

**WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BIDS IS WRONG?**  
**Hands and bids by Larry Cohen. Commentary by Barbara**  
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**1.**

S 52  
H AQ72  
D QJ764  
C A3

West

1D  
2H

Only EW are bidding. NS not bidding.

- a) 1D
  - b) 1S
  - c) 2H
  - d) Pass
  - e) More than one of the above
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S AJ76  
H K43  
D 82  
C 9842

East

1S  
Pass

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**2.**

S KQ1065  
H A8752  
D Q4  
C A

West

1S  
2H  
4H

Only EW are bidding. NS not bidding.

Which of the above bids is wrong?

- a) 1S
- b) 1NT
- c) 2H
- d) 3H
- e) 4H
- f) More than one of the above

S A2  
H 843  
D K965  
C K842

East

1NT  
3H

## ANSWERS

### Question 1.

c) and d) are both wrong.

2H is wrong. 2H is a reverse. A reverse is when the opening bidder bids a new suit at the 2 level which is of higher rank than the suit with which he opened the bidding. Opener needs to have 17 or more points to make this bid and more of the first bid suit than the second. Thus he needs an unbalanced hand.

Opener started with 14 points on this hand. He subtracted when Responder bid 1S. West's hand is devalued to only 13 points now because he has a shortage in partner's suit. In any case, West does not come close to having the required 17 points for a reverse.

Pass is also wrong. When Opener reverses, it is forcing on the Responder to bid again. A one round force.

Suggested bidding on this hand:

1D - 1S

1NT - Pass

### Question 2.

c) is wrong. In order to raise Opener's second suit, Responder must ALWAYS have four cards in that suit. East may not raise Opener's second suit with only three cards EVER. In case Opener has only four, which is so often the case. East should have bid 2NT. West will then rebid 3H and East will now raise to 4H.

You see, when East raised to 3H, West will continue to 4H with only H Axxx. This would be ugly. So, if you want your telephone to ring, remember this rule.

## EQUAL HONOUR SIGNAL

	North	
	D 63	
West		East
D QJ954		D 1072
	South	
	D AK8	

South is in 3NT and West leads Diamond Q.

East must signal with 7 to show that he has an honour that is equal to one he knows West holds. YES, the 10 is an honour when he knows that West has the QJ9. It is called the equal honour signal.

The beauty of this signal is that West now knows that he can safely continue (when he gets on lead) from his side of the table by leading a small one to East's 10 .

Declarer won the first trick with the King.

So what if E does not know this signal and plays the D 2 at trick one?

Then when W gets in, this is how he knows the remaining cards are (because East played the 2 so cannot have the 10).

	6	
J954		87
	A10	

Let's say West has won a trick with the Club Ace part way through the hand. He knows he cannot continue leading the suit from his side of the table or he will give declarer an extra trick.

So he tries to get East on lead to lead a Diamond but by then, maybe now Declarer can take 9 tricks.

If East had just signalled in the first place, West could feel safe leading another D to East's 10, driving out South's remaining stopper so that later, EW can take 3 Diamond tricks.

## RULES

There are so many rules out there, sometimes it's hard to keep them all straight.

I know you have heard of the Rule of 7, 11, 15, 20 and 40. But have you heard of the Rule of 160?

If you add up the ages of your **opponents** and it comes to 160 or more, don't underestimate them!

*One of our wonderful students, Linda Orest sent this in. Thank you! Loved it!*