

ALEX'S BRIDGE TIP

How frisky can you be with your preempts? Strangely enough, the best place to preempt is in first chair, vulnerable or not vulnerable. The odds are twice as likely that this hand belongs to the opponents. You will very rarely get hurt. If they double, it is a takeout double and it is hard to convert that double at a low level to be a penalty double. It also helps if your partner has a sense of humour. So preempt vulnerable or not vulnerable.

In third seat anything goes. Bid 2S with

S Q87654
H 65
D A764
C 7

or bid 2S with

S AK1065
H 765
D 98
C 654

and if you have

S 987
H 76
D 87
C AK6543

In 1st, 2nd or 3rd seat, bid 3C. You are making it difficult for them to get where they are going PLUS you have told partner what to lead.

BARBARA'S BRIDGE TIP:

When you are opening bidding as opener with 12-14 HCP, when you make a rebid as opener, if you rebid the cheapest # of NT, it is as though you had opened with 1NT but had fewer HCP.

So

1D -1S

1NT = 12-14 HCP and no singleton or void. BALANCED. If you have a singleton or void, your hand is not balanced and your first rebid may NOT be NT.

So if you have

S 6
H AQ6
D AJ765
C K743

You open 1D. If partner bids 1S, your rebid must be 2C, not 1NT just because you have stoppers in the unbid suits.

One more Heart?

S 6
H AQ64
D AJ76
C K743

1D - 1S

2C as you cannot bid 2H. That would be a reverse, promising more D than H and 17 or more points.

Same with

1H – 2C
2NT

You do NOT have a singleton or void.

With the hand below, you must rebid 2D after 1H -2C

S A98
H AJ832
D KJ65
C 6

OVERLAPPING WINNERS BY ANDREW ROBSON

Andrew is a well-known and well-respected bridge teacher and player. He owns and runs a successful bridge club in London, UK. A few years ago, he received an O.B.E. from the Queen for his charity efforts.

Overlapping winners

Consider the following suit combinations:

(a)	(b)	(c)
AK2	AQ3	AQ3
3	K2	K42

In (a) and (b), there is an “overlapping winner” in dummy. In other words there is the opportunity to play out the suit and dispose of a loser (in another suit) from hand. Not so in (c), where the suit is sterile, giving you nothing. If you, as declarer in your trump contract, have too many losers, you must play out your top cards as soon as possible in (a) and (b), enabling you to throw a loser. Leave (c) alone, however, with nothing to gain and the possibility of a winner being trumped.

On this deal, there appear to be two overlapping winners in spades. Or are there? It is a test of foresight versus greed.

South Deals	S	A Q 3	
None Vul	H	J 9 5	
	D	7 6 2	
	C	Q 10 4 2	
S	10 8 7 4	S	J 9 6 5 2
H	7 3	H	A 6
D	K Q 10 5	D	J 9 3
C	A 8 7	C	9 5 3
	S	K	
	H	K Q 10 8 4 2	
	D	A 8 4	
	C	K J 6	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1H
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3H ¹
Pass	4H	All pass	

1. Only just worth the 16+ point jump, with singleton S K of questionable value.

What happened

Winning D K lead with D A (East carefully signalling encouragement with D 9, holding an equal honour, D J, to partner's D KQ sequence), declarer eyed up the spades. He saw the opportunity to discard both his losing diamonds on dummy's overlapping S AQ. At Trick Two declarer cashed S K, then sought a way of reaching dummy's S AQ. He tried H 2 to H J. No good. East won H A, and the defence promptly cashed two diamonds plus C A. Down one.

What should have happened

Declarer must realise that there is no quick entry to dummy, except in the spade suit itself. Only needing to shed one diamond (he can afford to lose one diamond trick, to go with H A and C A), he makes the key play at Trick Two of overtaking S K with S A, then cashing S Q discarding D 4. Now he leads trumps, and loses the three tricks as above, but not the second diamond. 10 tricks and game made.

If you remember one thing...

Examine the entry position when playing "overlapping winners".