

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

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Your partner opens 1♦, you respond 1♥ and partner rebids 1♠ and it's your turn again!

What is your rebid on the following eight hands playing duplicate bridge? Check your answers against mine when you finish.

- (1) ♠ J 5 4 ♥ A J 6 5 4 ♦ 2 ♣ 6 5 4 3
- (2) ♠ 5 4 ♥ A J 8 7 5 ♦ K Q 10 5 ♣ J 5
- (3) ♠ K 10 8 ♥ A Q J 9 8 3 2 ♦ J 10 ♣ 3
- (4) ♠ 5 4 ♥ Q J 8 7 ♦ A J 8 7 ♣ A Q 10
- (5) ♠ 8 7 5 ♥ A J 8 3 2 ♦ 9 6 ♣ K 10 8
- (6) ♠ 7 ♥ Q 10 9 8 4 3 ♦ 4 ♣ K 10 8 7 6
- (7) ♠ 9 8 7 3 ♥ Q 10 8 7 ♦ A K 6 5 ♣ 3
- (8) ♠ A 7 6 ♥ K Q 8 7 6 ♦ A J ♣ 9 5 4

Answers

1. Pass. You are not strong enough to make another bid. A raise to 2♠ would show four spades (in blood). Rebidding a ratty five-card suit is a huge no-no, so there you are.
2. 3♣. This is invitational, not forcing. If partner has a little extra with a club stopper, he will usually bid 3NT. If he has a minimum opener, he should pass.
3. 4♥. Your hand has improved on the bidding because your outside honors are in partner's suits. 3♥ is a conservative second choice.
4. 3NT. This one sticks out like a sore thumb.
5. 1NT. Just as obvious as No. 4.
6. 2♥. 2♣, bidding the fourth suit normally shows opening-bid strength. Some play it as a game force, others play you can get out if your next bid is at the two level. In any case, you should not bid the fourth suit with a weak hand.
7. 3♠. This is invitational. Not quite strong enough for 4♠ and definitely too strong for 2♠. 3♠ is just right.
8. 2♣. Finally, the proper use for the fourth suit: a strong hand that cannot limit itself properly - yet. You can't raise spades with three pieces (see #1), the heart suit is not strong enough to rebid. You need five very strong hearts (think 100 honors or close to it) or a reasonable six-card suit. It's not a good idea to bid notrump without a club stopper, and bidding diamonds is out of the question. You will be much better placed after you hear partner's next bid.

Scoring 5 or 6 correct: Not bad, not great. 7 or 8 correct: You must be a good bidder.

Less: There is always another quiz coming, but look over the ones you missed so you can avoid making those mistakes in the future.