

Franklin Bridge Club

2025 BRIDGE LESSONS



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Lesson Five

Balanced Hands



Opener's First Bid

	Points	Description
1 ♣	12 - 19	4 + clubs
1 ♦	12 - 19	4 + diamonds
1 ♥	12 - 19	4 + hearts
1 ♠	12 - 19	4 + spades
1 NT	12 - 14	Balanced hand <u>SPECIAL CASE</u>



Basic Rules for Opening INT

- **12 - 14** points
- **Balanced Hand**

**This bid is your FIRST
choice from now on**



What is a balanced hand?

- No singleton or void
- No more than 1 doubleton
- No 5-card major
- Balanced = 4333, 4432, 2335 shape

**Balanced hands are
the most common**



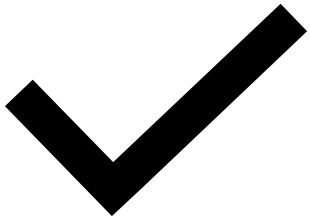
Is this hand Balanced or Not?



???



YES! Balanced



- No singleton or void
- No more than 1 doubleton
- No 5-card major



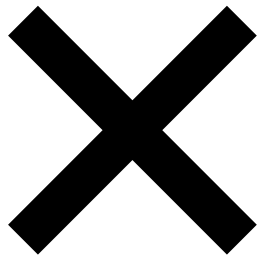
Is this hand Balanced or Not?



???



No! Not Balanced



- No singleton or void
- No more than 1 doubleton
- No 5-card major



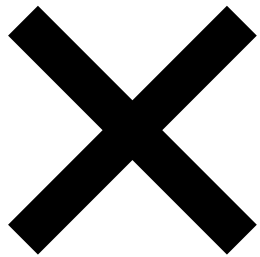
Is this hand **Balanced** or **Not**?



???



No! Not Balanced



- No singleton or void
- No more than 1 doubleton
- No 5-card major



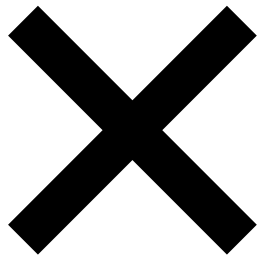
Is this hand Balanced or Not?



???



No! Not Balanced



- No singleton or void
- No more than 1 doubleton
- **No 5-card major**



What does responder decide to do?

- Have you got enough **points** to bid or invite to game?
- If so do you want to play in **NoTrumps** or a **suit**?

Responder is the BOSS

There are ONLY 2 decisions to make



Responses to 1NT – Balanced Hand

- 0 – 10 points so no GAME possible **PASS**
- 11 – 12 points so GAME is possible **Bid 2NT**
- 13+ points so GAME ON **Bid 3NT**

Add your points
to partner's
KNOWN 12-14 points



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below.... 8 HCP only



???



Responder PASSES

Responder's hand shown below.... 8 HCP only



You
PASS

not enough
HCP for **GAME**



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below.... 13 HCP



???



Responder BIDS 3NT

Responder's hand shown below.... 13 HCP



Bid
3NT

you jointly have enough
HCP for GAME



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below.... 12 HCP



???



Responder BIDS 2NT

Responder's hand shown below.... 12 HCP




Bid
2NT

you have almost enough
HCP for **GAME**. Depends if
opener has 12, 13 or 14



Responses to INT open and Responder has an Unbalanced Hand

If you have 0–10 points, **GAME** is not possible, so...

Bid your  card suit at the 2-level

This is called a WEAK TAKEOUT

Partner **MUST** then pass ... **YOU ARE THE BOSS**

Add your points to partner's
KNOWN 12-14 points



Responses to INT open and Responder has an Unbalanced Hand

12+ points ... **GAME** Forcing

- Bid your  card **MAJOR** at the 3-level

(Opener MUST agree your suit or bid NoTrumps)

- Bid your  card **MAJOR** at the 4-level

OR

- Bid your  card **MINOR** at the 5-level



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below... 9 HCP and 5♥



???



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below... 9 HCP and 5♥



Bid 2♥ Not enough for GAME

Opener MUST pass



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below... 9 HCP and 5♥



???



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below... 9 HCP and 5♦



Bid 2♦ Not enough for GAME

Opener MUST pass



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below.... 13 HCP and 6♠



???



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below.... 13 HCP and 6♠



Bid 4♠ Enough for GAME AND a known fit in spades

Q: Why is this fit guaranteed ?



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below.... 14 HCP and 5♥



???



After 1NT open what is responder's bid?

Responder's hand shown below.... 13 HCP and 6♠



Bid 3♥ Enough for **GAME** **BUT** need to check if there is a heart fit

Opener chooses 3NT or bids 4♥ if they have a fit



Questions?



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