at one of the game bonuses.
- The most popular games are 3 Notrump, 4 Hearts and 4 Spades.

Long bidding conversations are uncomfortable for the students at this point. They need more information than they can handle to show an opening hand opposite an opening hand. The course approaches bidding in this manner . . . If opener starts with 1♠ and responder has 13 points and four Spades, then 4♠ . . . a direct jump to game is an acceptable bid.

The teacher is encouraged to tell the students at this time that they will later learn a special use for this bid, a direct raise to game. For now, however, it is the best bid. This approach reinforces the flexible approach we learned in the TAP (ACBL Teacher Accreditation Program) with regard to 15-17 NT versus 16-18 NT.

Audrey Grant on Classroom Control and Discipline

Basic class discipline should be handled by the school staff. It is your job to teach Bridge and to maintain control while the Bridge lesson is in session.

Arriving for Class

The students may come from another class, from recess, or from lunch. They may be quite high-spirited. Because this is often the case, I have them assemble outside the classroom door. They go into the room one table at a time. This allows you to keep the disruptive energy in the hall. If the students are already in the class, the teacher in charge should get their attention and turn the class over to you.

Getting Their Attention

The Bridge classes are activity oriented. Students will be talking among themselves while playing a hand of Bridge. Even in a well-run, orderly class, you can expect noise. If there are six or more tables, the students will need a signal to stop what they are doing and get ready to listen to instructions. I use a bell. It is rung about four times during the class . . . after each hand is played and the students need to be given the next round of instructions.

Organizing the Material

Well-organized routines for keeping track of material help class management. The Bridge material is kept in a Bridge Envelope that the students can decorate. Make it clear that the students are expected to bring the Bridge Envelope to class. If they forget, or if there is any piece of equipment that they need, like a pencil, establish a routine for dealing with this.

Interacting with your Students

It's very important to keep the phrase, "That's interesting," in mind. Do not criticize any student in front of the class. If a card travels off the table, simply say something like this:

"Slippery aren't they? It's just like golf; sometimes when a golfer makes a putt, the ball overshoots the hole."

The students can learn best when you focus them on a task and leave them alone. Through the ages, great educational thinkers have offered the same piece of advice that at first seems like a paradox: You can't teach anyone anything; the student is the teacher.

Giving the students a chance to learn independently affects your class control. The more you put them in control, the less they will try to take over your class management.

Use Reinforcement Sparingly: More Advice from Audrey Grant

Reinforcement is a delicate matter. I would like to suggest that you use it sparingly. It can lead to the following four traps.

- **First Trap**

By using the same word too much, for example "good" . . . it can sound patronizing. Supporting can come very close to the philosophy of the teacher being right, having the right answers which the students repeat. When the student guesses what the teacher is thinking, the teacher rewards by saying, "Good."

- **Second Trap**

The timing can be poor. Timing is an important element in the reinforcement process. If we were teaching a child to ride a bike, we might say how terrific it was when the child started to pedal independently. After the child had mastered this skill, it would be insulting to give the same reinforcement every time we saw the child ride down the driveway.

You have to know a lot about the skill development of the student to use effective reinforcement. If you don't, the reinforcement shows that you really don't know the student's level of development . . . and this is clear to the student.

In a game like Bridge, it is difficult to tell when the student is making gains and when the student is performing something that is very easy for that student. To reward at the wrong time is patronizing and irritating for the student.

- **Third Trap**

It's important to select the approval to fit the person. Positive reinforcement is relative. What works with one student may not work with another. For some students and for some people, the best reward is to say nothing.

- **Fourth Trap**

There's always the trap of creating a teacher's pet. Every time you praise one student in front of the class, remember that the other students have **not** been praised. You would have to keep very good records to make sure that you showed no favoritism.

All in all, reinforcement is something that it is suggested you downplay. Create a dynamic, friendly classroom where all of the students feel eager to learn. Keep a positive relationship with the students on a one-to-one basis.

Tips and Suggestions

A Bridge Club as an after-school activity tends to have new students for several weeks as students decide which activity they want to do. Cater to this by doing the trick-taking exercise (Lesson 1,) and the trump exercise (Lesson 1, Exercise 5: Playing with a Trump Suit) repeatedly during each of the first few weeks. It is useful to have an assistant run a separate table of newcomers after Lesson 2.

If you can prepare the lesson hands in boards it will save a lot of time. However, unless you have more than one set, each table will be playing different hands. This is not a problem in a small class, as long as they get used to calling you over for help and laying the hands out afterwards to look at them.

Audrey Grant suggests using a bell at the beginning of each exercise to get students' attention since they will be busy playing. Another approach, once they are used to the routine of dealing out the lesson hands, is to let each table proceed at its own pace and wander among them, especially if you have an assistant. If there is time after the exercises, random hands can be dealt and played. In the first few lessons it is important to leave them with a game that they can go and play with their friends and families.

Children like to learn by doing. So play the hands first and then discuss them afterward. Try to get them to figure things out for themselves as much as possible. Keep the opening talks interactive by using questions and answers with raised hands.

Children get bored easily. Ask the defenders what their trick goal is to keep them focused on trying to defeat the contract. Have dummy come sit with Declarer and help with the play where appropriate. The defenders can each learn to play the two nearest of dummy's suits.. Students also prefer random dealt hands to the Lesson hands, so work those in whenever possible. You can make them a "treat" for when the lesson hands are completed. Some teachers write the points and the scoring on the board. We also have a set of Word documents, which can be cut and pasted onto a posterboard for a "Bridge Poster." This is available online at <http://www.kittycooper.com/teacher.html> for free download.

It is likely that not all the lessons and material in this course can be covered in your time frame. Don't worry about it. They will teach themselves more from the book if they are interested. Be sure to do the lesson on doubles before the ending competition. The skipped topics can be covered again in the next series, the Diamond series.

When Your Number of Players is Not Divisible by Four

In the first two lessons, if you do not have a number of players divisible by four have the extras help others and rotate them in after each hand. With three extras, get your sponsoring teacher to play. Best is to have several helpers along to fill in the first few times. Once your students are playing with a dummy (Lesson 3), you can use combinations of tables of three and four for all group numbers that have at least six people. The table of three can play MiniBridge by announcing their points and then deducing the points in the unseen hand. Then the player whose hand is to become dummy, moves to play the hidden hand. Similarly with BridgeIt (the hidden hand can be deduced). Once we are playing with bidding, the teacher should let them know which seat should be vacant during the bidding (that hand passes throughout) and then dummy moves to play that hand.

LESSON 1: The Deck of Cards and Taking Tricks

(I recommend that you use the “HELLO my name is” nametags for the first few lessons if that is okay with your sponsoring teacher. Have the students write their names as they come into the room. The arrival and seating of students needs to be discussed with your sponsor, as well as the setup of the room. If desks are to be used for card tables, usually four can be slid together. See what works for your group. Local players may well be willing to contribute old Bridge tables for a worthy cause. Teachers can usually store folded card tables behind cabinets or in big closets.)

Materials

- Bring two decks of cards for each expected table plus a few extra.
- Name tags.
- Card holders (you will find out this lesson if you will need them every week).
- Pencils or papers are not required for this Lesson, but it is helpful to have them for Exercise 5: Predicting Your Winners. One pencil and one slip of paper for each student.

Objectives

- Recognize the four suits.
- Recognize the relative rank of cards.
- Deal and shuffle and sort the cards.
- Understand how a trick is won at Notrump.
- Learn about trumps.

(Some preliminary exercises for younger children that you may wish to insert into this lesson before Exercise 1 are detailed in Appendix A.)

“Welcome to the Bridge Club. We are here to learn to play the best card game there is that can be played with a regular deck of cards. My name is *(your name)* and my teaching partner is *(their name)*. We will be your Bridge teachers.

“Raise your hand if you think you already know how to play Bridge. Raise your hand if you know a little bit about Bridge or you have other family members who play. *(You can ask each who raised their hand something about their experience – keep it brief.)*

“All right how many of you have played other card games? Raise your hand if you’ve played Hearts? Spades? War? *(If most raise their hands, tell them that Bridge is like four-person war.)* Rummy? Raise your hand if you have never played any card games at all. Who knows how many suits there are? *(Call on someone to answer this.)* Does everyone know the names of the suits? *(Call on someone to answer this.)*”

Exercise 1: Rank of the Cards

“Do you all know the rank of the cards? Which card beats all the others? (*Call on someone to answer this.*) What is the next highest card? And next? (*I usually make some kind of joke here, as per Audrey Grant in the Club Series, like why shouldn't the Queen be higher than the King? After all England and Denmark have Queens and no Kings at all.*) And after that? What is the lowest card? Does anyone know how many cards are in a full deck? (*Call on someone to answer this.*) All right now how many cards are there in a suit? (*If no one raises their hand give them a hint – 52 divided by 4 is?*)

“You all seem to know enough about cards to start playing now, so let's get started!”

Exercise 2: Shuffling and Dealing

One of the biggest problems for 10- and 11-year-olds is learning to sort the cards. Help them by offering at least one of the approaches below. Also bring some card holders for them to try.

“I am giving a deck of the cards to each table. Raise your hand if you are able to **shuffle** a deck of 52 cards. (*Get a few students to demonstrate ways of shuffling and/or shuffle one yourself.*) Does everyone know what the term shuffle means? There are two basic types of shuffle. One way is to divide the deck in half and then slowly riffle the edges of the two halves together, pushing them together as one deck again. The other way is to hold half the deck horizontally and loosely in one hand and then push the second half into the first. Studies have shown that it takes at least five shuffles to fully randomize a deck of cards. (*Discuss what that means if it seems appropriate and there is time. A web site with a discussion of this is located at <http://www.nature.com/nsu/001005/001005-8.html>.*) In this class you will make do with two or three shuffles to save time.

“Once the deck is shuffled, deal out all the cards face down, one at a time to each player, starting with the player to your left. Do this by going around the table in turn until the cards are all dealt. How many cards will each player have? (*Call on someone to answer this.*)

“Going around in that direction is known as **clockwise**. Raise your hand if you already know that term. Does anyone know why starting on your left and going around is called clockwise? (*Call on someone to answer this.*) The person who gives out the cards in a card game is known as the **dealer**. There should be no cards left over. Why? (*Call on someone to answer this if it seems appropriate.*) How many cards does everyone have? (*We hope 13, else we will learn about misdeals.*) It's a good habit to count your cards before you pick them up so that if there is a problem with the deal the person with too few cards can just pick a card from the one with too many. Does everyone have the right number now?”

Exercise 3. Sorting into Suits

“When all the cards are dealt out, I want you to each pick up your cards without showing them to the other players and hold them in one of your hands. Right-handed people usually hold the cards in their left hand and vice versa. Sort your cards into the four suits from highest to lowest. This isn't all that easy when you have 13 cards.

“Now you have the challenge of holding 13 cards like a fan and sorting them into the four suits. For those of you who have never sorted this many cards before, I am going to give you a step-by-step technique for doing this:

(Excerpted from the EBU MiniBridge Booklet)

1. Pick up the dealt hand and group all the cards together, with the backs of the cards facing out.
2. With one hand tightly on the bottom, use the thumb and first finger of the other hand to spread out the top corners of the cards so that you can see the number or picture letter (J, Q, K or A) to form a fan shape.
3. Now take the lowest Diamond from the hand and place it behind the other cards, so that you cannot see it any longer.
4. Take the next lowest Diamond and place it behind all the other cards so that you cannot see it any longer.
5. Continue with step (4) above with all the Diamonds.
6. Repeat steps (3) to (5) with the Club suit.
7. Repeat steps (3) to (5) with the Heart suit.
8. Repeat steps (3) to (5) with the Spade suit.
9. You will now be looking at the lowest Diamond, the first card you moved to the back. Spread out the cards as you did at the beginning (in step 2 above) and your hand will be sorted.

Figure 1 - EBU Guide to Sorting

Alternatively they can put the cards in the same order in a face down stack or even in separate suit piles (helpful to a sharp opponent). Give out the card holders at this point to anyone who is struggling.

Exercise 4: Taking Tricks

This is just like Exercise 1, Lesson 1 in the Club Series. You can have all the players gather around one table and watch and assist for the first hand, as is usually done in the Club Series.

“You are about to play cards. Is everyone ready? The **player** - notice that you are all card players now - to the left of the dealer is going to go first. Remember, this is just an experiment. Take one of your cards, any card, and place it face up in front of you. This is called **leading**. Don’t put it in the middle like you would for other card games. Put it on the edge in front of you. Now the player to the left of the **opening leader**, please play a card of the same suit in front of you (yes the first lead is called the opening lead). Then each player clockwise in turn plays a card of the suit led.

“Raise your hand if you played the card with the highest rank. Congratulations, you have won the first trick. A **trick** is when everyone has played one card. The game of Bridge has a lot of special terms. If I use a word that hasn’t been explained yet just raise your hand and ask me.

“Turn the card you played face down in front of you slightly to the left. Players who lost the trick, place your card so that the long side is along the table’s edge; in other words, parallel to the side of the table. The player who won the trick, place your card the opposite way, so that it points to the middle of the table and to you. Since you won the trick, you get to lead to the next trick, so lead any card. (*Wait for the next comment until after the trick is played.*)

“Now that everyone has played a card, turn your cards over, overlapping a little more than half of the first card on the right side of it. Again, the winner turns their card so it points to the middle. Since you won the trick, you get to lead to the next trick, so lead any card. Your objective is to win as many tricks as you can.

“There are two main rules at this point. First of all, the card that wins the trick, will be the highest card in the suit that has been led. The second rule is that you must play a card in the suit that has been led, if you have one. This is called **following suit**. When you can’t follow suit, you have to play a card of any other suit and it cannot win the trick. That is called **discarding**. Let’s play!

Let them play the whole hand out. Do not help them other than to correct technical errors. Remind them that it is just an experiment at this point.

“Now let’s look at the cards that won tricks. Turn the winning cards face up. What do you notice about these cards? Now have a look at the cards which lost tricks. Turn them over. How do these cards differ?

Ideally, not all the cards that won tricks are high cards so that the concept of long suits comes up - that is, low cards winning a trick when everyone else is out of that suit. Play another hand unless time is short.

“Okay, the player to the left of dealer please shuffle and deal the next hand. The new dealer is always the next person clockwise around the table. Let’s play this game again.”

If you have two decks per table, now is the time to introduce the idea that the person opposite the dealer should be shuffling the just-played deck while the fresh deck is being dealt.

Exercise 5: Predicting your Winners

This exercise can be skipped if time is short. This is just like Exercise 2, Lesson 1 in the Club Series. Try it several times. Pass out little slips of paper for them to write down the number of tricks that think they will take, or they can say it out loud starting with dealer around clockwise. Emphasize that this is just an experiment and that they do not have to be right. Do this exercise twice if there is time.

“This time try to estimate how many tricks you think you will take. This is hard so don’t be surprised if you are off by a trick or two.”

After they finish play, ask them a few questions. Here is what Audrey Grant suggests in her Pre-Club Series:

“Were there any surprises? Was anyone disappointed because a card that you thought would take a trick didn’t?”

Students start to develop keener observation skills. A King didn’t win a trick because the Ace was not in the right spot. This is not the time to mention that the Ace was “offside.” The point is that the student is getting the experience necessary to understand the ideas of play of the hand and these experiences can be labeled at the appropriate time.

“Was anyone surprised that a small card won a trick?”

Students can talk about why they won a trick with a card that at first glance didn’t seem like a winner.

Exercise 6: Playing in a Trump Contract

This is like Exercise 5, Lesson 1 in the Club Series. If you don’t get to this exercise in the first lesson, don’t worry, just do it in Lesson 2.

“So far all the hands have been played in **Notrump** – the highest card in the suit led wins the trick. Now you will have a **trump** suit. For this deal I am calling Diamonds the trump suit. In the future you will pick your own trump suits.

“When you have a trump suit, you can use a trump to win the trick when you can no longer follow suit. In other words, instead of discarding, you can play a trump. The trump suit outranks all the other cards. So the deuce of trumps can beat the Ace of another suit. If more than one trump is played on a trick, the highest trump wins. The trump suit can be led at any time just like any other suit. What makes it special is that you can win a trick with a trump, even though another suit is led, as long as you are out of that suit.” *(Play a hand. If there is time for another hand, have the dealer turn the last card over briefly. This is how trump is determined at Whist.)*

Summary

“You have now learned the game of Whist, the game that Bridge was developed from. You know how to deal out the cards and take tricks, lining them up in front of you so that they can be reviewed at the end of the hand. This also allows the same hand to be played again by another group of players, which is crucial for having tournaments.

“Your assignment for next week is to practice shuffling and dealing, which you can do on your own. Try to also play a few more hands of this trick-taking game. You can play with other Bridge Club members or teach your families and friends. Does everyone have a deck of cards at home? If you have two decks, then one person can be shuffling one deck while another person deals. Normally the player opposite dealer shuffles the second deck and then puts it to the left of the person who will be next dealer.” *(Give away decks to any students that need them).*

LESSON 2: Whist - Playing with a Partner

(This is the essence of the Club Series Lesson One using just the card play part. There are extra exercises at the end of this lesson to allow you to stretch this lesson into two lessons, often advisable when new students are coming in each time.)

Materials

- Two decks of cards for each expected table plus a few extra.
- Name tags if you are using them.
- No pencils and paper required for this lesson unless you plan to use Exercise 6: (Optional) Whist Scoring.

Objectives

- Reinforce what you learned in Lesson 1 (you may have some new students this lesson):
 - how to shuffle,
 - deal,
 - sort a hand,
 - take tricks at Notrump and with a trump suit.
- Cooperate with a partner.
- Learn to play with a dummy.

Exercise 1: Repeat the Trick-taking and Trump Exercises

When this is an after-school activity, you will have new students this lesson. In that case, you repeat the trick-taking exercise and the trump exercise from last week before starting the new material.

“Every table has a deck of cards. Please shuffle and deal. Last week you familiarized yourselves with the deck of cards. *(For the benefit of the new players who wants to name and describe the four suits?)* You learned to shuffle and deal out all 52 cards to the four players. Then each player learned to sort their hand into suits. How many cards did each player receive? The player to the left of dealer played the first card, which is called making the opening lead. After that, the highest card played in the suit lead won the trick. Can someone explain what a ‘trick’ in Bridge is for the new players?” *(Warning, this may cause some snickering with an older crowd.)*

“You will be learning a lot of new terminology in this lesson, so please raise your hand any time I use a new word that I have not explained yet. For example, the term **rank** refers to how high or low a card is. That is to say whether it is an Ace or a two.” *(Check that the new players know the card ranks if necessary. Continue on with the trick-taking exercise, then do it again with a trump suit. Get them used to the idea that the deal passes clockwise, and if you have two decks per table, have the person opposite the dealer shuffle the other deck for the next deal.)*

Exercise 2: Playing with a Partner

This is like Exercise 4, Lesson 1 in the Club Series.

“Deal the next hand but don’t start playing the cards yet.

“How many of you know that Bridge is a partnership game? Raise your hands. Good. From now on in this Bridge Club you will be playing with a partner. So smile fondly at the person across the table from you for that is your partner and you are now a team! When your partner wins the trick you also win the trick. So if your partner is going to win a trick, you don’t need to try to win the trick as well. In other words, don’t play your Ace on your partner’s King if you can avoid it!

“When placing the cards on the edge of the table at the end of the trick, you turn your card the same way as your partner does. So you point it towards you and your partner if either of you won the trick.”

Bring up the topic of cheating.

“There is something you must be careful about now that you have a partner. In the game of Bridge you are not allowed to talk to your partner, look at their cards, or tell them what to lead during the hand. Sitting up straight and smiling when partner makes a good lead is not part of the game! In order to prevent this type of cheating at world championships, players are behind screens and cannot even see their partner. A small flap lifts up in the middle to allow everyone to see the cards played.

“Does anyone know what a ‘poker-face’ is? (*Call on someone to explain that it is a face without expression.*) Let’s see some poker faces all around!

“Ready to start? You’re playing in Notrump again, so the highest card in the suit led wins the trick and there is no trump suit.”

Advice from Audrey Grant

It’s a challenge for the students to work on the same team without trying to look at each other’s cards, or without being somewhat frustrated that their partner isn’t doing the right thing. Emphasize that the students should be watching what happens and what they would like to happen. At this point, they should be focus on cooperation and learning the mechanics of the game not on competition.

Let the students work with a partner to take tricks. They will block suits, win tricks twice, forget what partner led in the first place and generally have very little understanding about what is happening. Don’t feel uncomfortable about this. The instructor also has to remember that at this point the mechanics of following suit and playing with a partner are being introduced. This is only the second lesson.

“So what was different about playing with a partner? (*Call on a few to give their impressions of it.*) Was it more fun? More interesting? Let’s do it again. (*Play several hands at Notrump, time permitting.*)

“Here’s a tip for playing with a partner. Remember what suit partner leads at their first chance. Usually they would like you to lead that suit back to them. Communication has to be through the cards partner plays and what has previously happened on this hand, not by smiling and nodding or making a face.”

At some point someone will want to take back the card they have played. Once they have a partner this cannot be allowed. Introduce them to the idea that “a card laid is a card played.”

Exercise 3: Picking a Trump Suit

Have the dealer name a trump suit or Notrump (or possibly pass the decision to their partner). You can mention that Whist is played this way with the last card dealt being turned over briefly to set the trump suit. Add an exercise where they play that way before doing this exercise when you are stretching this lesson over two weeks to accommodate newcomers.

“Are you ready for a new challenge? Dealer is going to get to pick a trump suit! Or if they can’t decide, they can pass this decision to their partner. After the trump suit is chosen, the person to the left of dealer makes a lead and you play.”

Exercise 4: Playing with a Dummy

It is not critical to do this exercise this lesson. You can work it into the next lesson if necessary.

“In the game of Bridge, the person who named the trump suit or Notrump gets to play both his hand and his partner’s hand, which is laid down on the table. This player is called the **declarer** and his partner, whose hand is on the table, is known as the **dummy**.

“The term dummy is not a reflection on that player’s intellectual capacity. Back when this game was invented, dumb actually meant unable to speak. During the hand the dummy is not allowed to speak or help his partner. Dummy puts his hand face up on the table with each suit in a column facing his partner. Then, at his turn to play, he must play the card that his partner calls for from his hand. The trump suit is always placed on the right side from dummy’s point of view, the left side from everyone else’s.”

Exercise 5: (Optional) Picking a Trump Suit with Partner

This is an extra exercise to use when using this lesson over two weeks. It is similar to the end of Lesson One in the Club Series. Have dealer discuss with their partner which suit they prefer and come to a decision without telling exactly what their hand is. For example, "I like Spades and can tolerate Hearts and Diamonds." Have just dealer and their partner do this. If really stretching out this lesson, have both sides do this and let the side who estimates more tricks get to declare.

Exercise 6: (Optional) Whist Scoring

This is another extra exercise to use when using this lesson over two weeks.

"One thing you haven't yet learned is how to keep score. In the game of Whist, you get one point for every trick your partnership takes after the first six. Why would that be? (*You have to take more than half the tricks to get any score.*)

"Let's play a few hands with scoring."

Summary

"You have now learned the game of Whist, from which Bridge was developed. Your assignment this lesson is to try to play at least four hands of Whist where the dealer names the trump suit. If you have only three people, for example if you teach your family, that's not a problem, just make the dealer's partner the dummy."

LESSON 3: MiniBridge Part 1 (Row 1 Hands)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards.
- Name tags if you are using them.
- Laminated table number cards showing the compass points. These are needed from now on.
- Bring a copy or two of the Bridge column from the local paper.
- (optional) E-Z Deal poster (many teachers blow up a copy of the back of an E-Z Deal card for a poster and then indicate which deal they are on with a magnet or other mechanism).
- (optional) Poster with the values for Aces, Kings, Queens and Jacks on it. This can be added to every week once bidding starts. (Word version of high-card values and rest of poster items available at: <http://www.kittycooper.com/Schools/BridgePoster.html>).

Objectives

- Learn to count points.
- Learn to use the compass directions.
- Learn to use the E-Z Deal cards.
- Learn the basic rules of MiniBridge without the scoring.

When the Bridge Club is an after-school activity, you will have more new students this lesson. Again start with the trick-taking exercise using regular cards. Then play a hand in trumps with Clubs as trump with a partner but no dummy before starting the new material.

“Today you are going to start to learn MiniBridge. The first step is to learn how to value your hand using the point count system popularized by Charles Goren. You count your points so you can determine who has the best hand, because that person will get to be declarer. Can someone define the term 'declarer' for me?”

Exercise 1: Counting High-card points

This is Exercise 1, Lesson 2 of the Club Series without the points for length which are done in a later lesson. Distribution points are not used in the game of MiniBridge. Giving everyone a suit, as done in the Club Series, is too much of a distraction for the young students. They all want to have their suit be trump and take all the tricks.

“Who can tell me what the best card is?” (*The Ace.*) We are going to assign a point count value of four to an Ace. Any ideas what a King might be worth? (*Call on someone if appropriate.*) A King is worth three points. How about the Queen? (*Call on someone – they should be able to guess this one.*) Yes that is right, two points. And last and least, the Jack is worth? (*One.*) Put up the Bridge poster now if you have one. Otherwise write the values of the cards on the board.

“Here’s a challenge for you. How many points are available in a single suit, for example the Spade suit? (10.) What are the total points available in the deck? (40.)”

Exercise 2: Points of the Compass

“Have any of you looked at the Bridge column in the paper yet? (*Pass around the copies you have brought with you.*) Soon it will start to make some sense to you. One thing you may have noticed is that instead of names, the players are each known by a compass direction. This is very convenient for describing hands, and also for having tournaments where every player sitting North will hold the same hands.

“Can anyone point out the direction in which the sun sets? The players on that side of the table will be known as the West players. All West players raise your hands. Now the players sitting opposite raise your hands. You are (*East.*) Can the South players please raise their hands? That leaves North. You North players will always be the dealer in the first hand in every lesson from now on. We use guide cards on Bridge tables to indicate where the directions are located and give each table a number.” (*Put the guide cards out as you do this Exercise.*)

Exercise 3: Using the E-Z Deal Cards

With less class time, pre-deal the hands and put them in boards. Then introduce the concept of duplicate boards in this exercise, instead of using the E-Z Deal cards.

“Turn the cards over and look at the backs of them. These are different from the cards you used before. What do you notice about these cards?” (*Call on a few players. Use some of the questions below if you wish.*)

Advice from Audrey Grant

You could ask the following questions, to make sure that the students have been observant enough to know how to deal out these cards:

1. "What four letters are in the squares? (*N, E, S and W.*)?"
2. "If you were to count the number of N's in the first square in the upper left hand corner of your deck, how many would there be? (*13*)"
3. "Which player would be associated with N? (*North*)"
4. "If you were to count the number of S's in the first square, how many would there be? (*13.*)"
5. "How many hands are there on row #1? (*2.*)"
6. "How many hands are there in the other rows, 2 through 8? (*4.*)"
7. "How could you use the code on the back of the cards to deal the cards in a special way? (*The N's go to North; the S's to South; the W's to West; the E's to East.*)"

“We're going to deal your first hand from the E-Z Deal cards: row #1; hand 2. Look at the diagram. This is the square that you use to deal out the cards. (*Refer to the E-Z Deal poster if you have one.*) When you get your cards count them to make certain you have thirteen cards. Look at the backs of the cards that you are dealt. The letter in row #1, hand 2, on each of the cards should match your direction.”

Exercise 4: The First MiniBridge Hand

Note that hand diagrams for all the E-Z Deal hands are available in the Club Series teacher manual and the Club series book, so they are not repeated here. The points will be shown in a table for each hand, as for hand 1 below. Note that dealer is starred, declarer is bolded, and the total points and 'contract' are shown in the far right column. Later on the bidding will be shown on the far right.

“In the game of MiniBridge, after the hand is dealt, each player, starting with the dealer, announces how many high-card points are in their hand. The total of all four hands should add to 40. If not recount!”

E-Z Deal Row 1, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	9 tricks in NT
7	13	4	16	EW have 29 HCP

“The partnership with the most points is going to control the hand. The player with the most points in that partnership plays both their hand and their partner’s hand. This player is called 'declarer' and his partner will be the 'dummy.' (*Dummy was covered last week. Repeat any of that information as necessary.*)

“Your objective is to take at least half the tricks. How many tricks would that be? (*Six and a half, which rounds up to seven.*) Player to the left of the declarer, please make an opening lead. You and your partner are called the **defenders**. Your objective is to foil declarer’s plan and take seven or more tricks yourselves. (*Note that this first hand is played in Notrump. Mention that if they ask if there is a trump suit.*)

If time, play the hand on row 1, column 1, as well. But this time let the declarer pick a trump suit or Notrump. Spades should be trump. Also ask them to estimate how many tricks they think that they will take, which should be 10 tricks.

E-Z Deal Row 1, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	10 tricks in ♠
13	7	11	9	NS have 24 HCP

Let them continue with randomly dealt hands if there is time left. If they ask about scoring tell them we will learn that next week.

“Here are a few more rules. If both sides have 20 points, you redeal. Also, if both partners have the same number of points, then the first to announce their points is declarer. In this class, however, if one partner has declared before and the other has not, then we give the other partner a turn.”

Summary

“In Bridge and in MiniBridge, one hand is always on the table during the play and it is called the dummy. The declarer gets to play both his hand and the dummy’s. Your assignment for next week is to try playing at least two hands of this form of MiniBridge. You can teach your parents and play three-handed as follows: deal four hands and turn over one hand which will be the dummy. The person with the most points gets to be declarer and to play with that dummy.” (*Hand out Figure 4 - EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 1 as homework.*)

Summary of MiniBridge

1. The cards are shuffled and dealt, 13 each to the 4 players (or taken from a pre-dealt board).
2. Points are counted and announced, starting with the dealer and taking turns clockwise, using the scale:
 Ace = 4 King = 3 Queen = 2 Jack = 1
3. The points for each partnership are totalled. The declaring side is the partnership with most points, declarer is the member of this side with most points, or the first to announce if equal. Declarer's partner's hand is placed face up on the table as dummy.
4. Declarer decides and announces the contract - the target number of tricks and choice of trumps suit or no trumps. Target numbers of tricks may be:
 Part score: 7+ Game in no trumps: 9+
 Game in ♥ or ♠: 10+ Game in ♣ or ♦: 11+
5. The opening lead is made by the player on declarer's left. Tricks are played out clockwise, cards face up. Declarer decides the play of the cards from the dummy.
6. After each trick has been completed, cards in that trick are turned face down. The winner of each trick leads the first card to the next trick.
7. At the end of play, the tricks won and lost are counted and agreed and the score is calculated.
8. For the next hand, the dealer is the next player clockwise.

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8. For the next hand, the dealer is the next player clockwise.

Figure 2 - Summary of MiniBridge Cards

MiniBridge Scoring

Contracts made

Points for contracts made are won by the declaring side. The declaring side only scores points if they win the target number of tricks, or more.

No points are won for the first 6 tricks. For each additional trick, in making the contract, points are scored according to the contract as follows:

♣ or ♦	20 points
♥ or ♠	30 points
No trumps	40 points for trick 7, 30 points thereafter

Bonuses are awarded as follows:

For partscore contract: 50 points
(at least 7 tricks)

For a game contract: 300 points
(at least 9 tricks in no trumps, 10 tricks in ♥ or ♠, 11 tricks in ♣ or ♦)

Unsuccessful contracts

If a contract is not made (ie the target number of tricks is not reached), the defending side scores points instead of the declaring side. The defenders score as follows, for each trick short of the target:

Per undertrick: 50 points

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Per undertrick: 50 points

Figure 3 - MiniBridge Scoring

These hands were dealt in a game of MiniBridge. The dealer was West.

	North	
	♠ A K 6	
	♥ 9 6 3 2	
	♦ A Q 4	
	♣ K 4 2	
West		East
♠ Q 9 7 4		♠ J 8
♥ 7 5		♥ Q J 10 8
♦ J 10 6		♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ Q J 9 7		♣ 10 8 6
	South	
	♠ 10 5 3 2	
	♥ A K 4	
	♦ K 8 3	
	♣ A 5 3	

1. How many points does each player have?

West = _____ North = _____

East = _____ South = _____

2. Who announces the points first? _____
3. Which pair are the declaring side? _____
4. Which pair are the defending side? _____
5. Who is declarer? _____ Who is dummy? _____
6. Which player makes the first lead? _____
7. How many tricks can declarer make? _____
8. Who will be the dealer for the next hand? _____

You may find it helpful to take a pack of cards and lay out the hand on the table.

Figure 4 - EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 1

HCP	0-6 tricks	7 tricks	8 tricks	9 tricks	10 tricks	11 tricks	12 tricks	13 tricks
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32								
33								
34								
35								
36								
37								
38								

Figure 5 - Statistics Sheet

LESSON 4: MiniBridge Part 2 (Row 2 Hands)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards.
- Name tags if you are using them.
- (optional) Statistics sheets are needed from now on if you choose to use them, one for each table. (*Make copies of Figure 5 - Statistics Sheet on page 30*)
- Score pads and pencils are needed from now on (*or the special scorecards in Figure 7 - Score Cards to Use on page 36*).
- Sample Scoring Diagram (*Figure 6 - Scoring Examples on page 34*).
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- (optional) Bridge Poster – scoring sheet.
- Give out the MiniBridge summary cards this lesson or possibly next week (lamine them if possible) – these are created *from Figure 2 - Summary of MiniBridge Cards* backed with *Figure 3 - MiniBridge Scoring*.

Objectives

- Learn to name a trump suit or Notrump.
- Learn to count sure tricks.
- Learn to lead top of a sequence.
- Learn to keep statistics (*we will track number of tricks and points*).
- Learn which are the minor suits and which are the major suits.
- Learn to score (without bonuses yet).
- Learn about contracts.

This is the first week where they took home optional homework. You can use the time when they are all arriving to answer any questions about it. You can choose to collect it and return it with comments, corrections, and gold stars the following week, or give them sheets with the correct answers to keep, or whatever seems to work best with your group. The answers are in Appendix B.

Try to get all four hands played. Cut the teaching talk and save the scoring and contracts for next week if the first hand takes too long. 15 minutes per hand is fairly normal. By this lesson, the experienced players can now play three-handed if you do not have a number of students divisible by four. The table of three can play MiniBridge by announcing their points and then deducing the points in the unseen hand. Then the player whose hand is to become dummy moves to play the hidden hand.

Exercise 1: Start Keeping Statistics

“Let’s start keeping track of how many points take how many tricks. I am handing out special statistics sheets which you will reuse each week. After every deal you are to mark a vertical line in the box whose column corresponds to how many tricks were taken and whose row corresponds to the number of points the declaring side held.

“Play the hand on row 2, column 1, North is the dealer and will be on the first hand every week. The deal will then move to the player on the left, namely East. (*Declarer can play Notrump or with either minor as trump. Nine tricks should be estimated and taken.*)

“Let’s quickly review the mechanics of MiniBridge. First everyone announces their high-card points clockwise around the table. The partnership with the most points has control. The player in that partnership with the most points is declarer. His partner puts the dummy down on the table. Then declarer decides whether to play in Notrump or with a specific trump suit and announces how many tricks they expect to take.”

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	9 tricks in NT, ♣, or ♦
17	10	10	3	NS have 27 HCP

“When this hand is over, everyone please lay their hand out dummy-style on the table so we can have a general discussion.

“Table 1 dummy, how many tricks did your partner take? How many did they estimate? What were the total points for your side? Mark the box for those points and those tricks on your statistics sheet. Leave room for more marks in the future. Now let’s all look at this hand together.”

When the hand is over have everyone turn their hands over dummy-style and have a group discussion. This is a good time to introduce the notion of counting sure tricks by counting the nine tricks on this hand – four in Diamonds, four in Clubs and the Spade Ace. If declarer tried to make a trick with the King of Hearts then East may have gotten in and cashed winners. Also look at East’s hand for the lead. Note that the lead of a Spade honor is an attempt to set up East’s other Spades. East will regain the lead with the Ace of Hearts to cash the Spades.

“The opening lead of an **honor** card promises the next lower honor and perhaps the next one down as well. It communicates to your partner what your holding is and that you are interested in developing tricks in that suit. When you have a long suit with an honor or two that are not touching, you would lead a low card.”

Exercise 2: Keeping Score

“You are finally going to begin learning how to score. The declaring side must take more than half of the tricks to score. Thus only the tricks won after the first six count for their score. These first six tricks are known as the **book** in Bridge terminology. On the other hand, the defending side gets 50 points for every trick that the declaring side is short of its declared goal.”

(If time is short, which is likely, explain that detailed scoring will be covered next week, or ask them to study scoring on the MiniBridge cards you hand out. For now, have the declaring side get 30 points for every trick they take after the first six. Then skip the indented material below.)

“The points the declaring side scores vary depending on what suit is trump or whether you play Notrump. The lowest score is for playing in Diamonds or Clubs. Each trick after the first six tricks is worth 20 points. That’s why they are called the **minor suits**. For playing in Hearts or Spades you score 30 points per trick. They are known as the **major suits**. Finally in Notrump you score 40 points for the first trick and 30 points for every trick afterwards. What would the score be for this last hand? *(Get each table to report. The score is 60 if played in Clubs or Diamonds, and 100 if in Notrump.)*

“Is the scoring going to affect what **strain** you choose? Strain is the term used to mean either Notrump or a specific suit as trump. How many Norths chose a minor suit as trump on that last hand? Now that you know the scoring, do you wish you had chosen Notrump?”

(Hand out score pads or the special scorecards from Figure 7. Next teach them duplicate-style scoring.)

“From now on you are going to keep score, starting with that last hand. North always keeps the official score for the table in Bridge and MiniBridge. Everyone may also keep a private score. This lesson I want each of you to take a piece of paper and keep score. You need three columns on your scorepad. The first column is for the hand number and the tricks estimated and who was declarer. The second column is for the plus scores for the North-South partnership. The third column is for the plus scores for the East-West partnership.

“Which side was plus on this last hand? *(North-South.)* Okay, let’s write their score in their column.”

(If skipping the next part, tell them to write the hand number and the number of tricks taken and who declared. So on this last hand it would be “#1. 9 North” in the first column.)

Exercise 3: Contracts

This can be covered next lesson if time is short.

“To the left of the score in the first column you are going to write information about the **contract** that was played. A **contract** is the commitment to make a specific number of tricks in the declared strain. You start by writing down the tricks estimated, using the number beyond the book of six, and the first letter of the strain. Thus nine tricks in Diamonds would be written as 3D and the contract is called Three Diamonds. In the case of Notrump, use NT, so nine tricks in Notrump is written as 3NT. *(Make this last a question if appropriate.)* To the right of that trick estimate, you will write some more information if the **contract** did not make exactly. First of all, if the contract went down, you would next write minus and the number of tricks it was short. If the contract made extra tricks, you would write plus and the number of tricks above the contract that declarer made. Next write the single capital letter that stands for the direction of the player who was declarer. Let me show you an example scorepad.” *(Show them Figure 6 - Scoring Examples below. Another possibility is to duplicate Figure 7 - Score Cards to Use and give them each a personal score card.)*

Contract	NS plus (We)	EW plus (They)
3D +1 N	80	
2S W		60
4H S - 1		50

Figure 6 - Scoring Examples

“Play the hand on row 2, column 2, East is now the dealer.”

Hand 2: *East will be declarer. Ideally they will pick Notrump and estimate seven tricks. This is a good time to introduce the idea of having eight trumps, since there is no eight-card fit. If South leads a Diamond you can introduce the notion of third hand high, if you wish. Either a Club or Diamond is a fine lead, fourth best from your longest and strongest can be mentioned here. Tell them that a good way to set up tricks for their side is to lead a long suit. Maybe partner can help them get that suit set up. The opening leader is North, not South, who is opening leader in the Club Series when there is bidding.*

Note that this is the hand where the adage “high card from the short side early” comes in. Declarer’s Spades will get blocked if the Queen is not played early on.

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	1NT
8	14	9	9	EW have 23 HCP

Remind them to score and to fill out the statistics sheets. Walk around and help them.

“Play the hand on row 2, column 3. If the declarer on this hand has already been declarer you will let their partner have a turn since this is a class not a competition.” (**Have North let South be declarer** since North played the first hand, or if you are making the boards, rotate the hands 180 degrees.)

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	2♠
14	9	9	8	NS have 23 HCP

“Now play the hand on row 2, column 4.”(*This hand is very straightforward.*)

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	4 ♥
9	9	5	17	EW have 26 HCP

Summary

“This lesson you learned to keep score and also that scoring affects your choice of strain. You also learned how to count your sure tricks, and some rules about opening leads. Try to play a few hands of MiniBridge before the next lesson. Here are the rules on a laminated card for you to keep. It goes into some more details about scoring which you will cover next week.”(*Give out optional homework – use Figure 8 - MiniBridge Worksheet 2 (not EBU), page 37.*)

	Contract	Our Plus	Their plus
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

	Contract	Our Plus	Their plus
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Figure 7 - Score Cards to Use

These hands were dealt in a game of MiniBridge. The dealer was North.

	North	
	♠ A K 6	
	♥ 9 3 2	
	♦ A Q 6 4	
	♣ 5 4 2	
West		East
♠ Q 7 4		♠ J 10
♥ K Q 7 6		♥ A J 10 7 4
♦ J 10		♦ 9 7 5
♣ Q J 9 7		♣ 10 8 6
	South	
	♠ 9 8 5 3 2	
	♥ 8	
	♦ K 8 3 2	
	♣ A K 3	

1. How many points does each player have?
 West = _____ North = _____
 East = _____ South = _____
2. Who announces the points first? _____
3. Which pair are the declaring side? _____
4. Which pair are the defending side? _____
5. Who is declarer? _____ Who is dummy? _____
6. What should the contract be? _____
7. Which player makes the first lead? _____
8. How many tricks can declarer make? _____
9. Who will be the dealer for the next hand? _____

Figure 8 - MiniBridge Worksheet 2 (not EBU)

SCORING MINIBRIDGE

Sarah and David play Kim and Jason at MiniBridge. The table below summarizes what happens. What are the scores for each partnership on each deal? (MiniBridge URL: <http://www.Bridgebase.com/online/>)

Hand	Declarer	Contract	Tricks made	Score S & D	K & J
1	Kim	game in ♥	10		
2	David	partscore in ♠	11		
3	David	game in NT	8		
4	Sarah	partscore in ♣	8		
5	Kim	partscore in ♦	6		
6	Sarah	game in ♦	11		
7	Jason	game in NT	9		
8	Kim	partscore in ♠	9		
9	Jason	game in ♣	12		
10	David	partscore in NT	7		
11	Sarah	game in ♥	9		
12	Kim	partscore in ♦	9		

Figure 9 - Scoring: EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 2

LESSON 5: Game Contracts and Promotion (Row 3 Hands)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards (*if you make the boards then change hand 4 by having North give East the ♣K in return for the ♣6*).
- Name tags if you are using them.
- Statistics sheets.
- Score pads and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Give out more MiniBridge laminated summary cards in this lesson, if needed
- (optional) Bridge Poster – add the sheets for game contracts and scoring to the poster.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 3 hands from Appendix C. (*If you use pre-made boards, slip them in the appropriate boards. With tables that go at different paces this is quite useful.*)

Objectives

- Learn which are the minor suits and which are the majors if that was not covered the week before.
- Learn about contracts if that was not covered the week before.
- Learn actual Bridge scoring with game bonuses.
- Learn to give up the lead to promote tricks.

Bring back the statistics sheets from the previous week every week. Have a look at it to see if there is a relation between points and tricks taken. For the purpose of these lessons, get them used to the idea that no one declares twice, so that they let their partner be declarer when they have already played a hand.

Distribute one guide card, one E-Z Deal deck (unless using pre-made boards), one statistics sheet, one scorepad or special score sheet, and the wizard tip cards for today's hands to each table. These cards help them succeed without your help at declarer play.

Exercise 1: Contracts

If scoring and contracts have not yet been covered, use Exercises 2 and 3 in the previous lesson now.

“In the past few lessons declarer has estimated how many tricks they expected to take and had to go for a minimum of seven tricks. The Bridge term for being held to your estimate is ‘making your **contract**.’ Since you count only the tricks after six in the scoring, the name of the contract includes only the number of tricks after six, plus the strain that declarer has called. Does everyone remember the term strain from last lesson? Can someone define it for me? (*Strain is the word you use to indicate the selection of a trump suit or Notrump.*) So if declarer committed to take eight tricks with Spades as trump, the contract would be called

2♠. This is the way you have been writing it down already on your score sheet. What would seven tricks in Notrump be called? (*INT.*) What about 9 tricks in Clubs? (3♣.) And 11 tricks in Diamonds? (5♦.)

“Let’s play the first hand. This time declarer will announce their contract after seeing dummy.”

Hand 1: *To make this contract North has to knock out the Ace of Diamonds right away.*

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	3NT
17	9	10	4	NS have 27 HCP

After the hand has been played have everyone lay the hands out dummy-style. Did they make the contract? We often learn more from mistakes than successes. Discuss the promotion aspect of this hand. The Ace of Diamonds had to be knocked out right away. A good rule of thumb is that when you need to do something to set up your tricks, go about it right away. Don’t postpone it.

Exercise 2: Scoring with Game Bonuses

If majors and minors were covered last week, use something like the following; otherwise cover majors and minors now.

“There is more to know about scoring. First let’s review what you already know. Which suits are the minors? (*Clubs and Diamonds*). How many points for each trick after the first six when a minor is trump? (20). How many points for each trick in the majors? (30).

“In Bridge and MiniBridge, bidding and making a contract that scores at least 100 points is called making **game**. You get a 300-point bonus for bidding and making a game. You score a 50-point bonus if you make a contract that is less than game. That is known as a **partscore**.” (*If they ask, tell them that the old way of scoring let you carry forward your part score, so if the next partscore got you to 100, you got a game bonus.*)

“How many tricks do you need to make a game in a minor suit? (11) And those contracts would be? (5♣ and 5♦) How many tricks do you need in a major suit? (10 to get to 120 points) And those contracts would be? (4♥ and 4♠) How many tricks do you need in Notrump? (9) And that contract would be? (3NT)

“Did you bid and make game on that last hand? If so, add the game bonus in now. What is the score? (400 points for 3NT) Let’s play the next hand.”

Hand 2: *To make this, declarer first has to draw trumps by knocking out the opponents’ high ones and then knock out the Ace of Hearts. This a good time to introduce the idea that declarer should play trump until the opponents are out of them, so that they cannot trump declarer’s good tricks. This is called **drawing trump**.*

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	4♠
10	16	6	8	EW have 24 HCP

Exercise 3: Promoting High Cards – the Rest of the Hands

Hand 3: *To make this hand South has to knock out the Ace of Diamonds by playing the Queen first (honor card from the short side first).*

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	3NT
8	4	18	10	NS have 26 HCP

Hand 4: *This hand does not quite work for MiniBridge because the side with the most points is not the side meant to declare. I recommend that you make North give East the King of Clubs in return for the Six of Clubs, and then the hand works. New totals, when that is done, are in parentheses below. Alternatively, just have West declare, since at this point students may assume that the person with the most points, rather than the partnership, determines who the declarer is. To make this, West has to knock out the the three top Diamonds, which are trump.*

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	2(3)♦
10(7)	1(4)	11	18	EW have 19(22) HCP

Summary

“This lesson you learned about game contracts and more about scoring. You discovered the technique for building tricks called promotion, which is when you knock out higher cards to make your lower cards into winners.

“The homework sheet for this lesson is about scoring. Write the contract in the contract column and the score in the score column under the pair who got that score. The sheet also has the URL for an online site where you can play MiniBridge for free. However, you may not find anyone there to play with unless you make a date to meet there with three people from this class, because most of the people playing online will be playing Bridge. You will have to download the site’s software to play there, so leave some time for that if you make a date.” (*Hand out* Figure 9 – EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 2, page 38.)

The MiniBridge URL is <http://www.Bridgebase.com/online/index.html>

Hand	♠ _s	♥ _s	♦ _s	♣ _s	HCP
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

Hand	♠ _s	♥ _s	♦ _s	♣ _s	HCP
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

Figure 10 - BridgeIt Announcing Forms

LESSON 6: Bridgelt and Length Tricks (Row 4 Hands)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards.
- Name tags if you are using them – probably the last lesson to use them, unless you are subbing.
- BridgeIt announcement forms (see Figure 10 - BridgeIt Announcing Forms) – these can be printed on the back of the score sheets.
- Scoring sheets and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- (optional) Statistics sheets.
- (optional) Bidding boxes with the extra cards (Alert, TD, Double and Redouble) removed (but keep the Double cards available in case you decide to include doubles in this lesson.) *(If you leave those cards in the students will ask all kinds of questions about them and want to use them.)*
- (optional) Bridge Poster – add distribution points.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 4 hands from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn the game of BridgeIt.
- Learn to set up length tricks.
- Learn to draw trump.
- Learn to count distribution points for long suits – from now on they will announce their points as high card plus distribution points.
- Continue to get comfortable with the scoring of MiniBridge and BridgeIt (non-vulnerable Bridge scoring).

With most children, using the cards on the table for your blackboard as we do for adults in the Club Series will result in cards flying everywhere. It is best to point out the development of the long suit either as they play or after they play the hands.

Use bidding boxes if at all possible. It makes the suit rankings easy to see, and scores are on the back of the bidding cards.

Start by reviewing at least a few of the scores on last week's optional homework. Have extra copies of the sheet for students who missed the class or lost the homework. Alternatively give the sheet out as students arrive for them to work on until everyone is present. This is particularly useful when running as an after-school activity.

Introduce the Game of BridgeIt

“Today you are going to learn the game of BridgeIt. Instead of announcing your points, you will write them down on the paper form in front of you along with the exact number of cards you have in each suit - that is Spades, Hearts, Diamonds, and Clubs, in that order. Everyone can see everyone else’s paper.

“Next, starting with the dealer, each player in clockwise rotation must either pass or propose a contract for their side to play. The contract must be higher than the previously proposed contract, so you need to know the ranking of the suits. Notrump ranks higher than all the suits, therefore the bid of 1NT outranks one of any suit. Does anyone know which suit is highest in rank? (*Spades.*) How about the lowest suit? (*Clubs.*) A trick for remembering the suit rankings is that they are alphabetical, so Clubs which comes first in the alphabet, is the lowest ranked suit. (*Refer to the Bridge Poster for the suit ranks or to the bidding ladder on page 9 of the Club Series book if you have handed it out (not recommended at this point.)*.)

“Taking turns proposing a contract or passing is called bidding. If none of the four players propose a contract, so that the auction consists of four passes, the hand is thrown in. Otherwise the bidding continues until three players pass in a row, then the last proposed contract becomes final. The declarer is the player on the side that won the contract who proposed the final strain first, not necessarily the one who made the last bid. The term for a completed set of bids is an auction. Your objective is to get the best score you can for your side. Let’s play the first hand and give it a try.”

Young students prefer random hands to the pre-dealt Club Series hands. Use the four lesson hands and then do some random deals, or just use two of the prepared hands. One possibility is to use hands 2 and 3 from the row 4 hands in order to demonstrate drawing trump and developing a long suit and then just deal hands. Another possibility is to just use hands 1 and 2; since the auction is competitive on those hands, they work fairly well for BridgeIt. Introduce the idea of doubling for penalty if they start overbidding and it seems appropriate for your group.

Hand 1: EW have an eight-card Heart fit. NS have an eight-card Club fit. NS can make 1NT or 2♣. EW can make 1♥. EW may discover that it is better to bid to 2♥ and go down than to defend against 2♣.

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	1♣ or 1NT
8	8	14	10	NS have 22 HCP
3334	4423	3244	3442	NS 8♣s, EW 8♥s

Developing tricks from an eight-card fit

Review the hand just played. Show how the eight-card Club fit can be developed for an extra trick because the opponents will have no more Clubs on the fourth round of the suit. You might say something like this:

“Lay out all four hands like dummies for the hand you just played. Suppose the contract was 1NT by South. There are six top tricks, two in Spades, one in Hearts, one in Diamonds and two in Clubs. You need one more trick, which could be developed in Clubs. Does someone want to tell me how?”

“When you have eight cards in a suit, the opponents have only five. Most of the time those five are divided with two in one hand and three in the other hand. In fact, that happens roughly two-thirds of the time, which makes it easy to remember. So on the fourth round of the suit, the defenders will usually have none left, so your cards, no matter how low, will win the trick. You may have to lose some tricks in the suit to set up those long cards. It is best to do this right away and get it over with.”

Hand 2: EW have a nine-card fit in Spades, NS have an eight-card fit in Diamonds. The points are fairly even. Each side can make eight tricks. For EW if the Spades split 2-2 (and they do), they take eight tricks, else only seven tricks. For NS, there are five top losers. NS may discover that it is better to bid to 3♦ than to defend against 2♠. It may be appropriate to let both sides take a turn playing this hand if there is time.

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	1♠ (makes 2♠)
10	6	11	13	EW have 19 HCP NS have 21 HCP
2443	4333	2344	5323	EW 9♠s, NS 8♦s

Learn Distribution Points

“How well does point count represent the value of a hand? Do any of you feel that something is missing? Long suits take tricks, and yet you have not been giving points for them. Now you will start to do so. You can add a point to your hand for every card in a long suit after the fourth card. So how many points for a five-card suit? (1.) How about a six-card suit? (2.) And an eight-card suit? (3.)

“The term for the points you add for your long suits is **distribution points**. From now on you will include them on your BridgeIt form. Write the high-card points, then a plus sign, then the **distribution points**.

Hand 3: *Not a competitive hand. NS can make 4 ♥ by developing their side eight-card fit in Diamonds. With only the Ace, they must lose two tricks to gain one extra and make 10. Warning: Declarer may make the hand by getting a ruff-sluff, if the black suits are eliminated before playing Diamonds.*

If EW try to outbid NS, introduce doubles! EW can make seven tricks in Spades, or possibly only six if NS get their Club ruff.

Designate whichever member of NS that has not yet played a hand declarer. Be sure to mention that the first one of them who suggested Hearts as trump would be the declarer in a real game.

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	4 ♥
13	7+1	12+1	8	NS have 25+1 HCP
2443	5224	2542	4234	NS 9 ♥s, EW 9 ♠s

Hand 4: *With 26 points and no major-suit fit, EW should try for game in Notrump (note we haven't yet covered the number of points needed for game). Let the player who has not yet played a hand be the declarer. The play challenge is to develop a trick with four small Clubs opposite four small Clubs by playing a Club every time they can.*

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	3NT
6	13	8	13	EW have 26 HCP
3442	3334	4333	3334	EW 8 ♣s, NS no 8

Summary

“This lesson you learned that you can develop extra tricks from any suit where you have eight or more cards. You also learned to give yourselves distribution points when you have a long suit. Finally, you discovered that you want your trump suit to be at least eight cards long. When you do your homework pay extra attention to the long suits. Try to play some hands as well and notice those long suits. (*Give out Figure 11 - EBL MiniBridge Worksheet 3 as homework*).

“You can play BridgeIt online at any site that has Bridge (Yahoo, MSN, ACBL Online, OKbridge, as well as BridgeBase) by making a date to meet your classmates there. You can use the conversation feature to announce your points and shape. Then you can bid just the way you have been bidding here.

“In the regular game of Bridge, bids not only propose contracts but also have meanings assigned to them in order to describe your hand to your partner. This is much more difficult, but quite interesting. In a few lessons you will start learning that type of bidding.”

How many tricks can be made in the suits shown below?

	<u>Declarer</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>Number of Tricks</u>
1.	A 4 2	7 6 3	
2.	A K 5	7 3 2	
3.	A 3 2	K 7 5	
4.	A K Q	7 6 3	
5.	A K	Q 7 6	
6.	A	K	
7.	A Q 5 4	K J 3 2	
8.	Q J	A K	
9.	K Q 2	J 9 7	
10.	Q 10 9 4	J 7 3 2	
11.	A 10 7 5 4 3	9 8	
12.	9 8 7 6 5	4 3 2	

Online MiniBridge is at <http://www.Bridgebase.com/online/index.html>

Figure 11 - EBL MiniBridge Worksheet 3

LESSON 7: More BridgIt and Finesses (Row 5 Hands)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards.
- Scoring sheets and pencils.
- BridgeIt announcement forms.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- (optional) Bidding boxes with the extra cards (Alert, TD, Double and Redouble) removed (but keep the double cards available in case you decide to include doubles in this lesson.)
- (optional) Statistics sheets.
- (optional) Bridge Poster.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 5 hands from Appendix C.
- (optional) Club Series books – for some classes it is appropriate to give these out this lesson since bidding starts in the next lesson.

Objectives

- Learn to take a finesse.
- Continue with BridgeIt bidding.
- Learn that 26 points are needed for a golden game (the statistics sheets are used for this exercise and then can be discarded).
- (optional) Learn about penalty doubles (and possibly redoubles).

Learn about Finesses

The play topic for this lesson is finesses. Introduce the idea by using some finesse examples on the board from the Club Series (bottom of page 164 in the book). Or just show them as they play the lesson hands. Here's a possible brief talk to use before the first hand, or with the examples on the board.

“Does a King always win a trick? (*No.*) When are you sure to win a trick with your King? (*When the Ace is gone or when you are last to go.*) Suppose you are declarer and have a King but no other honor cards in a suit, you lead the suit from dummy, and your right hand opponent plays low. If you play the King, will it win? (*Maybe, if the next player does not have the Ace.*) Hoping a high card will win a trick because the card that can beat it is in the hand of the player who plays before it is called **taking a finesse**. Let's watch for some examples in today's hands.

Can someone explain the rules of BridgeIt? (*Review the rules interactively.*) Let's play!

Hand 1: *There are no eight-card fits on this hand. Help NS decide to play in 1NT. The finesse is in Clubs - declarer leads from dummy towards the King to get their seventh trick. West should have led the King of Hearts, the top of a sequence.*

E-Z Deal Row 5, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	1NT
14	11	7	8	NS have 21 HCP
3343	4333	3334	3433	No 8 card fits

This is also a good time to teach them that they can sometimes figure out where cards are from the auction (point announcement). With some groups it may be appropriate to introduce defensive attitude signals.

Hand 2: *The finesse is in Spades only if EW play the hand. EW can make two Spades and NS can make two Diamonds. NS may work out to compete to 3♦ and then EW will probably push on to 3♠.*

E-Z Deal Row 5, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	1♠ (makes 2♠)
8	13 +1	11	8	EW have 21 +1 points
1444	5323	3343	4333	EW 9♠s, NS 8♦s

How Many Points are Needed for Game?

If time is short, skip to the last paragraph below and just tell them the points needed for game.

“Does anyone have a feel yet for how many points it takes in two partners' hands to make a game contract? Let’s have a few guesses. (*Call on a few people and perhaps write the answers on the board.*) You can look at the statistics sheet to see how many points it usually took to make 10 tricks. Each table look at your statistics sheet and report back to me when I call on you. (*Call on each table in turn.*)

“Here is another way to think about it: when the points are evenly split, so that both sides have 20 points, each side can usually take eight tricks when they have an eight-card trump fit. Each additional trick usually needs about 3 more points. (*This may be supported by the statistics sheet.*). Using this method, how many points do you need to make 10 tricks? (26.) Finally, since it is more difficult to take tricks in Notrump, the same 26 points are likely to produce only nine tricks in Notrump. How many points would you need for 11 tricks in a

suit contract? (29.) So how many tricks do you need for a minor suit game? (29.) You can see that it is often better to play 3NT than five of a minor when your only possible trump suit is a minor.

“An easy way to remember the points needed for a major suit or Notrump game (also known as a golden game) is that it is two times the magic number in Bridge. What’s the magic number? (13) So the points needed for a golden game are? (26)”

Hand 3: *EW have more than enough points for game, and many more than NS. EW can make 4♥. There are two finesses: the one in Spades works, but the one in Diamonds fails. If you think NS will try to take a save in Spades, then introduce penalty doubles and how they affect the scoring.*

E-Z Deal Row 5, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	4♥
6	20	5 +1	9	EW have 29 HCP
4333	2434	5242	2434	EW 8♥s, NS 9♠s

Hand 4: *NS have the balance of the points and no major suit fit. Help them realize that 3NT is the right game contract to play when their best fit is a minor.*

E-Z Deal Row 5, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	3NT
7	8 +1	19	6	NS have 26 HCP
3334	4522	2344	4243	NS 8♣s, EW 8♠s

Summary

“Today you learned how to take a finesse and you learned how many points are needed for a golden game. In your next lesson you will start learning the formal language of bidding. Next week you will get your very own Bridge workbook.” (*Give out Figure 12 - Modified EBL Worksheet 5-Financing, page 52 as homework.*)

Optionally give the books out this lesson and say the following:

“This is your Bridge workbook. You have covered the material in Lesson 1. Do the two exercises at the end of that chapter, on page 26, to check your knowledge. Please bring your book to class every time since you will be doing some of the exercises each time.”

With some classes, particularly younger ones, it may make sense to give them the option to leave the book in the box of Bridge materials that are kept in the classroom.

These hands were dealt in a game of BridgeIt. The dealer was North.

	North	
	♠ A Q 6	
	♥ 9 6 3 2	
	♦ A Q 4	
	♣ 5 4 2	
West		East
♠ K 7 4		♠ 9 8
♥ Q 7 5		♥ A J 10
♦ J 10 6		♦ 9 7 5 3 2
♣ Q J 9 7		♣ 10 8 6
	South	
	♠ J 10 5 3 2	
	♥ K 8 4	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ A K 3	

1. How many points does each player have?

West = _____ North = _____

East = _____ South = _____

2. What suit does each side have an eight-card or longer fit in?

North/South _____ East/West _____

3. Which pair will be the declaring side? _____

4. Which pair will be the defending side? _____

5. Who is declarer? _____ Who is dummy? _____

6. What should the contract be? _____

7. Which player makes the first lead? _____

8. How many tricks can declarer make? _____

10. Who will be the dealer for the next hand? _____

Figure 12 - Modified EBL Worksheet 5-Financing

LESSON 8: Opening the Bidding (Row 2 Hands)

(This contains many of the elements of Lesson 2 in the Club Series)

Materials

- Club Series textbooks.
- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards (rotate hand 3 180°)
- Score pads and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Opening bid summary sheet (card) from Figure 1 - EBU Guide to Sorting on page 57
- (optional) Bridge Poster – add the Opening Bid Summary Sheet (enlarge it if possible).
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 2 hands from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn how to open the bidding.
- Learn the definition of a balanced hand.

Opening the Bidding

If you did not give out the books last lesson, do so now and use the sample talk below.)

“I am passing out your Bridge workbooks. These are yours to keep and take home. From now on your homework will be the exercises at the end of the chapter that goes with the lesson you do. This lesson that is Chapter 2. Also all the hands you play here are in the book, so have a look at them at home. Bring the book with you every week, because sometimes you will do an exercise from the book in class. Please write your name inside the front cover so that you won’t lose it.

“Today you are going to start learning the language of bidding in the game of Bridge. The difference between Bridge and BridgeIt is that bids are assigned special meanings. Instead of writing down your points and distribution, in the game of Bridge you try to give your partner that information with the bids you make.

“You will learn how to **open the bidding** using the Standard American bidding system. *(An interesting digression here is to discuss the fact that beginning players in other countries may learn other systems: English Acol, the Polish Club, and the Chinese Precision system. However, most players online know Standard American.)* The term **opening bid** refers to the first call made in an auction that is not a pass.

“How good a hand do you think you need to open the bidding? *(You can do some interactive chat here if you have time. An average hand is 10 points, so it has to be a better hand than that.)* Since you can make a game with 26 high-card points, open the bidding if you have half that amount. After all if you passed, you might miss a game. How many points would that be? *(Call on someone to answer.)* Thirteen is a magic number in Bridge;

where else does it come up? (*Number of cards in each hand, number of tricks played in a deal.*) So open the bidding with 13 points – that is your high-card points plus your distribution points. Now let’s learn our system of opening bids.

“You all know that Notrump and major suits score much better than minor suits. So when you open 1NT or one of a major, you are making a serious offer to play in that contract.

“To open 1NT you need extra high-card points, at least 16, and some cards in every suit, thus a **balanced hand**. Does anyone have an idea what the definition of a balanced hand is? (*A hand with no **singletons** or **voids** and not more than one **doubleton**. Make sure those three terms are understood. In longer classes you can use Exercise 2, chapter 2, page 48 in the Club Series book for the balanced hand concept.*)

“To open one of a major you need to have at least one distribution point in that suit, so you need to have a major suit which is at least five cards long and a hand with 13 or more points.

“All other hands with opening points will be opened one of a minor. So bidding one of a minor is a less serious proposal to play there. It just suggests that this is your longer minor and you would like to have a bidding conversation with your partner to find the right contract. (*If time permits, mention that strong hands, 22 or more points, open at the two level. This can be left for another day unless they ask about it.*)

“Here are the detailed rules for opening the bidding. (*Hand out the bidding summary sheet or laminated card made from Figure 13 - Opening the Bidding– the Club Series book has a similar summary on page 44.*) When you cannot open the bidding, you say pass. We will look at what happens after the opening bid in the next few lessons. The sheet (*laminated card*) I am handing out to you lists the guidelines for opening the bidding in order of preference. If you can answer yes to a question, use the opening bid listed underneath it. Otherwise move on to the next question.

“You are going to play a little differently today. Only one player will have enough points to open. That player puts their hand down as dummy and all four players at the table will work as a team with the list of guidelines to figure out what the opening bid should be. Call me over once you have made up your minds. Once you have the opening bid, the partner of the strong hand will select a contract.”

Hand 1: *The dealer North has a 1NT opening bid. His partner should choose 3NT since there are more than 26 points. Since we are playing it from the other side than in the Club Series the opening lead will be the Queen of Hearts, which will create a finesse position. If declarer covers this, the defense will get the first four tricks, but South has the next nine.*

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	3NT
17	10 +1	10	3	NS have 27 HCP

Defender's Finesses – Why to Lead Top of a Sequence

“You can see on this last hand that when East leads the Queen of Hearts, West can wait to win his Ace of Hearts until the King is played, because he knows that the Queen will win. However if partner leads the Jack or 10, West expects declarer to have the Queen and may well play his Ace.”

Hand 2: *The dealer East would open 1♦. There is no eight-card fit, so 1NT should be selected as the contract or possibly the strong seven-card Spade suit. This is the hand with the “high card from the short side early adage” when cashing the Spade suit. The lead should be a low Heart; you can reinforce the general rule of leading fourth best now if it seems appropriate.*

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	1NT
8+1	14	9	9	EW have 23 HCP

Hand 3: *(In order to make it so that South does not declare twice, either rotate this hand 180° or remind them to let North play it since South has already played a hand). Neither the dealer, South, nor the next player, West can open. North should open 1♣. Since there are not enough points for game, a Spade partscore should be played. The opening lead is the Queen of Hearts, same defensive lesson as in hand 1.*

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	2♠
14	9 +1	9 +1	8	NS have 23 +1 HCP

If rotated:

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	2♠
9+1	8	14	9 +1	NS have 23 +1 HCP

Hand 4: *West has a INT opening bid. East has enough Hearts (six) and points to go for game in Hearts. The opening lead should be the Queen of Clubs, same finessing position as in hands 1 and 3.*

E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	4♥
9 +1	9+2	5	17	EW have 26 +2 HCP

Summary

“In today’s lesson you learned how to open the bidding in Bridge using the Standard American System.

Please do the exercises at the end of Lesson 2 in your new book for homework.”

With 13 – 21 points you can open the bidding at the one level:

- 1) **Do I have 16-18 points in a balanced hand?**
 - *Open 1NT.*
- 2) **Do I have a five-card or longer suit?**
 - *Open your longest suit; with equal length suits open the higher-ranking suit.*
- 3) **Do I have a four-card minor?**
 - *Open your higher ranking four-card minor.*
- 4) **Do I have three Clubs?**
 - *Open 1♣.*
- 5) **Then I must have three Diamonds**
 - *Open 1♦.*

With 13 – 21 points you can open the bidding at the one level:

- 1) **Do I have 16-18 points in a balanced hand?**
 - *Open 1NT.*
- 2) **Do I have a five-card or longer suit?**
 - *Open your longest suit; with equal length suits open the higher-ranking suit.*
- 3) **Do I have a four-card minor?**
 - *Open your higher ranking four-card minor.*
- 4) **Do I have three Clubs?**
 - *Open 1♣.*
- 5) **Then I must have three Diamonds**
 - *Open 1♦.*

Figure 13 - Opening the Bidding

When partner opens 1NT, here are the responding possibilities:

- 1) **Do I have 10 or more points? If so we have game, so bid it or force.**
 - Do I have a six-card or longer major?
Bid 4 of the major, which is game in the major.
 - Do I have a five-card major?
Bid 3 of the major to offer partner a choice between 3NT and 4 of the major.
 - Otherwise *bid 3NT*. There is no major-suit fit (or use the Stayman convention with a four-card major).
- 2) **Do I have 8 or 9 points? If so there may be a game, so invite.**
 - Bid 2NT asking partner to go on to game with maximum points.
 - If you know the Stayman convention, bid 2♣ whenever you have a four-card or longer major.
- 3) **Do I have 0 to 7 points? If so there is only a partscore, so sign off.**
 - Do I have a five-card or longer suit?
Bid two of your suit to play there (but not 2♣, which is reserved for the Stayman convention which will be learned later on).
 - Otherwise *pass the bid of 1NT*.

When partner opens 1NT, here are the responding possibilities:

- 1) **Do I have 10 or more points? If so we have game, so bid it or force.**
 - Do I have a six card or longer major?
Bid four of the major, which is game in the major.
 - Do I have a five-card major?
Bid three of the major to offer partner a choice between 3NT and 4 of the major.
 - Otherwise *bid 3NT*. There is no major-suit fit (or use the Stayman convention with a four-card major)..
- 2) **Do I have 8 or 9 points? If so there may be a game, so invite.**
 - Bid 2NT asking partner to go on to game with maximum points.
 - If you know the Stayman convention, bid 2♣ whenever you have a four-card or longer major.
- 3) **Do I have 0 to 7 points? If so there is only a partscore, so sign off.**
 - Do I have a five-card or longer suit?
Bid two of your suit to play there (but not 2♣, which is reserved for the Stayman convention which will be learned later on).
 - Otherwise *pass the bid of 1NT*.

Figure 14 - Responding to 1NT

LESSON 9: Responding to 1NT (Row 3 Hands)

(This is based on Lesson 3 in the Club Series)

Materials

- Club Series textbooks for students absent last week.
- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards.
- Score pads and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Summary Sheet for responding to 1NT (*put this on the reverse side of the opening the bidding sheet, that is why they are arranged two per page in this manual*).
- We do not have to use the book this lesson, although the balanced hand exercise could be useful.
- (optional) Bridge poster – add responding to 1NT.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 3 hands from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn to respond to a 1NT opening bid

From this lesson on we are basically doing the bidding portion of the Club Series. Now that we are bidding, the far right column in the hand summary shows the expected auction.

Review the 1NT Opening

“This lesson you are going to do real Bridge bidding with complete auctions. You are going to learn how to bid when partner opens 1NT. First of all some important terminology: the person who opens is called **opener** and opener’s partner is called **responder**.”

“To open 1NT you need extra high-card points: 16, 17, or 18 points, as well as some cards in every suit, thus a balanced hand. The definition of a balanced hand is a hand with no voids or singletons and not more than one doubleton. (*Check that everyone knows these last three terms.*)

How to Respond to the 1NT Opening

“So when your partner opens 1NT you know a great deal about their hand and you can usually decide then and there what contract to play. Your objective is to play game if there are enough points. How many is that? (26.) So how many points do you need as responder to be sure there is a game? (10.) So if you have 10 points as responder you will bid game, usually 3NT. What is the maximum number of points you can have to be sure there is **no** game? (7.) With seven or fewer points you want to contract for as few tricks as you can so you either pass 1NT or bid a long suit at the two level. What range of points is left? (8 or 9.) So with 8 or 9 points you are not sure if there is a game and pass the buck to partner by bidding 2NT. All these bids are listed on the sheet I am handing out. (*Hand out Figure 14 - Responding to 1NT– best to put it on the back of the opening bid summary.*)

“But do you always want to play Notrump just because partner opened 1NT? (*No, with a long suit it might be better to have a trump suit.*) How many cards do you want to have in your two hands combined to make that your trump suit? (*At least 8.*) How many cards does responder need to have in a suit to be sure to have an eight-card fit? (*Six because the 1NT bidder promises at least two cards in every suit.*) If you have a five-card suit, an eight-card fit is very likely, so you will suggest your suit.

“Let’s play the first hand. You will use a real Bridge auction today. (*Pass out the responding to 1NT summary cards.*) Remember, in Bridge, as in BridgeIt, starting with the dealer, you either propose a contract or you pass, and the bidding continues until three people pass in a row. (*An interesting digression is to ask them what happens if everyone passes.*) When three passes follow a bid, then the contract becomes whatever that last bid was. Who would be the declarer? (*Whoever mentioned the strain that becomes the final contract first.*) This lesson someone is going to have a 1NT opening bid. After the Notrump opening and a pass, I want the responder to put their hand down as dummy. Then everyone at the table work as a team to figure out what that hand should bid.”

Hand 1: North has the 1NT opener and South has 10 points with no major so bids 3NT. To make this North has to knock out the Ace of Diamonds right away. The opening lead should be the Queen of Clubs.

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	3NT
17	9 +1	10	4	1NT Pass 3NT all pass

Hand 2: East has the 1NT opener. With 10 points and a six card major, West bids 4♠. Don’t let them forget to count West’s distribution points, 2 for the six-card suit. To make this contract, declarer has to draw trump (knocking out the opponents high ones) then knock out the Ace of Hearts. The opening lead should be the Queen of Clubs.

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	4♠
10 +1	16	6 +1	8 +2	1NT Pass 4♠ all pass

Hand 3: South has the 1NT opener. With 8 points North invites with 2NT. South, who has a maximum hand, should go on to 3NT. To make this North has to knock out the Ace of Diamonds by playing the Queen (honor card from the short side first). The opening lead should be the Queen of Spades.

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	3NT
8	4	18	10	1NT Pass 2NT Pass 3NT all pass

Hand 4: West has the 1NT opener. East with a very weak hand bids 2♦ to play and everyone passes. This is the time to emphasize that it is better for the weak hand to have its long suit be the trump suit, so you use two of a suit as a “drop dead” bid over 1NT. If there is time, have them also try playing in 1NT so they can see how few tricks that will take. To make 2♦, North has to knock out all three top Diamond honors (note Diamonds are trump). The opening lead should be the Queen of Spades.

E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	2♦
10+1	1 +2	11	18	1NT Pass 2♦ all pass

Summary

“This lesson you learned that the responder to a 1NT opener can usually pick the final contract or make a bid that lets opener choose between alternative contracts. Because the 1NT bid is so descriptive, responder’s choices are fairly easy.

“Do the exercises at the end of Lesson 3 in the book. At a minimum do the first two exercises. By the way, the hands you played today are in the book at the end of Lesson 3, so have a look at them. Please review the auctions on the hands you played.”

HAND 3.

DEALER : S
CONTRACT : 3H
DECLARER : E

♠ J 7 4
♥ 5 4 3
♦ Q J 5 4
♣ A 6 2

♠ 8 6 5
♥ A 7 6
♦ A 10
♣ K 9 8 5 3

♠ A Q 2
♥ Q J 10 9 8
♦ K 8 3
♣ 10 4

♠ K 10 9 3
♥ K 2
♦ 9 6 7 2
♣ Q J 7

HAND 4.

DEALER : W
CONTRACT: 4S
DECLARER: N

♠ A J 10 9 6
♥ K 7 2
♦ K 2
♣ Q J 4

♠ Q 4 2
♥ A J 10
♦ 8 7 6 4
♣ A 6 2

♠ 8 5
♥ 9 8 6 4 3
♦ A 10 9
♣ 10 9 5

♠ K 7 3
♥ Q 5
♦ Q J 5 3
♣ K 8 7 3

Figure 15 - Added Hands for Lesson 10

LESSON 10: Responding to One of a Major with a Fit

This is half of Lesson 4 in the Club Series book. The full lesson is too much to absorb in the usual hour and a half for after-school activities.

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards. *Use hands 2 and 3 from Lesson 4 plus the two extra hands . Alternatively for the two extra hands use Lesson 5, hand 2, rotated so South has the opener, and Lesson 6, hand 2.*
- Scoring sheets and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- We do not use the book this lesson
- (optional) Bridge Poster – add the minimum, medium, maximum range sheet for responder also the top half of Figure 16 - Responding to One of a Suit, page 68.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 4 hands 2 and 3 and added hands for Lesson 10 from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn responder's ranges: minimum, medium, maximum.
- Learn how to raise partner.
- Learn about dummy points.

Give a simplified lecture covering the key points above and then write on the board or paste onto the poster the top half of Figure 16 - Responding to One of a Suit where it covers raising. Be sure to also have the opening bid guideline sheet (Figure 13 - Opening the Bidding) on hand for those who have forgotten their copy.

For the four hands in this lesson responder may either put down their hand so that all the players at the table can figure out what the response to the opening bid should be or responder can decide what to bid and then show everyone.

Here is a sample talk.

“This lesson we are going to work on responding to your partner’s opening bid of one of a major. When your partner opens one of a suit they have a much wider range of hands than when they open 1NT. What is their minimum number of points? (13.) Does anyone know what their maximum number of points is? (21—this is new unless they read it in the book. With more than 21 points they would open a two bid which we will cover in a future class.) Opener’s hand may be balanced or unbalanced. So unlike after a 1NT opener, responder will usually not yet know what the best contract should be. Therefore responder makes a descriptive bid to start a bidding conversation, which will continue until one partner or the other can decide on the final contract.

“How many points does responder need to be sure there is a game? (13 since 26 are needed for game.) A responding hand of 13 or more points is known as a **maximum** hand. (Write these ranges on the board.) A responding hand with 11 or 12 points knows that game is

quite likely and is known as a **medium** hand. What is the most points you can have when partner opens the bidding to be sure there is no game. (4.) So with 0 - 4 points you can pass partner's opening bid. You also pass with 5 points, gambling that partner does not have 21 points. There are a number of times in our Bridge bidding system when you gamble by one point. (*If they ask when else, tell them to tell you when they notice some of those other times in future lessons.*) What range of points for responder is left? (6 - 10.) You call a responding hand of 6 - 10 points a **minimum**.

“The term ‘raise’ means bidding the same suit as your partner did at a higher level. For example, if your partner bids 1♠, a bid of 2♠ would be the cheapest raise. How many Spades do you need to have to know that there is an eight-card fit? (*Three because partner showed five by opening.*) When you raise partner, you also tell them how many points you have by the level to which you raise. Raise to two with a minimum. Raise to three with a medium hand, which says ‘Partner, unless you have the least number of points that you could, there is probably a game.’ With a maximum, bid game.

“After opener hears partner raise, they add their points to the minimum and maximum partner could have to see if there is a game. When no game is possible, what do you do? (*Pass.*) And if game is sure? (*Bid it.*) What if game is possible if partner has a maximum for their raise to two, say around 9-10 points? (*Pass the buck to partner by bidding three of your major.*)

Depending on your group, you can have responder put their hand down on the table after the opening bid for the whole table to decide what responder should bid, or responder can first decide what to bid and then lay it down. Otherwise have them lay the hand out afterwards and check on the bidding as a team.

Hand 1 (Hand 2 on row 4): *West opens 1♠. East has a minimum hand with a Spade fit, so raises to 2♠. West should pass this since there cannot be 26 points. The opening lead is the Queen of Diamonds. West needs to play trump to make this (the nine-card fit).*

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 2

North*	East	South	West	2♠
10	6	11	13 +1	Pass Pass Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ all pass

Introduce Dummy Points

“When your hand is going to be dummy, do you think having a short suit is valuable? (Yes.) Why? (Partner can take tricks by trumping cards of that suit in the dummy once dummy is void.) So when you are going to raise your partner’s suit, count points for your short suits instead of your long suits. Is a void as valuable as an Ace? (More valuable since it may take several tricks.) Since it is better than an Ace count five distribution points for a void Is a singleton more valuable than a King? (It’s worth about the same since it will take tricks after the first trick.) Count three points for a singleton. Can anyone guess how many points you give yourselves for a doubleton? (One; it may or may not be useful, and besides, that completes the series.)

Hand 2 (Hand 3 on row 4): East passes and South opens 1 ♥. North has a maximum hand with four-card support for partner so should bid 4 ♥ (note that they get a dummy point in Spades). Dummy points will be shown with a plus in parenthesis to distinguish them from long suit points which are shown with just the plus. The opening lead is the ♠K (or a low Club). Declarer has to draw trump then play on Diamonds (the side eight-card fit) to set up the tenth trick.

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 3

North	East*	South	West	4 ♥
13	7	12 (+1)	8	Pass 1 ♥ Pass 4 ♥ all pass

Either use two extra hands from Figure 15 - Added Hands for Lesson 10 described below or use Lesson 5, hand 2, rotated so South has the opening bid and Lesson 6, hand 2.

Hand 3: *This is an added hand shown in Figure 15 - Added Hands for Lesson 10. Dummy points come up on this hand, although the added one point for the short suit is the same as the one point for long suit. When East's partner makes the limit raise, East should be told to add their points to the maximum points their partner can have and if that makes 26 go to game, else pass. There are finesses in almost every suit. The trump finesse succeeds but the Club finesse (probably at trick one) and Spade finesse both fail. A Diamond needs to be ruffed in dummy or discarded on a long Club, which will probably be set up by the defenders on opening lead.*

Added Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	3♥
8	12 +1	9	10(+1)	Pass Pass Pass 1♥ Pass 3♥ all pass

Hand 4: *This is an added hand from Figure 15 - Added Hands for Lesson 10. Dummy points come up on this hand too, although they again are no different from the long suit points, responder still has a medium hand. With 11 points West may fall from grace and open but the subsequent auction will be the same. Declarer has to finesse for the Queen of trumps and deal with the third-round Heart loser unless the defense cashes its Ace. So declarer either ruffs a Heart in dummy or pitches it on a set-up winner in dummy (Diamond) to make this hand.*

Added Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	4♠
14+1	4+1	11(+1)	11	Pass 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ all pass

Summary

“When the opening bid is one of a suit, responder usually cannot be sure what the final contract should be, so he makes a descriptive bid. With less than six points responder passes. Otherwise, responder divides his hand into one of the three ranges, minimum, medium, or maximum. This defines the possible responses he can make. If he is raising partner, then he raises to two with a minimum hand, three with a medium hand, and game with a maximum hand.

“There is more detail in Lesson 4 in your book. For homework, please read that chapter which includes material that you will learn in the next lesson.”

RESPONDING TO A ONE OF A SUIT OPENING

WHEN YOU KNOW THERE IS AN EIGHT-CARD MAJOR SUIT FIT, raise your partner immediately and show your point range at the same time:

Points	Category	Raise to the
6-10	Minimum	2 level
11-12	Medium	3 level
13-16	Maximum	game

***WHAT DO YOU BID WHEN YOU CANNOT RAISE PARTNER'S MAJOR?
Try to make a descriptive bid to start a bidding conversation as follows:***

- 1) **Bid a four+ card major suit at the one level;** this says nothing about points yet:
 - Generally bid your longest suit first at whatever level is required. However if you have a minimum, you may not be able to do this since a minimum hand is only allowed to bid new suits at the one level.
 - With two five-card or longer suits bid the higher ranking.
 - With only four-card suits bid up the line (lowest first). Since partner can also bid four-card suits up the line, this makes it easier to find your fit at a low level.

- 2) **Raise partner's minor with five-card support**
 - Minimum raises to 2.
 - Medium to 3.
 - Maximum has to get to game, so bids 2NT (forcing) or a new suit.

- 3) **Otherwise**
 - A minimum hand that cannot bid a new suit at the one level or raise, bids **the catch all 1NT bid (6-10 points, any distribution, therefore not necessarily balanced)**.
 - Jump to 2NT with 13-15 balanced.
 - Jump to 3NT with 16-18 balanced.
 - **With 11+ bid a new suit at the 2 level;** minors can be as few as four cards but majors must be five or more cards.

Figure 16 - Responding to One of a Suit

LESSON 11: Responding to One of a Suit without a Major Suit Fit

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards – use *Lesson 4, hands 1, then Lesson 5, hand 3 and hand 4 (but rotate the hands 180 degrees on this last hand so everyone has a turn declaring). Finish with hand 4 from Lesson 4.*
- Scoring sheets and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Summary sheets from Figure 16 - Responding to One of a Suit, page 68.
- We do not use the book this lesson.
- (optional) Bridge poster. Add Figure 16 - Responding to One of a Suit, page 68.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for the lesson 4 and 5 hands from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn how to respond to one of a suit opening when you can't raise.
- Learn the main bidding objectives.

“This lesson you are going to work some more on responding to your partner's opening bid of one of a suit. How many of you read all of Chapter 4 in the book? If your head is spinning, don't worry; lots of practice will make it more understandable.

“Has anyone thought about what your purpose in the bidding is? (*Getting to a makeable contract that scores well.*) There are two objectives to keep in mind when you are bidding:

- Find out if you have the 26 points you need for game.
- Discover any eight-card or longer major suit fit.

“Last lesson you learned to raise when there is a fit. When you don't have a fit for the suit opened, make a descriptive bid to start a bidding conversation. Bidding will continue until one partner or the other knows enough about the points and the suit fits to decide on the final contract.

“When you have a minimum hand your actions are limited. You are only allowed to bid at the one level unless you know that there is an eight-card fit in the suit partner opened. So 1NT becomes a catchall bid, saying that you have 6-10 points and no four card or longer suit to bid at the one level. It does not promise a balanced hand by responder.

With a medium or maximum hand, make the descriptive bid of your longest suit at the one or two level. With only four card suits, bid the cheapest one. If you have a balanced maximum responding hand with no major, you may jump to 2NT. (*You may prefer to leave this last bid out for now. Some students may notice that this is not consistent. 2NT should be medium and 3NT should be maximum. Explain that many play this way, but that uses up a lot of room, better to bid a suit first with a medium hand.*)

“Here is a sheet (*Hand out copies of Figure 16 - Responding to One of a Suit.*) with the guidelines for responding to your partner’s opening bid. Use it to figure out what responder should bid on the four hands in this lesson. After the opening bid is made, the partner of the opening bidder, responder, decides what they would bid and puts their hand down like a dummy. Then the whole table figures out as a team what the responding bid should be. At the end of the auction, if the responder ends up being declarer, they should pick their hand back up and their partner should put their hand down as the dummy.

We are really glossing over all the various responses. It is too much to introduce all at once so play the hands and have them use the sheet to figure out the responses. Encourage them to read about responses in the book.

Hand 1 (Lesson 4 hand 1): *North is the dealer and passes, as does East, South should open 1♦. The North hand is minimum and has no suit that can be bid at the one level so the response is 1NT. Discuss that this is the catch-all bid with a minimum hand that has nothing else to bid, so it does not promise a balanced hand. On this hand opener would pass 1NT because there cannot be enough points for game. East will lead the Queen of Spades. In order to make this hand North has to set up an extra trick in the eight-card Club fit.*

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	1NT
8	8	14	10	Pass Pass 1♦ Pass 1NT all pass

Hand 2 (Lesson 5 hand 3): *East should open 1♣. Many Easts will want to open 1NT or 2NT. Explain that they will show their strength on the next round of the bidding. After the response of 1♥, opener knows that there is an eight-card major suit fit in Hearts and that there are enough points for game. Therefore opener should rebid 4♥. To make this hand West must take the Spade finesse. There is also a Diamond finesse that should fail at trick one if North leads the top of their sequence in Diamonds*

E-Z Deal Row 5, Hand 3

North	East*	South	West	4♥
6	20	5+1	9	1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass 4♥ all pass

Hand 3 (Lesson 5 hand 4): Rotate *this hand 180 degrees so that North has the big hand.* Again, many will want to open 1NT or 2NT. Explain that they will show their strength on the next round of the bidding. After the response of 1NT, opener knows that there is no eight-card major suit fit and that there are enough points for game. Therefore opener should rebid 3NT. The play requires a repeated finesse, leading toward the King and Queen of Diamonds twice (provided East ducks the first time).

E-Z Deal Row 5, Hand 4 *rotated*

North	East	South*	West	3NT
19	6	7	8+1	Pass Pass 1♦ Pass 1NT Pass 3NT all pass

Hand 4 (Lesson 4 hand 4): West should open 1♣. East has 13 points and a balanced hand with no four-card major. The bidding sheet will tell them to bid 2NT, showing a balanced 13-15. If they want to bid 3NT, let them if time is short, this is not a bidding issue worth belaboring. If they do bid 2NT, which gives room for opener to further describe their hand, then West with a balanced 13 should put them in 3NT since they have game but no major suit fit. The play requires setting up the eight-card Club fit for a winner with no high cards in the suit.

E-Z Deal Row 4, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	3NT
6	13	8	13	1♣ Pass 2NT Pass 3NT all pass

Summary

“There is a lot to know about responding. Fortunately, you can use the bidding sheet throughout these lessons. Also keep the following two key questions in mind because when you know the answers you can place the contract:

“The questions are: *(call on them to answer if you have time)*

- Do you have the 26 points you need for game?
- Do you have an eight-card or longer major suit fit?

“Please do as many of the exercises at the end of Lesson 4 as you can. The answers are in the book. If you have any questions about the answers, ask me at the beginning of the next lesson

“If you want to look at the hands you played this lesson, they are in the book. Some are at the end of Lesson 4 and the rest are at the end of Lesson 5.

LESSON 12: Overcalling (Row 7 Hands)

(This is the Club Series Lesson 7)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards - use the hands from Lesson 7.
- Scoring sheets (or use travelers) and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Bidding boxes.
- Books are required this lesson.
- (optional) Bridge Poster.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 7 hands from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn that both sides can bid.
- Learn about penalty doubles.
- Learn that overcalls aren't the same as opening.

We have found that young students get bored when the other side opens the bidding because they quickly learn that the other side will have the decisions. Therefore, we do competitive bidding before completing opener's and responder's rebids, in order to keep their interest. We also start using boards and traveling score sheets at this point, which add a little element of competition (what happened at the other table(s)?).

Competitive Bidding and Penalty Doubles

“So far in your lesson hands only one side has been bidding. In real life, about half the time, both sides get to bid. We call that a **competitive** auction. When your opponent has opened the bidding, you have less safety coming into the auction since if opener's partner has a good hand they may be able to **double** you for penalties and get a good score that way. If the last bid of the auction is Double, then the penalty for going down or the score for making the last bid contract becomes at least twice as big. So an opponent would use this bid when they think the chance of your contract going down is much more likely than the chance your contract will make. You can look at the back of the double card for the scoring details. We will talk about it more in a later lesson.

“Because you might get doubled, you don't always make a bid just because you have an opening hand. Also, with a good suit you might bid it at the one level with just less than an opening bid because you want partner to lead that suit if the opponents end up playing the hand. Another benefit to bidding is that if your partner has a fit with you, your side may get to play the hand in that suit.

“Let’s turn to page 232 in your book and read the rules for overcalling. (*Go around the room letting each student read one line. Discuss why the overcall of 1NT needs some strength in the suit the other side opened.*)

“You respond to an overcall the same way as you do to an opening bid. The only difference is that if partner overcalls a suit at the two level, you must pass with a minimum hand since the raise to three shows a medium hand, as usual. (*With an advanced crowd mention that a maximum overcaller starts with a different bid that will be learned in a later lesson.*) The term for the player who makes an overcall is **overcaller** and his partner is known as **advancer**.”

Counting Losers

The play lesson this lesson is discarding your losers on dummy’s winners. Show them as it comes up. You might also say something like the following:

“So far you have been counting your winners to see if you have enough to make your contract. It is also important to count your losers and make sure that you do not have too many! A **loser** is a trick that must be lost. For example, if dummy has all small cards and you have the Ace and two small cards, those two small cards are losers. Sometimes you will have too many losers and you must look for a way to dispose of them. How many tricks can you lose in 3NT? (4) And in 4♥? (3). As you play today’s hands count your losers and look for ways to get rid of them.

Hand 1: *East overcalls the opening bid with 1♠. With a medium hand West raises to three and East should carry on to game since 15+11 is 26. Since there are three immediate Diamond losers, East must get rid of their Heart losers by throwing them on the Club winners in dummy.*

E-Z Deal Row 7, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	4♠
14	14+1	1	11(+1)	1♦ 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠

Hand 2: *East overcalls the opening bid of 1♠ with 2♦. West has a minimum hand with no fit for partner’s Spades so must pass, North has a Diamond fit but a minimum, so North passes. East with a minimum opening bid is has nothing additional to say, so also passes. To make this hand South has to discard a Spade loser on dummy’s Clubs. If the opponents knock out the Ace of Spades, this must be done before trumps are drawn.*

E-Z Deal Row 7, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	2♦
6	13+1	14+1	7	1♠ 2♦ all pass

Hand 3: *Even though West is a point short of an opening bid, they should overcall with such a good suit. If East remembers dummy points and counts three for the singleton, then they will raise to game. The play requires pitching a Diamond loser on the second Spade winner in dummy.*

E-Z Deal Row 7, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	
3+1	12(+3)	14	11+1	4♥
				1♦ 1♥ Pass 4♥

Hand 4: *North has a balanced 16 points with a good holding in Hearts so should overcall West's opening 1♥ with 1NT. Advancer has nine points with the five-card Diamond suit so should invite game with 2NT. Overcaller adds 16 to 8 or 9 and sees that game is not possible so passes. To make this contract declarer has to set up the Diamond suit by knocking out the A and K. Defenders will get Hearts set up and will take three Hearts and two Diamonds.*

E-Z Deal Row 7, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	
16	3	8+1	13+1	2NT
				1♥ 1NT Pass 2NT all pass

Summary

“Today you learned about competitive bidding. About half the time in the game of Bridge both sides will bid. For homework, please be sure to do Exercise 1 at the end of Chapter 7 on page 248 in your book. Do the rest of the exercises in that chapter if you can. The hands you played today are at the end of Chapter 7.

OPENER'S REBIDS after the response to a one of a suit opening

Point Range	Category	Opposite a minimum raise	When raising responder
13-16	Minimum	pass	2 level
17-18	Medium	invite	3 level
19-21	Maximum	game	game

REBID QUESTION LIST (if partner hasn't raised you)

1) Is there an eight-card major suit fit? The priorities, in order, are: raise partner's major with four-card support, bid a new major at the one level, or raise yourself with a six-card suit of your own:

- Raise to 2 with a minimum hand.
- Raise to 3 with a medium hand.
- Raise to game with a maximum hand.

2) Is your hand balanced? If so then:

- With a minimum hand (13-15), rebid the cheapest number of Notrump or pass partner's 1NT response.
- You cannot have a medium hand since you did not open 1NT.
- With a maximum hand (19-21), jump in Notrump or raise partner's 1NT one level.

3) Your hand must be unbalanced, therefore bid a new suit if possible

- A minimum hand can only bid a new suit when it can be bid below two of the suit that was opened. Therefore sometimes a minimum hand has to rebid a five-card suit; usually this will be a minor.
- A medium hand makes its natural rebid of its second suit. Note that a reverse (bidding a new suit higher than two of the suit opened, for example 1♣-1♠-2♥) promises at least medium strength values.
- **A maximum hand must force to game.** Therefore a maximum must either jump in a new suit (strong jump shift) or reverse and then follow with another strong bid or bid game.

Figure 17 - Opener's Rebids

LESSON 13: Opener's (and Overcaller's) Rebid

(This is the Club Series Lesson 5)

Materials

- Decks of Diamond Series E-Z Deal cards or pre-made boards – by now we have played the Lesson 5 hands twice, so use hands 1 and 2 from Lessons 2 and 3 in the Diamond Series. *You can also use Lesson 5 hands again if you have to.*
- Score pads (or use travellers) and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Summary sheets for Opener's rebid from Figure 17 - Opener's Rebids (*put Figure 18 - Responder's Rebids on the back side of this sheet, particularly if you are going to skip the next lesson.*)
- (optional) Bridge Poster – add the sheet with Opener's minimum, medium and maximum ranges.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for Diamond Series hands from Appendix C.
- (optional) Copy the Diamond Series hand analyses if the students are looking at the hands in the book outside of class.

Objectives

- Learn opener's minimum, medium, and maximum ranges
- Review the two objectives:
 1. Do you have 26 points?
 2. Do you have a major suit fit?

Do not go through every bidding detail with the students. Give them some general principles and then hand out the summary sheets. The idea is for them to use the sheets to figure out the bids as they come up. The ones who are really interested will also read the book.

“Today you will work some more on the later bidding in suit auctions. First of all when partner raises you, add your points to their minimum and maximum points to see if game is certain, probable, or not at all possible. If game is certain, bid it. If game is possible, pass the buck back to partner if there is room. For example, if you open 1♠ and partner raises to 2♠, bidding 3♠ gives the message “partner if you have the top points for your bid then go to game.” If game is not possible, pass. You get the same score for playing 2♠ making three as for 3♠ making three, so there is no point bidding more unless game is possible.

“If partner doesn't raise you, then you will continue the bidding conversation according to the guidelines in this lesson's sheet. First of all, when partner responds to your opening bid, how many points do you need to be sure there is a game? (20.) So you will consider opener's hand of 19-21 points to be a maximum hand (notice the one point gamble again). In other words, a maximum hand is one where game must be reached. Since a medium hand is just less than a maximum, what would opener's medium hand be? (17-18.) And opener's minimum? (13-16.) These same ranges apply to overcaller.

(We do not worry at this stage about the fact that overcaller may have less than an opening bid. After all, knowing that most of the points are in opener's hand will make the play easier and the finesses will be working.)

“Whenever it is your turn to bid ask yourself the two key questions. Who can tell me what they are? *(Call on someone – the questions are: Do you have an eight-card or longer major suit fit? Do you have the 26 points needed for a game?)* And who can tell me the other one? *(See previous comment.)*

“The sheet that I am handing out *(hand out Figure 17- Opener's Rebids)* has the guidelines for opener's or overcaller's rebid. It will help you use the two key questions to select a bid. After you play each of today's deals, lay all the hands out and decide if the bidding was correct.”

If you have extra time, say a two-hour class, you can go through the details of the sheet with them. Have them take turns reading a line. Most young students want to get to the play as soon as possible though, so let them learn by doing.

Hand 1: *In order to make this contract, North has to be careful not to win the first Spade trick in dummy since that entry is likely to be needed to cash Heart winners. Having won the Spade in hand, North must play Hearts by starting with the Jack from hand (high card from the short side early).*

Diamond E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	1NT
13	8+1	8	11	1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass 1NT all pass

Hand 2: *The bidding principle here is that when opener can raise responder a minimum hand raises to two, a medium hand to three, a maximum hand to game. East, the pener, has a minimum. The play in 4♠ is fairly straightforward. West needs to draw trump and then knock out the Ace of Diamonds.*

Diamond E-Z Deal Row 2, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	4♠
5+1	13	9+1	13	1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass 4♠ all pass

Hand 3: (Note that the dealer is in a different seat than in the Diamond Series because this is a hand 1 being played as hand 3). Back to competitive bidding. West may well want to open their 12 count and nothing bad happens if they do open 1♣. Game in Hearts should still be reached by East. In 4♥, declarer has to be careful to ruff the fourth round of Spades high, draw trump, and take a Diamond finesse.

Diamond E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 1

North	East	South*	West	4♥
13+1	14+1	1+2	12(+1)	Pass Pass 1♠ 2♥ Pass 4♥ all pass

Hand 4: (Note that the dealer is in a different seat than in the Diamond Series because this is a hand 2 being played as hand 4). South has a 1NT overcall of the 1♦ opening by East. North with 10 points and no major should raise to 3NT. With no suit of their own, West should lead partner's suit, Diamonds. To make this contract declarer has to finesse in Spades twice.

Diamond E-Z Deal Row 3, Hand 2

North	East	South	West*	3NT
10	12+1	16	2	Pass Pass 1♦ 1NT Pass 3NT all pass

Summary

“In today’s lesson you learned how to make your second bid, known as a **rebid**, when you opened the bidding or overcalled. When you don’t yet know enough to place the contract, you make a further descriptive bid so that perhaps partner can make the decision. You also learned how to categorize an opening hand as minimum, medium or maximum; and how those ranges affect what bids you can make next. (*Quiz them on these ranges if it seems appropriate.*)

“Please read Chapter 5 in your book and do the exercises at the end of it.”

Responder's Rebids

By the fourth bid of the auction, it is usually possible to place the contract or make a bid that lets partner place it. Responder first figures out what point range Opener has shown and adds them to his own.

Not enough points for game? Then look for a safe place to play:

- Pass partner's last bid.
- Make the minimum bid in an old suit.
- Do not bid 1NT with less than 8 points. It won't be a good spot to play.

Maybe there is a game?

- With a good **minimum** hand (8-10) make a descriptive bid:
 - Raise partner's last bid with a fit.
 - Bid the minimum number of an old suit (note, this is 6-10).
 - Bid 1NT with the unbid suit(s) stopped.
- With a **medium** hand (11-12) make an invitational bid:
 - Jump raise partner's major with a fit.
 - Bid a new major at the one level (1♣-1♦-1♥-1♠).
 - Jump in a previously bid suit .
 - Otherwise bid 2NT. If partner did not bid 1NT this promises stoppers in the unbid suit(s). This is invitational even when it is not a jump.

Game is certain? Then either bid a game or make a forcing bid:

- Bid game in a known eight-card major suit fit.
- Bid a four-card major that has not yet been bid.
- Bid game in NT with the unbid suit(s) well stopped.
- The only forcing bid is a new suit. Bid a new suit even with only three cards in it, when you don't know what game to play in. ***Responder's new suits are forcing unless opener's last bid was 1NT.***

Figure 18 - Responder's Rebids

LESSON 14: Responder's Rebid (Row 6 Hands)

(This is the Club Series Lesson 6)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards.
- Score pads (or use travellers) and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Summary sheets for responder's rebid from Figure 18 - Responder's Rebids – this should be on the back of the previous lesson's summary sheet.
- (optional) Bridge Poster – add the sheet with responder's rebids
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 6 hands from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn responder's rebids.
- Learn the concept of a forcing bid.
- Learn to take ruffs in dummy.
- Learn combination and repeat finesses.

It is likely that you will have to skip this lesson if earlier classes went slowly or were stretched into extra classes. Do not skip the next lesson, which is on doubles.

“By the fourth bid of the auction, it is usually possible to place the contract or make a bid that lets partner place it. Responder first figures out what point range opener has shown. *(Quiz them orally on Figure 18 - What Opener Has Shown, which can be added to the poster.)*

“Responder then adds the minimum and maximum points for opener to their own point count. This determines whether game is possible, and therefore what to do next.

“As long as there could be enough points for game, the auction is **forcing**. The term forcing means that you must bid again. Conversely, once you know there cannot be enough points for game, the auction is no longer forcing and you may pass.”

You may want to put the following diagram on the board or the Bridge poster for them to refer to. In a longer class you can quiz them and write it on the board interactively.

Opener's rebid	Point Range	Hand Category
1NT	13-14	Minimum
A new suit	13-18	Minimum or Medium
2NT	18-19	Medium+
Reverse	17-21	Medium or Maximum
Jump in an old suit	17-18	Medium
Jump in a new suit	19-21	Maximum

Figure 19 - What Opener Has Shown

“When opener has rebid 1NT, responder’s bids are similar to what they are after partner opens 1NT. That is to say, suits at the two level are to play (*unless they are reverses*), jumps to the three level in new suits are forcing, and 2NT and jumps in old suits are invitational.”

Hand 1: *The bidding is an example of opener, North, raising responder to the two level with a minimum hand. South, with a maximum responding hand should go to game. Remind them to remember whether they are opener or responder throughout the auction so they know which set of ranges apply to their hand. To make this hand South has to ruff a Diamond in dummy. There are three Heart losers, and trumps can be drawn before taking the ruff.*

E-Z Deal Row 6, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	4♠
13	8	12+1	7	1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass 4♠ all pass

Hand 2: *The auction is the classic major suit raise auction where adding their points to their partner's minimum and maximum possible points should lead them to stop short of game. To make this, East has to give up a Club trick so that a Club can be ruffed in dummy. Trump can be drawn first.*

E-Z Deal Row 6, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	3♥
9+1	15+2	10	6(+1)	1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass 3♥ all pass

Hand 3: *This is the most complicated auction we have had so far. East may overcall 2♦ on their good 11 points and nice Diamond suit; if so South should pass and North should still jump invitationally in Spades. The trick here is to ruff a Diamond in the dummy before drawing trump. Best, but not essential, to ruff with the Ace so a trump can be led to hand to draw trump.*

E-Z Deal Row 6, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	4♠
9+2	10+1	15+1	6	1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♣ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ all pass

Hand 4: West may try to open 1NT. The hand is too strong and should show its strength by jumping in NoTrump on the second round of bidding. East adds the points together and knows there is game so bids it. To make this hand West has to cross to each of dummy's Aces in order to take the Club finesse twice.

E-Z Deal Row 6, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	3NT
4	8	8	20	1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass 2NT Pass 3NT all pass

Summary

“Today you finished learning about bidding in auctions that start with one of a suit. The exercises to do and the hands you played today are at the end of chapter 6 in your book. Please do as many of the exercises as you can for homework.”

LESSON 15: Doubles (Row 8 Hands)

(This is the Club Series Lesson 8)

Materials

- Decks of E-Z Deal Club Series cards or pre-made boards.
- Score pads (or use travellers) and pencils.
- Laminated table guide cards with NESW.
- Club Series books required this lesson.
- (optional) Blow up of the hand on page 262 of the Club Series book
- (optional) Bridge poster.
- (optional) Wizard Tip Cards for row 8 hands from Appendix C.

Objectives

- Learn about vulnerability.
- Learn about doubles and redoubles and how they affect the score.
- Learn takeout doubles.
- Learn to take a ruff in dummy.

If you don't have a blow up of the hand on page 262 of the Club Series book, write it on the board before class starts.

“Today you will learn how to deal with hands that want to compete when the opponents open, but don't meet the requirements for either 1NT or a suit overcall. *(In longer classes quiz them on what those requirements are – a hand that would open 1NT with some strength in the opponents suit and a hand that would open the bidding with a five-card suit, note that with a good suit they can shade the points for a one level overcall, a little.)*

“Have a look at this hand *(the blown up hand or the hand on the board)*. Wouldn't you want to bid something when your opponent opens 1♥? But your rules don't allow that. Any ideas?

“Top Bridge players figured out a long time ago that penalty doubles at low levels are rare. It is hard to be sure you can take seven tricks all by yourself when your opponent opens the bidding. So you use the bid 'double' to mean something different here. It asks partner to pick one of the other suits. Just what you want on this hand. This is called a **takeout double**. A takeout double promises support for all unbid suits. That means at least three cards, preferably with an honor, in every unbid suit.

“Since you are going to be dummy when you make a takeout double, count dummy points – that is, short-suit points – rather than long-suit points when you count your distribution points.

“Now you can’t just say “takeout double,” rather than “double;” so you need a good set of rules for when double is for takeout as opposed to for penalties. Here they are:

Double Is Takeout When . . .

1. It is the first time your side has bid in the auction and the opponents are not in game.
2. The opponents are at the two level or lower and your side has opened the bidding one of a suit but has not yet made any other bid. *(With a sharp class, bring up that this type of takeout double is called a negative double by responder.)*

“For example look at this hand on the board *(or the blow up)* with it you would double an opening bid of 1♥ for takeout. What if you got to open this hand? What would you bid? *(1♦.)* Suppose that you open 1♦, your opponent overcalls 1♥, and the auction comes back to you after two passes. What would you bid? *(They will want to bid 1♠. Show them that they can make a takeout double)*

“Turn to page 280 in your Club Series book. Let’s do Exercise 1. *(Go through the answers with them, calling on one at a time. Note that the answer for question 3 is wrong in the book by the above rules because we have included negative and reopening doubles.)*

“Ready to play the hands? Let’s go!”

Hand 1: *If making boards, swap the South's ♦K with East's ♦J so South won't want to bid 2♦ in the competitive auction. East has to give up two Diamond tricks before drawing trump in order to get his third Diamond ruffed in dummy.*

E-Z Deal Row 8, Hand 1

North*	East	South	West	2♣
15	15(+1)	5	5+1	1♦ Dbl Pass 2♣ all pass

Hand 2: *Since the Club finesse loses, North has to take two ruffs in dummy before drawing trump to make this contract.*

E-Z Deal Row 8, Hand 2

North	East*	South	West	4♠
12+1	13+1	11(+3)	4	1♥ Dbl Pass 4♠ all pass

Hand 3: *This hand has a combination finesse in Spades. They have not seen this before and will usually need help to get it right. So show them after the hand.*

E-Z Deal Row 8, Hand 3

North	East	South*	West	4♥
2	10+1	14+1	14(+1)	1♦ Dbl Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥ all pass

Hand 4: *South has to lead toward the King and Queen of Spades twice in order to make this hand. This is also hard for them at this stage.*

E-Z Deal Row 8, Hand 4

North	East	South	West*	4♠
19(+1)	1	7	13+1	1♥ Dbl Pass 1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ all pass

Summary

“Congratulations!” Now that you have learned the takeout double you are ready to play Bridge! Next week we will have a competition with Bridge T-shirts for all and trophies to the winners.

“The homework is the exercises at the end of Chapter 8.

“Please review everything you have learned, particularly responding to a 1NT opener since you studied that so long ago.

“You can now try playing online with random other players. Yahoo, MSN and BridgeBase are all fine places to play free of charge. Play at a beginner or novice table since you have just started playing Bridge.

Board Dealer Vul:	North				
	♠				
	♥				
	♦				
	♣				
West		East			
♠		♠			
♥		♥			
♦		♦			
♣		♣			
	South				
	♠				
	♥				
	♦				
	♣				

Score Sheet:	Ctrct	#	NS	EW	MPs

Auction:	North	East	South	West

Board Dealer Vul:	North				
	♠				
	♥				
	♦				
	♣				
West		East			
♠		♠			
♥		♥			
♦		♦			
♣		♣			
	South				
	♠				
	♥				
	♦				
	♣				

Score Sheet:	Ctrct	#	NS	EW	MPs

Auction:	North	East	South	West

Figure 20 - Hand Record Template

LESSON 16:

Final Week - Hold a Competition

Materials

- Boards (pre-duplicated with analysis sheets if possible).
- Bidding boxes.
- Table Guide cards (with the movement if this is to be a Howell).
- Duplicate scoring sheets.
- Know the movement for the various expected numbers of tables.
- T-shirts for graduates and trophies for winners supplied by the ACBL.
- (optional) Bridge Poster.
- Be sure to have some extra people available to fill in – your sponsoring school teacher can be one.

Objectives

- Learn to play with bidding boxes if you haven't already.
- Learn to play duplicate style.
- Have fun!

The ACBL will send you guidelines on how to do this. We have two sets of 12 pre-analyzed hands that we have used in our competitions. One set was originally played in the Culbertson Bridge Club in New York City, first in the regular game then in the novice game. Those matchpoints are included in the brief write-up (the last two are the novice game). The second set was played at a San Diego Regional in 2003 by a 0-50 point group. Matchpoints are included, so you can use “instant” matchpoints if you have only one table. E-mail me kitty@abqbridge.com for a copy of the pre-analyzed hands that you want. I intend to analyze the first 12 hands from a novice game every year as long as our Albuquerque schools program needs them.

Appendix A: Exercises for Younger Children - Lesson 1

Materials

- Six to eight decks of cards, have them already separated into suits.
- Name tags.
- Card holders (you will find out this lesson if you will need them every week).
- No pencils or papers needed for this lesson.

Objectives:

- Recognize the four suits .
- Recognize the relative rank of cards.
- Deal, shuffle, and sort the cards.
- Understand how a trick is won at Notrump.

Exercise 1: Rank of the Cards

In this Exercise we discuss the rank of the cards via questions and answers with one suit face up at each table so that the children can see what we are discussing. Use one deck of cards for each table, since by the end of the lesson each table will have a full deck. Give them each a different suit so that you can call on the 'Spade table,' 'Heart table,' etc. Keep the remaining decks separate in piles on the teacher's desk or a bookshelf. Keep one deck aside so you can later demonstrate how to shuffle and hold the cards.

“For your first exercise, each table will use one suit. I am going give a suit to the student at the side of the table closest to me. I want that student to take the cards and spread them face up in the center of the table. Face up means that the rank and suit of the card can be seen. Face down means that only the backs can be seen. You will be learning a lot of new terminology in this lesson, so please raise your hand any time I use a word that you do not understand. . For example, the term **rank** refers to how high or low a card is. That is to say whether it is an Ace or a two. *(Pass the suits out. If they did not all know the suit names, have each table raise their hands when you call their suit out – raise your hand table with the Spades, you are table 1. Table with the Hearts – you are table 2, etc.)*

“Do you all know the rank of the cards? Which card beats all the others? *(Call on someone to answer this.)* What is the next highest card? And next? *(I usually make some kind of joke here, as per Audrey Grant in the Club Series, like why shouldn't the Queen be higher than the King? After all England and Denmark have Queens and no Kings at all.)* And after that? What is the lowest card? Does anyone know how many cards are in a full deck? *(Call on someone to answer this.)* All right now how many cards are there in a suit? *(If no one raises their hand give them a hint – 52 divided by 4 is?)*

“You all seem to know enough about cards to start playing now, so let's get started!

Exercise 2: Taking Tricks

In this exercise we play out a few hands with one suit to get the feel of trick-taking. We learn to put the cards on the edge of the table and turn them duplicate style.

“OK, students to the left of the one to whom I gave the cards, it’s your turn now. Put the deuces (that’s a fancy word for the card with a two on it) on the edge of the table for me to collect and turn the other cards upside down in the middle. Then mix them up well. (*Collect the deuces while they are mixing.*)

“Now, the student to the left of the one who mixed the cards, it is your turn. While the cards are still face down, you are going to give each player three cards. When you give out the cards, start by giving one to the player on your left. Do this going around the table in turn. Going around in that direction is known as going **clockwise**. Raise your hand if you already know that term. Does anyone know why starting on your left and going around is called going clockwise? (*Call on someone to answer this.*) The person who gives out the cards in a card game is known as (*make this a question with players who seem to have played less cards*) the **dealer**. Mixing the cards is known as the **shuffle**. There should be no cards left over. Why? (*Call on someone to answer this if it seems appropriate*)

“Everyone now has three cards face down in front of them. Pick up your cards without showing them to the other players and hold them in one of your hands. We are about play cards. Is everyone ready? The player (notice now that you are all card **players** now) to the left of the dealer is going to make the first play. Remember, this is just an experiment. Take one of your cards, any card, and place it face up in front of you. This is called **leading**. Don’t put it in the middle like you would for other card games. Put it on the edge in front of you. Now, the player to the left of the **opening leader**, play a card in front of you (yes the first lead is called the opening lead). Then every other player place a card in front of you, in turn, going clockwise.

“Raise your hand if you played the card with the highest rank. Congratulations, you have won the first trick. A **trick** is when everyone has played one card. Turn the card you played face down in front of you slightly to the left. Players who lost the trick, place your card so that the long side is along the table’s edge; in other words, parallel to the side of the table. The player who won the trick, place your card the opposite way, so that it points to the middle of the table and to you. Since you won the trick, you get to lead to the next trick, so lead any card. (*Wait for the next comment until after the trick is played.*)

“Now that everyone has played a card, turn your cards over, overlapping a little more than half of the first card on the right side of it. Again, the winner turns their card so it points to the middle. Since you won the trick, you get to lead to the next trick, so lead any card. Your objective is to win as many tricks as you can.

“When everyone has played a card, turn your cards over, face down, to the right of the first card. Again, the winner turns their card so that it points to the middle. At this point everyone should have just one card left. The winner of the last trick leads again and everyone still plays in order and then turns their cards over.

“Now let’s look at the cards that won tricks. Turn the winning cards face up. The player who first got the cards at each table, tell me what cards won tricks at your table. (*Table 1 report. Table 2 report, etc.*) Turn the cards over which lost tricks. Player to the left report (*Table 1 report. Table 2 report, etc.*)”

Play another hand if it seems necessary but usually move on. Thus while they are reporting on losers, hand out a second different colored suit missing the deuce to each table’s “next” player.

Exercise 3: Following Suit and Sorting

In this exercise we play a few hands with two suits to do our first suit sorting and to get the feel of following suit and discarding.

“I have given the next player at each table a second suit which is also missing the deuce. I want that player to put all of the cards face down in the middle and mix them well. There are more cards now, so be careful to keep them on the table. Collect the cards together, still face down, and hand them to the player on your left who will deal them out one at a time. How many cards does everyone have? (*Hopefully six, else we will learn about misdeals.*) It’s a good habit to count your cards before you pick them up so that if there is a problem with the deal the person with too few cards can just pick a card from the one with too many. Does everyone have the right number?”

“Pick up the cards. Now that you have two suits, it will be easier if you separate them from each other in your hand so that you can see better what cards you have in each suit. This will be even more important when you have all four suits. Put the black suit cards on the left and the red suit on your right in order, high card to low card.

“Player to the left of dealer, lead a card. Now there are a few new rules. First of all, the card that wins the trick will be the highest card in the suit that has been led. Second rule is that you must play a card in the suit that has been led if you have one. This is called **following suit**. When you can’t follow suit, you must play a card of the other suit and it cannot win the trick. That is called **discarding**. Turn your cards over and place them along the edge after each trick, the same as before. Whoever wins the trick gets to pick a card of either suit to lead to the next trick. Your objective is to win as many tricks as you can.

“Now let’s look at the cards that won tricks. Turn the winning cards face up. The player to the left of the leader, tell me what cards won tricks and what cards lost tricks at your table. (*Table 1 report. Table 2 report, etc.*) Next player to the left, what was different about having two suits? (*Table 1 report. Table 2 report, etc.*)”

Do this exercise again. Since there are five jobs – shuffle, deal, lead, first report, second report – the deal will rotate normally to the left. Now give them a full deck and continue into Lesson 1, Exercise 3, on sorting.

Appendix B: Worksheet Answers

These hands were dealt in a game of MiniBridge. The dealer was West.

	North	
	♠ A K 6	
	♥ 9 6 3 2	
	♦ A Q 4	
	♣ K 4 2	
West		East
♠ Q 9 7 4		♠ J 8
♥ 7 5		♥ Q J 10 8
♦ J 10 6		♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ Q J 9 7		♣ 10 8 6
	South	
	♠ 10 5 3 2	
	♥ A K 4	
	♦ K 8 3	
	♣ A 5 3	

2. How many points does each player have?

West = 6 North = 16
 East = 4 South = 14

2. Who announces the points first? West
3. Which pair is the declaring side? North-South
4. Which pair is the defending side? East-West
5. Who is declarer? North Who is dummy? South
11. Which player makes the first lead? East
12. How many tricks can declarer make? 9
13. Who will be the dealer for the next hand? North

EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 1

These hands were dealt in a game of MiniBridge. The dealer was North.

	North	
	♠ A K 6	
	♥ 9 3 2	
	♦ A Q 6 4	
	♣ 5 4 2	
West		East
♠ Q 7 4		♠ J 10
♥ K Q 7 6		♥ A J 10 7 4
♦ J 10		♦ 9 7 5
♣ Q J 9 7		♣ 10 8 6
	South	
	♠ 9 8 5 3 2	
	♥ 8	
	♦ K 8 3 2	
	♣ A K 3	

3. How many points does each player have?

West = 11
East = 6

North = 13
South = 10

2. Who announces the points first? North
3. Which pair is the declaring side? North-South
4. Which pair is the defending side? East-West
5. Who is declarer? North Who is dummy? South
6. What should the contract be? 4♠
8. Which player makes the first lead? East
8. How many tricks can declarer make? 10
14. Who will be the dealer for the next hand? East

MiniBridge Worksheet 2 (not EBU)

SCORING MINIBRIDGE

Sarah and David play Kim and Jason at MiniBridge. The table below summarizes what happens. What are the scores for each partnership on each deal? (MiniBridge URL: <http://www.Bridgebase.com/online/>)

Hand	Declarer	Contract	Tricks made	Score S & D	K & J
1	Kim	game in ♥	10		420
2	David	partscore in ♠	11	230	
3	David	game in NT	8		50
4	Sarah	partscore in ♣	8	90	
5	Kim	partscore in ♦	6	50	
6	Sarah	game in ♦	11	400	
7	Jason	game in NT	9		400
8	Kim	partscore in ♠	9		140
9	Jason	game in ♣	12		420
10	David	partscore in NT	7	90	
11	Sarah	game in ♥	9		50
12	Kim	partscore in ♦	9		110

Scoring: EBU MiniBridge Worksheet 2 (Answers)

How many tricks can be made in the suits shown below?

	<u>Declarer</u>	<u>Dummy</u>	<u>Number of Tricks</u>
1.	A 4 2	7 6 3	1
2.	A K 5	7 3 2	2
3.	A 3 2	K 7 5	2
4.	A K Q	7 6 3	3
5.	A K	Q 7 6	3
6.	A	K	1
7.	A Q 5 4	K J 3 2	4
8.	Q J	A K	2
9.	K Q 2	J 9 7	2
10.	Q 10 9 4	J 7 3 2	2
11.	A 10 7 5 4 3	9 8	4
12.	9 8 7 6 5	4 3 2	2

EBL MiniBridge Worksheet 3

These hands were dealt in a game of BridgeIt. The dealer was North.

	North	
	♠ A Q 6	
	♥ 9 6 3 2	
	♦ A Q 4	
	♣ 5 4 2	
West		East
♠ K 7 4		♠ 9 8
♥ Q 7 5		♥ A J 10
♦ J 10 6		♦ 9 7 5 3 2
♣ Q J 9 7		♣ 10 8 6
	South	
	♠ J 10 5 3 2	
	♥ K 8 4	
	♦ K 8	
	♣ A K 3	

1. How many points does each player have?

West = 9 North = 12

East = 5 South = 14

4. What suit does each side have an eight-card or longer fit in?

North/South Spades East/West Diamonds

3. Which pair will be the declaring side? North-South

4. Which pair will be the defending side? East-West

5. Who is declarer? South Who is dummy? North

6. What should the contract be? 4♠

8. Which player makes the first lead? West

8. How many tricks can declarer make? 11

15. Who will be the dealer for the next hand? East

Modified EBL Worksheet 5-Financing

Appendix C: Wizard Tip Cards

Row 3 –6 hand tips by Audrey Grant

Row 2,7,8, new hands and Diamond series tips by Felicity Moore

Row 2 hands

Row 2, Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

How many tricks do you need? Take your tricks and run!

Row 2, Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

When cashing a suit, always play the high card from the short side first.

Row 2, Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

How many trumps do the opponents have? Make sure that you draw them all and then you can use your small trumps to beat their high cards.

Row 2, Hand 4

Hint for the Bridge Wizard

Make sure you draw those trumps from the opponents otherwise they may use them to beat your high cards.

Row 3 hands

Row 3, Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

The treasure is in Diamonds. Play those Diamonds as soon as you can.

Row 3, Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Play the Spades as soon as you get the lead and keep playing Spades until the defenders have no Spades left. Then play Hearts. Finally take tricks with your high cards.

Row 3, Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

The treasure is in Diamonds. Play that suit as soon as you get the lead. But be careful. Play the ♦ Q first.

Row 3, Hand 4

Hint for the Bridge Wizard

The treasure is in Diamonds – it's a hidden treasure. Keep playing the Diamonds and you'll find three tricks.

Row 4 Hands

Row 4, Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Win two tricks with the A♣ and K♣. Then play a third Club, which the defenders will win. Then you get the lead again, your last Club is a winner and has as much power as an Ace.

Row 4, Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

You are going to be lucky on this hand. Play Spades as soon as you win a trick. First play the A♠ and then a low Spade. The defenders take this trick, but after that your three low Spades are winners.

Row 4, Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

After you get the lead play Hearts twice so that the defenders have no Hearts left. Next play the Diamonds, even though you will lose two tricks in the suit you will establish the last Diamond as a winner.

Row 4, Hand 4

Hint for the Bridge Wizard

Patience, patience! Play the Clubs as soon as you get the lead and keep playing them until the last club is a winner. You'll lose three tricks but you'll gain one. Try it and see!

Row 5 Hands

Row 5, Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Lead the ♣3 from your hand. Play your ♣K if East plays low. If East plays the ♣A, play a low Club.

Row 5, Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Play the ♠Ace first and then the ♠2. Play the ♠Queen if your left hand opponent plays the ♠Jack or ♠10.

Row 5, hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

The ♠Q can bring victory. Play the ♠2. If your left hand opponent plays low, play the ♠Q. If your left hand opponent plays the ♠K, take the trick with the ♠A and your ♠Q will be a winner on the next trick.

Row 5, Hand 4

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Protect your ♦K and ♦Q. Lead toward them and don't play one of these high cards until the player on your left has played first. If East plays a low Diamond, play the ♦K or ♦Q. If East plays the ♦A, play a low Diamond.

Row 6 Hands

Row 6, Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

When you get in, draw out the enemy trumps but don't play more trumps than you need to. You will need a Spade to trump a Diamond later on.

Row 6, Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

When you get in, draw out the enemy trumps but don't play more trumps than you need to. Now play on Clubs, you will have to lose one Club but you will be able to trump the third Club.

Row 6, Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

When you get in, don't draw trumps until you have trumped a losing Diamond. Play A♦ and K♦ and then trump the third Diamond.

Row 6, Hand 4

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Win the first trick and then go over to the A♥ in dummy. Now lead a low Club. If South plays low, play the Q♣. If the Q♣ wins you can go over to the A♦ and repeat the finesse.

Row 7 hands

Row 7, Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

How many trumps do the opponents have? Make sure that you draw them all out before cashing your high cards. Remember “high card from the short side”.

Row 7, Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

How many tricks can you allow the opponents to win? If the opponents win the Ace of trumps, how many can they cash? Use the Clubs to get rid of one of your losers before giving them the lead. Remember “high card from the short side first”.

Row 7, Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

You need to make 10 tricks so the opponents cannot make more than 3. If you surrender the Ace of trumps, how many can they cash? How can you jettison one of those losers before drawing trumps? Spades are the key.

Row 7, Hand 4

Hint for the Bridge Wizard

How many top tricks do you have? How many do you need? The extra tricks can come from your long Diamond suit but you must get started right away before playing your other high cards.

Row 8 hands

Row 8, Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

How many losers in your hand? One too many? You should plan to trump a Diamond in dummy before you draw trumps, so surrender two Diamond tricks before drawing their trumps.

Row 8, Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

You will need to trump those two losing Hearts in dummy, so do that first before drawing the opponents' trumps.

Row 8, Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

To make 10 tricks you will need to make 2 tricks in Spades but to do this you must always lead the Spades from your hand and play the jack or the ten. If your left hand opponent has either the king or the queen you will win 2 tricks. Try it!

Row 8, Hand 4

Hint for the Bridge Wizard

To make your contract you need to make 3 tricks in Spades. Where do you hope the Ace of Spades is? If it is where you hope, you must make sure your opponent plays it before you play your king or queen. Play a small card towards the high cards each time you play Spades.

Added Hands for Lesson 10

Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Where is the King of Hearts? How can you trap it?

Hand 4

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Where is the missing Queen of Spades? How can you prevent it winning a trick?

Diamond Series hands for Lesson 13

Hand 1

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Your extra tricks will come from Hearts but remember to play the high card from the short side first or you may find yourself a trick short.

Hand 2

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Your extra tricks will come from Diamonds but make sure that the opponents don't trump your winners.

Hand 3

Hint from the Bridge Wizard

Be careful when winning that fourth Spade with a trump. Also where do you hope the King of Diamonds is?

Hand 4

Hint for the Bridge Wizard

How can you trap the King of Spades? You may have to do it twice.