

Question 1.

West is Dealer

S A
H KQ2
D Q8762
C J632

West

East

1D
?

1H

What is West's next bid?

- a) 1NT
- b) 2C
- c) 2D
- d) 2H**

d) 2H. We love to have 4 card support for partner, in case she only has three Hearts. BUT your choices are limited:

2D infers a 6 card suit as there is always something better to do than repeat your miserable minor with only a 5 card suit.

2C is okay and would not be totally wrong but they are surely a very sad collection of Clubs. You must NOT bid NT as you are not a balanced hand.

Your Hearts are excellent, albeit only 3 of them. BUT you have ruffing values. Partner can play the S Ace and then proceed to ruff some Spades with dummy's Hearts.

When you raise to 2H, the responder with only a 4 card Heart suit may not bid her Hearts again as you have only promised 3 card support. East will later bid NT or something else.

If you have trouble accepting this, get over it. IF you cannot rebid NT and have ruffing values, it is fine to raise (as Opener) with only 3 card support. Best of all with 3 cards headed by an honour but I would still do it with three small cards.

And here's the thing...yes, partner may have only 4 Hearts BUT she MAY have 5 of them in which case, life is a bowl of cherries and you have really found your fit.

Question # 2

West is Dealer

S 2
H K3
D KQ76
C KQ6532

West

East

1C
?

1S

What is West's next bid?

- a) 1NT
- b) 2C**
- c) 2D
- d) 3C

b) 2C. You are not balanced. DO NOT bid NT which would promise a balanced hand. You might be tempted to bid 2D next but that would be a reverse promising 17 or more points. You are a minimum hand and must behave as such. Rebid your Club suit, showing 13-15 points and a 6 card suit, most likely.

Question # 3

West

S KQJ4
H K983
D KQ43
C 7

West

East

1D
?

1NT

What is West's next bid?

- a) Pass**
- b) 2D
- c) 2H
- d) 2S

a) Pass. Partner bid 1NT, instead of bidding 1H or 1S along the way. This means she does not have 4 cards in either of those suits so there is no point in advertising your 4 card majors as there is no 8 card fit. You have a minimum and partner has 6-10 HCP. Just pass and let her play it.

Question # 4

West

S 7
H KQJ43
D Q1092
C KJ3

West

1H
?

East

1S

What is West's next bid?

- a) Pass
- b) 1NT
- c) 2D**
- d) 2H

c) 2D. You already told partner that you have five Hearts or more and you only have 5. You hate her suit. So offer her a choice of another suit: Diamonds, since you have 4 of them. Partner will choose which one she prefers or bid NT or raise your Hearts now. There are many options for partner depending on her hand.

Your bid shows 13-17 points : At least 5 Hearts and at least 4 Diamonds.