

Lesson 1 Introduction

The first week's subject(s) are:

- (a) Concept of Captaincy? Who is the captain of the hand?
- (b) What does a Golden Fit Mean?
- (c) How does the partnership know whether to be at the 1 level, 2 level, 3 level, 4 level, 5 level, 6 level, or 7 level between the two hands?
- (d) What is a limit bid?
- (e) What is a forcing bid?
- (f) Flight B bridge tips provided throughout the lesson.
- (g) What is the basic difference between standard bidding and 2/1 bidding?
- (h) At the end of this first lesson, each person will be able to answer all the previous questions.
- (i) Conclude with Flight A bridge tip.

CONCEPT OF CAPTAINCY

With two people bidding, the idea of captaincy is very simple. The first person to limit their hand in terms of points, the other person (partner) is the captain of the hand. The captain of the hand sets the final contract. The best bridge partnership is played when both parties agree and confirm the trump suit as soon as possible.

Example:

	North	South
(1)	1C	1S
	2C	?

South places the final contract; North limited his hand to 12 – 15 points. South is the captain of the hand.

(2)	1C	1H
	2NT	?

South places the final contract; North limited his hand to 18 – 19 points. South is the captain of the hand.

(3)	1D	1S
	3S	?

South places the final contract; North limited his hand to 16 – 18 points. South is the captain of the hand.

(4)	1H	1S
	4S	?

South places the final contract; North limited his hand to 19 – 21 points. South is the captain of the hand.

GOLDEN FIT

A golden fit means that the partnership has AT LEAST 8 or more trumps between them. Any series of bidding sequences could occur and at several levels, but the main point is that both partners know they have a golden fit (or do not have a golden fit).

Examples:

N	S
5 spades	3 spades
4 hearts	4 hearts
6 diamonds	2 diamonds
5 hearts	4 hearts
7 clubs	1 club

COMBINED POINT COUNT FROM BOTH HANDS

7 Level	-	37 Points (Grand Slam, 13 Tricks)
6 Level	-	33 Points (Small Slam, 12 Tricks)
5 Level	-	28 Points (11 Tricks in Major or Minor Suits)
4 Level	-	26 Points (10 tricks in Major or Minor Suits) (Exception; 3NT needs 26 points)
3 Level	-	23 Points (9 tricks in Major or Minor Suits) (Exception; 2NT needs 23 points)
2 Level	-	21 Points (8 Tricks in Major or Minor Suits)
1 Level	-	18 Points (7 Tricks in Major or Minor Suits)

LIMIT BID

A limit bid means that this bid is not forcing for one round or forcing to game, and it MAY be passed. However, your partner knows within 1 point how many points that you have.

EXAMPLES:

	N	S
1.	1D	2NT

South made a limit bid showing 10 – 12 points. South also doesn't have 4 hearts or 4 spades, since South did not bid "up the line."

2.	1C	3NT
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South made a limit bid showing 13 – 15 points. South also doesn't have 4 hearts or 4 spades, since South did not bid "up the line."

See sheet on Concept of Captaincy. If South limits his hand, then their partner (North), becomes the captain of the hand.

BRIDGE TIPS

1. Bid length over strength. Example; if partner opens 1D, and you have 5 spades, headed up by the 6 of spades, and 4 hearts headed up by the A of hearts, respond 1S.
2. If you have touching suits of the same length, such as spades and hearts OR diamonds and clubs, always bid the highest ranking suit regardless of strength.
3. The lower the card you lead, the more likely it is that you have an honor (A,K,Q, J) in that suit.
4. If you normally play A from A,K and you lead the K of that suit followed by the A of that suit; that means you have a doubleton A, K.
5. Your partner leads the A and a singleton of that suit appears in the dummy. You play a high card. This means your partner should switch to a higher suit. If your partner plays a low card, should switch to a lower ranking suit. Any intermediate card by you shows no preference.
6. You are on lead after the opponents get the final contract. Listen to the bidding in your mind by each opponent. For example, the opponents bid 1S followed by 2S by their partner. You lead the Q of clubs from Q, J, 10. Dummy has 7 points which you can see. Declarer has 12 – 15 points. You have 6 points. How many points does your partner have? ($7 + 14 + 6 = 27$) Therefore your partner must have 12 or 13 points and these are “soft points”. Use this method on every hand you defend. It works.

STANDARD BIDDING

Standard bidding uses few conventions and uses the philosophy that the more jumps in the bidding, the stronger your hand is. (Opposite of 2/1 bidding)

Example:

N	S
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(1) In this example, North has 12 – 15 points, and South has 10 – 12 points.

1S	2H
3H	4H

(2) In this example, North has 16 – 18 points, and South has at 10 – 12 points.

1S	2H
4H	Pass

2/1 BIDDING

2 over 1 bidding uses numerous conventions and uses the philosophy that the less jumps in the bidding, the stronger your hand is. (Opposite of standard bidding)

Example:

(1) In this example, North has 16 – 18 points, and South has 13 – 15 points.

1S	2H
3H	4H

(2) In this example, North has 13 – 15 points, and South has 13 – 15 points

1S	2H
4H	Pass

BRIDGE TIPS

7. Bid length over strength. Example; if partner opens 1D, and you have 5 spades, headed up by the 6 of spades, and 4 hearts headed up by the A of hearts, respond 1S.
8. If you have touching suits of the same length, such as spades and hearts OR diamonds and clubs, always bid the highest ranking suit regardless of strength.
9. The lower the card you lead, the more likely it is that you have an honor (A,K,Q, J) in that suit.
10. If you normally play A from A,K and you lead the K of that suit followed by the A of that suit; that means you have a doubleton A, K.
11. Your partner leads the A and a singleton of that suit appears in the dummy. You play a high card. This means your partner should switch to a higher suit. If your partner plays a low card, should switch to a lower ranking suit. Any intermediate card by you shows no preference.
12. You are on lead after the opponents get the final contract. Listen to the bidding in your mind by each opponent. For example, the opponents bid 1S followed by 2S by their partner. You lead the Q of clubs from Q, J, 10. Dummy has 7 points which you can see. Declarer has 12 – 15 points. You have 6 points. How many points does your partner have? ($7 + 14 + 6 = 27$) Therefore your partner must have 12 or 13 points and these are “soft points”. Use this method on every hand you defend. It works.