

RESPONDING TO 1NT WITH UNBALANCED HANDS:

2. RESPONDING WITH STRONG, GAME-GOING UNBALANCED HANDS

THE FIT: When you and partner have 8 or more cards of a suit between you, you have a FIT in that suit. It is usually better to play the hand with that suit as Trumps. This is especially true in cases of the MAJOR suits. When you find a FIT make that suit the Trump suit.

(a) RESPONDING TO 1NT WITH A 6-CARD OR LONGER MAJOR SUIT & STRONG HAND

eg	♠ 8	When partner opens 1NT you know
	♥ KQ9874	(i) you have enough points to bid Game
	♦ AJ4	(ii) you have at least 8 Hearts between you [you have a FIT]
	♣ A62	You should bid 4♥ directly.
	♠ AJ10654	When partner opens 1NT
	♥ 5	bid 4♠ straight away.
	♦ Q2	You have, at worst, an 8-card FIT in Spades
	♣ A62	

(b) RESPONDING TO 1NT WITH A 5-CARD MAJOR SUIT & STRONG (GAME-GOING) HAND

eg	♠ 84	When partner opens the bidding with 1NT (12 to 14) you know
	♥ KQ987	that, between you, you have enough points to bid Game.
	♦ AJ4	You should bid 3♥. This bid is FORCING partner to bid again.
	♣ A62	Partner with a 3 or 4-card Heart Suit should bid 4♥ but, with only 2 hearts, should bid 3NT.
	♠ AJ1064	When partner opens 1NT you know you have enough points
	♥ 54	for game. The only question is whether 3NT or 4♠ is the
	♦ KQ2	best Contract.
	♣ A62	Bid 3♠. Partner must chose between 3NT and 4♠.

RECAP EXERCISE ON RESPONDING TO 1NT OPENING BID.:

YOUR PARTNER HAS OPENED THE BIDDING 1NT - 12 to 14 points.

What should you respond with each of the following hands?

Write in your response in the box before reading the correct answer.

1	♠ K8764	2	♠ A4	3	♠ KJ1094	4	♠ 987654	5	♠ AK5432
	♥ 7		♥ KQJ876		♥ A2		♥ K6		♥ 4
	♦ 9876		♦ 32		♦ A96		♦ K543		♦ K86
	♣ Q95		♣ AJ7		♣ QJ5		♣ 9		♣ K73
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- Respond 2♠. Weak-Take-Out. You have a weak hand. 2♠ is a better contract than 1NT.
- 4♥. With enough points for Game and a definite 6-2 Heart Fit, at least (partner has either two, three or four Hearts for the 1NT opening bid), you should jump to 4♥ immediately.
- 3♠. Opposite partner's 1NT you have enough points for Game. The only question is whether 3NT or 4♠ will be better. 3♠ shows exactly five Spades and a Game going hand. With three or four Spades opener should rebid 4♠. With only two Spades the rebid is 3NT.
- 2♠. Weak-Take-Out. Definitely better to play with Spades as Trumps.
- 4♠. With enough points for Game and a definite 6-2 Spade Fit, at least (partner has either two, three or four Spades for the 1NT opening bid) you should jump to 4♠ immediately.

6	♠ KJ7	7	♠ J4	8	♠ K9	9	♠ AQ5	10	♠ K83
	♥ QJ6		♥ KJ1043		♥ AJ1074		♥ K6		♥ Q92
	♦ KJ42		♦ 765		♦ KQ3		♦ Q1094		♦ J75
	♣ AJ8		♣ J43		♣ Q95		♣ 10864		♣ Q864
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- Respond 3NT. Balanced hand and enough points for Game opposite partner's 1NT.
- Respond 2♥. Weak-Take-Out. You have a weak hand. 2♥ is a better contract than 1NT.
- 3♥. Same situation as Number 3 above, except this time Hearts is the suit.
- 2NT. You have a balanced hand. If partner has the maximum 14 points, then your 11 points will be enough for Game. 2NT invites partner to bid 3NT with 14 points or otherwise Pass
- Pass. You have a balanced hand and opposite partner's 1NT you do not have enough points for Game.

PREPARED HANDS: RESPONDING TO INT, GAME-GOING, UNBALANCED.

1.
 Dealer ♠ QJ10
 ♥ A106
 North ♦ KQ63
 ♣ 742

♠ A985 ♠ 7432
 ♥ J2 ♥ 53
 ♦ 9875 ♦ 102
 ♣ 1096 ♣ AKQJ3

♠ K6
 ♥ KQ9874
 ♦ AJ4
 ♣ 85

Dealer opens 1NT in each case.
 North on Deal 1
 East on Deal 2
 South on Deal 3
 West on Deal 4

Responder bids Game in the Major;
 South responds 4♥, Deal 1
 West responds 4♠, Deal 2
 North responds 4♠, Deal 3
 East responds 4♥, Deal 4

2.
 Dealer ♠ 102
 ♥ J108
 East ♦ A9754
 ♣ 1083

♠ AQ9874 ♠ K53
 ♥ 53 ♥ 962
 ♦ J6 ♦ KQ8
 ♣ AQ2 ♣ KJ74

♠ J6
 ♥ AKQ74
 ♦ 1032
 ♣ 965

Check every table to see that Declarer draws trumps.

Having played in the correct contract, then get them to play in No Trump to illustrate the difference.

The opening lead is not of primary concern in the lesson, but there is a top of sequence lead available on each deal.
 Of course if they play in NT for comparison then there is the obvious top of sequence lead in every case.

3.
 Dealer ♠ KQ7543
 ♥ A63
 South ♦ Q3
 ♣ Q42

♠ 2 ♠ J86
 ♥ J105 ♥ Q982
 ♦ AKJ72 ♦ 1098
 ♣ 10875 ♣ J93

♠ A109
 ♥ K74
 ♦ 654
 ♣ AK6

4.
 Dealer ♠ J432
 ♥ 3
 West ♦ J85
 ♣ AKJ72

♠ K87 ♠ A96
 ♥ AK2 ♥ QJ10654
 ♦ K962 ♦ A3
 ♣ 543 ♣ Q6

♠ Q105
 ♥ 987
 ♦ Q1074
 ♣ 1098

PREPARED HANDS: RESPONDING TO INT, GAME-GOING, UNBALANCED.

1.
 Dealer ♠ AJ2
 ♥ A106
 North ♦ KQ63
 ♣ 742
 ♠ 975 ♠ 84
 ♥ J972 ♥ 8543
 ♦ J875 ♦ 102
 ♣ 109 ♣ AKQJ6
 ♠ KQ1063
 ♥ KQ
 ♦ A94
 ♣ 853

Dealer opens 1NT in each case.
 North on Deal 1
 East on Deal 2
 South on Deal 3
 West on Deal 4

2.
 Dealer ♠ 1042
 ♥ J108
 East ♦ A954
 ♣ 1083
 ♠ AQ987 ♠ KJ3
 ♥ 53 ♥ 962
 ♦ Q76 ♦ KJ8
 ♣ KQ2 ♣ AJ74
 ♠ 65
 ♥ AKQ74
 ♦ 1032
 ♣ 965

Responder bids 3 of the Major;
 South responds 3♣, Deal 1
 West responds 3♠, Deal 2
 North responds 3♥, Deal 3
 East responds 3♥, Deal 4

3.
 Dealer ♠ K75
 ♥ AK753
 South ♦ 83
 ♣ K42
 ♠ 432 ♠ QJ86
 ♥ 8 ♥ 1092
 ♦ AKQ72 ♦ J109
 ♣ 10875 ♣ J93
 ♠ A109
 ♥ QJ64
 ♦ 654
 ♣ AQ6

REMEMBER: THE AIMS OF THESE EXERCISES ARE
 (a) TO PRACTICE RESPONDING TO 1NT WITH GAME-GOING HANDS WHICH INCLUDE A 5-CARD MAJOR.
 (b) TO REINFORCE THE CONCEPT OF A FORCING BID.
 (d) TO DRIVE HOME THE IDEA OF TRYING TO GET TO THE BEST CONTRACT BY MEANS OF THE AUCTION
 (c) TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING A FIT

4.
 Dealer ♠ 9432
 ♥ 3
 West ♦ J85
 ♣ AKQ72
 ♠ A87 ♠ KQ6
 ♥ AQ2 ♥ KJ1054
 ♦ K962 ♦ A43
 ♣ 543 ♣ J6
 ♠ J105
 ♥ 9876
 ♦ Q107
 ♣ 1098

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE LEARNERS SHOULD PLAY EACH DEAL, FIRST IN THE MAJOR GAME CONTRACT, THEN IN 3NT TO ILLUSTRATE THE DIFFERENCE.

Teacher should be busy among the tables during the exercises