



SBU 60 Lesson Teaching Course

Lesson 1: Introduction and Minibridge

- To explain the basic mechanics of playing bridge
- To introduce people to bridge jargon which may be new to them
- To familiarise people with the way bridge hands are written down
- To familiarise the class with Minibridge

Lesson 2: Defence –first principles

- To examine the first principles of defence
- To give some simple rules about which card to lead
- To explain the importance of Third Hand High play
- To cover the concept of *suit establishment* for both declarer and defence

Lesson 3: Declarer play – first principles

- To introduce the concepts of leading *towards* high cards: the *finesse*
- The first steps in a trump contract: *drawing trump*
- The concept of the *Work Suit* at no-trump

Lesson 4: Introduction to Bidding

- To introduce *bidding*.
- The aims of bidding – to reach the best *denomination*
- The concept of the *auction* – the bidding ladder
- How it is decided who will be declarer
- The side with more points has usually more chance of making more than 7 tricks
- The *requirements* for an *opening bid*
- Simple opening bids: **1NT** and **1 of a suit**

Lesson 5: Introduction to Scoring

- To introduce **scoring**
- The importance of *Vulnerability*
- *Bonuses* – the importance of bidding *games* and *slams*

Lesson 6: More on Bidding

- To emphasise the importance of **bidding Games**
- To explain the *combined values* required for games and slams
- To make it clear that bidding can never be perfect
- We will not always make our contract – or bid all the games that actually make
- To explain *when* to open the bidding



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Lesson 7: Introduction to Bidding system

- To introduce the concept of a **Bidding System**
- To describe how to make logical deductions from partner's bids
- To introduce the concept of a *Limit Bid*

Lesson 8: More on Bidding Systems

- To emphasise the importance of a system
- To demonstrate how knowing the meaning of a bid allows us to make logical deductions

Lesson 9: Limit Responses to an Opening Bid of One of a Suit

- To emphasise the logical structure of our bidding system
- To stress the importance of *limit bids* in the Acol system
- To revise the Opening Bid and the First Response
- To introduce the Limit Raise of one of a suit to three of a suit, and the invitational 2NT response
- To have a first look at Opener's Rebid

Lesson 10: Responding in a New Suit

- To introduce the *change of suit* response
- To emphasise the importance of responding in a 4-card major when we have one
- To introduce the concepts of *Forcing* and *Non-forcing* bids
- To explain the difference in strength between a one-over-one and two-over-one responses
- To take a first look at opener's rebid after a change of suit-response

Lesson 11: Opener's Rebid and the Jump Shift Response

- To emphasise the importance of opener's rebid after a change of suit response
- To stress the importance of *limit bids* as a first rebid
- To place possible responses in order of preference: raise partner, rebid no-trump, rebid your own suit
- To introduce the Jump Shift Response to one of a suit and 1NT

Lesson 12: Responding to 1NT

- To teach the **basic responses** to 1NT
- **Balanced hands** – play in no-trump by passing or raising to 2NT (inviting game) or 3NT
- **Unbalanced hands** – for the moment we have to pass
- Bids in a suit at the 3-level are **forcing**
- Mention the Stayman convention and Transfers (look forward to later)



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Lesson 13 : The Stayman Convention

- To introduce our first **Conventional** bid
- To emphasise that Stayman is used to find a 4-4 fit in a major. To use it you must hold a *four*-card major – no more and no less. With a 5-card major we bid it via Transfers.

Lesson 14: Transfers over 1NT

- To revise bidding after a 1NT opener
- To introduce the Transfer principle

Lesson 15: Card Play – Establishing the Work Suit

- To revise how to establish and cash winners
- To revise the concept of “*Equal Cards*”
- To emphasise “*High cards from the short hand first*”
- To show how to establish and cash *Length Tricks* – first hints at unblocking and ducking.
- To show how to establish a *plain* or *side suit* by ruffing
- To emphasise the importance of drawing trump when appropriate

Lesson 16: Essential Defence

- To revise Third Hand High Play
- To introduce “Second Hand Low”
- To emphasise the difference between Leading and Third Hand Play
- To introduce “Cover an Honour with an Honour”
- To explain that there is no such thing as an Absolute Rule at Bridge

Lesson 17: Signalling in Defence

- To introduce the concept of Signalling in defence
- To clarify the situations where we can signal
- To explain the traditional reverse attitude signal: High discourages, Low encourages

Lesson 18: The Overcall

- To introduce Competitive Bidding
- To introduce the concept of Playing Tricks
- To emphasise the difference between the Opening Bid and the Overcall



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Lesson 19: Coping with overcalls

- To revise the reasons for competing in the bidding
- To describe how overcalls affect the bidding of the side that has opened
- To emphasise that it is all right to Pass when we have nothing to say, especially when partner has another chance to bid.

Lesson 20 The Takeout Double

- To revise the concept of a *conventional bid*
- To introduce the takeout double

Lesson 21: Return to Opener's Rebid

- To reiterate the value of the limit bid
- To introduce the change-of-suit rebid
- To emphasise the logic of bidding: if you bid a new suit it is because you have no good alternative.
- To introduce the idea that *bidding a second suit* is the best way to show *extra length* in the first one

Lesson 22: The Play in No-trump Contracts

- To encourage the class to plan the play of a complete hand at Trick 1
- To train them in the correct approach to the play of a hand in no-trump

Lesson 23: The Play in Suit Contracts

- To emphasise the differences between no-trump play and suit play
- To train the class to make a plan when there are trump
- To explain why we sometimes have to postpone drawing trump

Lesson 24: Penalty Doubles and Redoubles

- To introduce the concept of penalising opponents when they have bid too much at the wrong time
- To teach your class how to score doubled contracts.

Lesson 25: Defence - The Opening Lead

- To refine the choice of opening lead



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Lesson 26: The 2NT Opening Bid

- To revise the structure of no-trump bidding

Lesson 27: The 2♣ opening bid

- To cover strong opening bids and replies
- To cover responses to a 2♣ bid

Lesson 28: Pre-emptive Bidding

- To introduce pre-emptive opening bids and overcalls
- To look at how best to respond when partner makes a pre-emptive bid

Lesson 29: The Search for the 8-card Fit in a Major

- To explain the logic underlying the way we bid
- To emphasise the need to keep the bidding simple
- To demonstrate how applied logic works only if we follow the rules

Lesson 30: More on Hand Evaluation

- To refine how we decide the strength of our hand
- To introduce the concept of distributional strength

Lesson 31: Bidding after Opening 1♣/♦/♥/♠

- To revise the basic principles of our bidding system
- To encourage the class to examine the logic behind the bids rather than follow rules blindly

Lesson 32: Return to Stayman?

- To revise the use of Stayman with invitational and game-going hands
- To introduce the idea of using Stayman with weak hands
- To emphasise that Stayman *asks* for 4-card majors, whereas transfers *tell* about 5-card majors

Lesson 33: The weak 2 opening bids

- To introduce the 'mini-preempt' weak two opening bids
- To cover responses to weak twos
- How to cope with interference

Lesson 34: Defensive Bidding

- To revise the basic principles of overcalling
- To expand them to cover more situations.



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Lesson 35: Return to the Takeout Double

- To revise the Takeout Double
- To clarify the differences between Takeout and Penalty Doubles

Lesson 36: More Declarer Play

- To revise what we have learned already about card play
- To introduce some new techniques: ruffing and leading towards unsupported honours

Lesson 37: More on Defence

- To revise our basic defence techniques
- To emphasise that the basic aim of all card play technique is to take more tricks

Lesson 38: Limit Responses in No-trump

- To develop bidding skills.
- To emphasise the importance of the limit bid
- To explain how the bids we choose *not* to make tell partner as much as what we actually bid

Lesson 39: Card Play: Coping with Common Combinations

- To expand our abilities as declarer by advance preparation
- To teach the best way to play some common card combinations
- To remind the class that there are no Absolute Rules

Lesson 40: Sacrifice Bidding

- To introduce the idea that going down can be a Good Thing
- To emphasise that sacrificing is worthwhile only if they are making their contract.
- To explain that there is nothing ‘unsporting’ about sacrificing – in bridge each partnership tries to achieve the best score possible and sacrificing is a perfectly legitimate part of the game.

Lesson 41: Opener’s Rebid – The Reverse

- To revise the aims of bidding. ”The exchange of as much information *as we need* to reach the *best final contract* at the *right level*.”
- To introduce opener’s reverse and other strong rebids
- To discuss responder’s second bid.
- To look at invitational raises and the 2NT rebid
- To introduce the concept of *preference* and *false preference*



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Lesson 42: Responder's Rebid

- To discuss responder's second bid.
- To look at invitational raises and the 2NT rebid
- To introduce the concept of *preference* and *false preference*

Lesson 43: Slam Bidding (1): Cue Bidding

- To introduce the class to Slam Bidding
- To demonstrate the importance of cue-bidding as the basis for sound slam bidding
- To emphasise that the first step in slam bidding need not be to ask for aces.

Lesson 44: Slam Bidding (2): Asking with Keycard Blackwood

- To introduce the idea of Asking for Aces, including the trump King and Queen
- To emphasise that, while Blackwood is simple and straightforward, it is really designed *to avoid bad slams* rather than find good ones. Cue-bidding is a better tool.
- To mention Gerber and advise its use only in no-trump auctions. (We need 4♣ as a natural bid or a cue-bid in suit auctions)

Lesson 45: Card Play: Communication

- Point out the importance of communication in bridge – and not just during the bidding!
- Declarer may need to cross from hand to hand (say to take a finesse); and the defenders need to stay in contact also.
- Look at the Hold Up and the Duck.

Lesson 46: Defence: Out for the Count

- To emphasise the importance of counting – points, playing tricks, winners, losers and distribution
- To point out that defenders need to count also – we must acquire **the Counting Habit** by constant practice

Lesson 47: Return to Transfers: Coping with minor suits

- To develop understanding of the transfer principle.
- To look at the differences between transferring and the 3-level slam try
- To introduce minor suit transfers

Lesson 48: Return to the takeout Double

- To revise the concept of the takeout double
- To expand its use to other types of hand
- To revise how we respond to the takeout double
- To look at the doubler's rebid



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Lesson 49: Card Play with a trump Suit: The Crossruff

- To develop card play with a trump suit – another type of hand where you postpone drawing trump
- To explain the essential features of crossruff technique
- To emphasise that crossruffing is difficult, and should be adopted only when there is no alternative

Lesson 50: Quantitative No-Trump Bidding

- To revise bidding in no-trump auctions
- To refine hand evaluation of balanced hands
- To introduce the Quantitative NT Raises to 4NT and 5NT and how to bid over them

Lesson 51: Opener's Strong Rebid

- To revise opener's first rebid
- To develop the auction after opener rebids in no-trump
- To develop the auction after other strong rebids – new suits jumps and reverses
- To emphasise that you should not strain to jump to show strength – finding a fit is more important

Lesson 52: Negative Doubles and Penalty Passes

- To develop competitive bidding skills
- To introduce the Negative Double

Lesson 53: Defence: Second Hand Play

- To emphasise the importance of Second hand Low for both declarer and defence
- To look at the situations where it is right to play Second hand High

Lesson 54: Card Play at No-trump: the Danger Hand

- To revise hold-up play in no-trump
- To introduce the concept of the Danger Hand
- To examine some basic avoidance techniques

Lesson 55: Bidding Opponents' Suit

- To emphasise the differences between Competitive auctions and Uncontested auctions
- to develop bidding skills in the competitive auction
- To stress the importance of **pre-emptive raises in competition**
- To introduce the **cuebid of opponent's suit** as a strength-showing bid.



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Lesson 56: The Competitive Auction: Coping with Interference

- To develop awareness of the competitive auction
- To expand the use of the cuebid in their suit
- To introduce some new competitive bids: the *penalty redouble* and *2NT to show a sound raise* over a takeout double

Lesson 57: The 1NT Response

- To learn how to cope with weak responding hands with no ideal bid – 1NT, a 3-card raise, or the weaker-than-normal 2-level response with a long suit and extreme distribution
- To revise opener's rebid after a 1NT response, and look at further bidding
- To introduce the weak takeout into responder's lower-ranking suit

Lesson 58: Elimination and Endplay

- To introduce the class to endplays, where a defender is compelled to give a trick
- To examine the types of holding where an endplay may guarantee a contract
- To explain the importance of eliminating suits which would provide a safe exit from his hand
- To look at elimination hands where one option is a ruff and discard

Lesson 59: More About Signals

- To revise defensive signalling – emphasise that every card you play carries a message
- To show how the second card you play in a suit also carries a meaning
- To introduce the Suit Preference Signal

Lesson 60: 4th suit forcing

- To introduce this important bidding method