

# Franklin Bridge Club

## 2026 BRIDGE LESSONS



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# Lesson Two

## I-Level Opening Bids



# Ranking of the Suits

**N**o **T**rumps

**S**pades



**H**earts



**Major Suit**

**D**iamonds



**C**lubs



**Minor Suits**

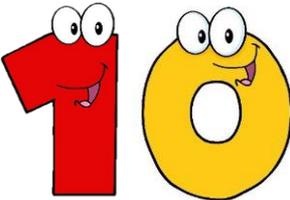
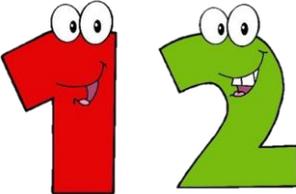


# Finding a Fit

- A **Fit** is 8+ cards in one suit between the two hands
- If there is a fit in a **major** suit, then this will be the trump suit
- If there is no fit, then choose  
NoTrumps



# Levels of Bidding

- The number of tricks you must make to get a score = 6 + the level you bid
  - 1-level contracts ... Must make 7 tricks (6 + 1)
  - 2-level contracts ... Must make 8 tricks (6 + 2)
  - 3-level Contracts ... Must make tricks (6 + 3) etc
  - 4-level Contracts ... Must make  tricks
  - 6-level Contracts ... Must make  tricks



# The Auction

- Every suit has a ranking order
- Each **bid** must be higher than the previous bid

|     |    |    |    |     |
|-----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1♣  | 1♦ | 1♥ | 1♠ | 1NT |
| 2♣  | 2♦ | 2♥ | 2♠ | 2NT |
| 3♣  | 3♦ | 3♥ | 3♠ | 3NT |
| 4♣  | 4♦ | 4♥ | 4♠ | 4NT |
| etc |    |    |    |     |

- The first person to bid is the **Opener**
- Opener's partner is the **Responder**



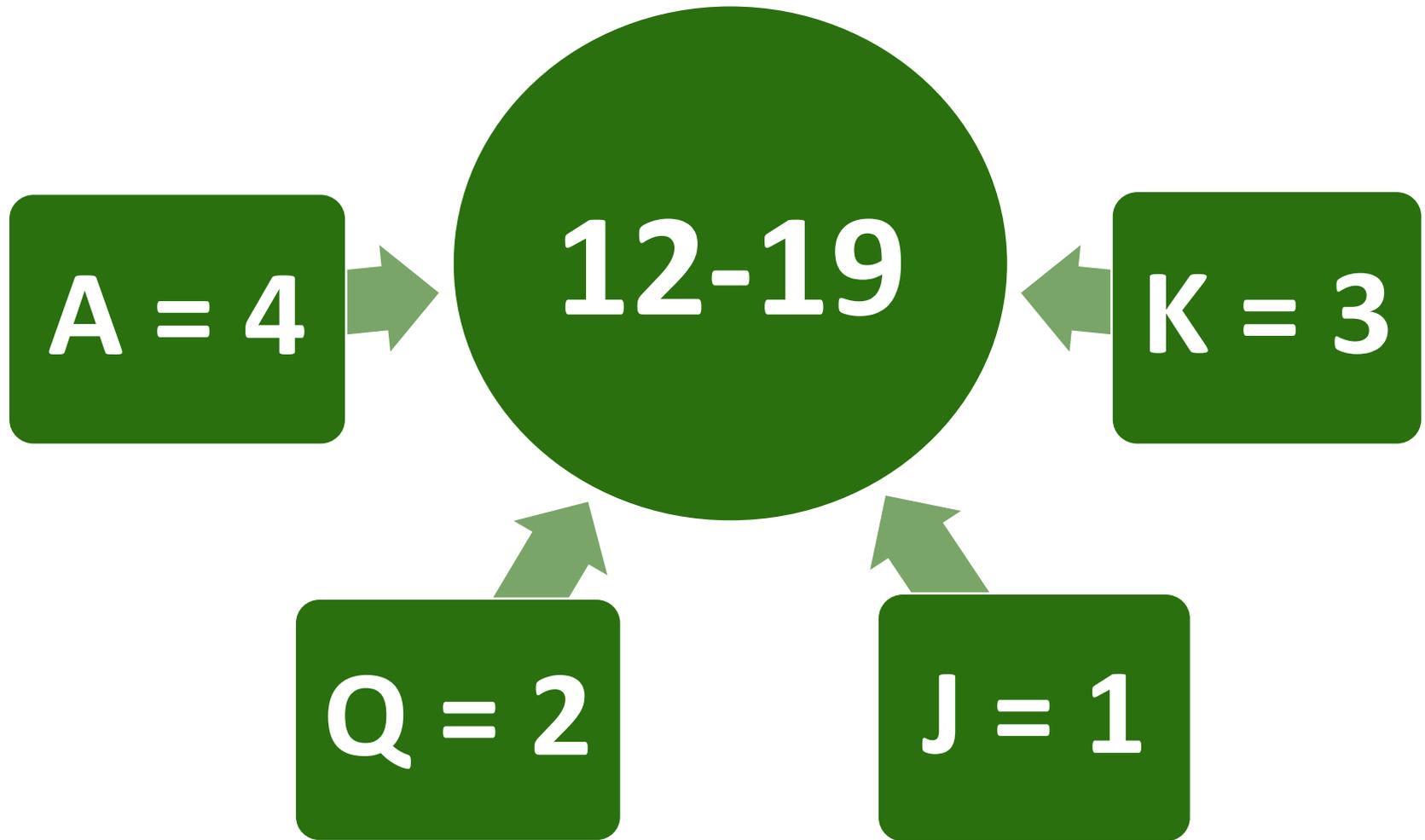
# Basic Rules for Opening 1-suit

- You must have enough **High Card Points**

12-19



# Basic Rules for Opening 1-suit







# Opener's First Bid

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



# Rules for 1-level suit openings

Bid your **longest** suit first



# Basic Rules for 1-level suit openings

Bid your lower ranking **4-card** suit first



# What do you open?

Bid your higher ranking **5-card** suit first



# What do you open with this hand?



?



# What do you open with this hand?



## Open 1♣

... open your  
lower ranking 4-card suit first



# What do you open with this hand?



?



# What do you open with this hand?



## Open 1♠

... open your higher ranking 5-card suit first



# Further Bidding ... To come in more detail

- **Responder** needs 6 + points to bid (At least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of what Opener needs)
- Try to find a **Fit** as soon as possible
- There are 3 choices of level to bid to:
  1. Minimum (6 – 9)
  2. Close to Game (10 – 12)
  3. Enough for Game (13+)
- If there is NO fit, then bid NoTrumps
- To bid **Game** you need **25+** points between the two hands



# Summary for 1-level suit openers

12-19

- Open with 12-19 points
- Bid your longest suit first
- If you have two 4-card suits bid the lower ranked suit first
- If you have two 5-card suits bid the higher ranked suit first
- Suit quality does not matter



# Homework

## LESSON 2 QUIZ

**NZB**Bridge

## 1-Level Opening Bids

What do you open with the following hands?

♠ AQ6542

♥ 72

♦ A2

♣ A92

♠ AJ52

♥ J8

♦ A105

♣ J1085

♠ K2

♥ AKQ2

♦ J9875

♣ 97

♠ AJ952

♥ AQ862

♦ K5

♣ 4

♠ A52

♥ AK62

♦ AJ85

♣ 97

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What do you open with the following hands?



# Questions?



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