



Bridge
NSW

Teacher Options

Bridge NSW Beginner and Improver Lessons

Bridge NSW, in collaboration with Bridge Victoria, have developed Beginner and Improver Lessons which are freely available on the Bridge NSW website. The material contains:

Beginners Lessons

Introduction to Trick Taking

1 Introduction to Bridge

2 Declarer Play in a Notrump Contract

3 Declarer Play in a Suit Contract

4 One-Level Opening Bids

5 Responder's Limited Bids and Opener's Rebids

6 Responder's New Suit Bids and Opener's Rebids

7 Bidding Balanced Hands (*incl. Stayman & Transfers*)

8 Overcalls and Doubles

Improver Lessons

9 Contesting the Auction: More Ideas (*incl. cue raise & negative double*)

10 Card Play by Defenders

11 Opening Leads and Signalling

12 More on Hand Evaluation

13 Pre-emptive Openings

14 Strong Openings

15 Thinking as Declarer

16 Thinking in Defence

Mini Lessons

1 Declarer Planning

2 Winners and Losers

3 Finesse

4 Length

5 Force out Defender's High Cards

6 High from the Short Side

7 Drawing Trumps

8 Ruffing in the Short Hand

9 Discard Losers on Winners

10 Leads

11 Second Hand Low

12 Third Hand High

13 Scoring

14 Distribution Points

These lessons use material from NZ Bridge and the Scottish Bridge Union.

Additional material (eg extra powerpoints, lesson quiz, deal file formats) is available on request from education@bridgensw.com.au

Beginner Lessons

- **Booklet** - all the eight Student Notes in the one document
- **Lesson Summary** - a handy reference for students to have by their side. (Print double sided and fold so Bridge NSW logo is the first page)
- **Student Notes** - description of topic with examples
- **Handout** - "slides" of additional information on the topic and can be used by teacher/helper to lead discussions through the lesson. Last "slide" **Additional Material** has the Bridge-Training links and suggested videos. Additionally contains answers for the lesson quiz & and a voluntary homework quiz.
- **Teacher Notes** - suggestions of how to prepare and progress through lesson and a lesson quiz (no answers)
- **Hands** - description of bidding and play of hands in the Deal File
- **Deal File (pbn)** - .pbn file of the hands. Other formats available on request. Note: some files have additional hands to help illustrate an example within a class

If the club has the internet available then can refer to the Website for Notes & Hand Analysis during lesson. Alternatively can download Handout/Deal Analysis notes to tablet/phone and use as a reference if sitting at a students table

Practice Bidding and Declarer Play

- These link through to the Bridge-Training website and allows a student to play the same hands as in the lesson
- Additionally, if technology is available, you can use Bridge-Training to illustrate the best way to bid and play a hand during class
- Note: To get the most out of Bridge-Training for your students, either ensure there is sufficient time in the lesson so everyone gets a go or hold a "Zoom" session in the week following.

Course Length (*Bridge NSW Suggestions*)

The Beginners Material has 8 lessons but it is entirely up to the teacher how this is delivered. There is a lot in these lessons so look to spark enthusiasm to continue learning rather than trying to cover everything.

Suggestions are:

- Deliver first 6 lessons over 8 weeks (extra week on Declarer Play and extra week revision of bidding). Then take a break and come back to the other lessons.
- Deliver all 8 lessons over 12 weeks. As for above and then take two weeks to cover Stayman and Transfers, and an additional two weeks for Overcalls and Doubles.

For Teachers

The **Teacher's Guide** outlines what is in each lesson and gives some suggestions.

For the inexperienced Teacher

Under Teacher Resources are some documents that give you hints and tips on how to approach Beginner Lessons.

- **Preparation** – planning the lessons, suggestions on teacher's assistant role/helpers.
- **Principles** – the underpinnings of teaching that can help students to learn
- **Tips** – you don't have to be born a good teacher – you can learn
- **First Lesson** – some thoughts on how to approach the first lesson. There are additional tips in the Teacher's Notes for Introduction to Bridge lesson.

Flexible Lesson Approach

While Bridge NSW recommend the Lesson order on the website, flexibility is provided such that:

- Bidding suits first – start with Lesson 4 One-Level Opening Bids and include any of the mini lessons to make up the lesson (see [Appendix A](#) for examples)
- Have Declarer Play and Defence Play topics as mini units to either teach separately or all together as you wish (maybe as revision in Supervised Sessions)
- Mini Lessons could be used as a short lesson before a Supervised Session

1 MiniBridge

- MiniBridge can be used to simplify the bidding and so allow a greater focus on playing the hand straight away. This can be especially useful in the first few lessons while students get used to terminology, roles and etiquette.

2 Trick Taking

- To save time in the first lesson, and especially if only 1 or 2 in the class have not played a trick taking game (eg 500, whist, euchre), then consider giving students the Trick Taking Notes a week or two before the first lesson. (These reference the No Fear Bridge website & MininBridge Parts 1 & 2 videos)

Teacher Notes / Options

3: Declarer Play in a Suit Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will you teach 1 major 4 major is strong or weak? Notes assume MiniBridge is used for the bidding in this lesson. If not using MiniBridge then prompt students as to how bidding should go before they play the deals (ie if teaching weak just say Opener is in game, if teaching strong then typically 1 major 4 major)
4: 1 level Opening Bids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes teach Better Minor. Teacher can choose Short Club• Option to teach Rule of 20• Notes recommend 1 major 4 major as weak bid but the teacher may prefer to teach as strong bid
5: Responder's Limit Bids & Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An invite of a major can be done with 3 in the suit (not 4)• We believe most small clubs will prefer to teach the standard approach but the modern way is to teach 1 major 1NT as 6-11 HCP (some 6-12 HCP). Different ranges are included in the notes• Notes recommend Responder bids the lower of two 4 card suits even if one them is a major
6: Responder's New Suit Bids & Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes recommend Responder bids the lower of two 4 card suits even if one them is a major
7: Balanced Hands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes have open 1NT if balanced and leave it to the teacher if they want add additional rules• Notes include Stayman & Transfers but Teacher Notes also include "simple" bidding if do not wish to teach these conventions at this stage• Notes do not teach that a shortage for the Stayman bid is required.
8: Overcalls and Doubles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notes advocate bidding to the level of fit

Supervised Session Hands (*in Improver Material*)

To help clubs run Supervised Sessions, Deal Analysis and Deal Files have been provided. Additional suitable material from other teachers &/or clubs is welcomed.

Improver Lessons (*in Improver Material*)

These can be taught in any order. Not all will have Hand Analysis and Deal Files.

Themed Hands (*in Community Material*)

Deal Analysis and Deal files are provided on specific topics by the Teaching Community. Additional suitable material from other teachers &/or clubs is welcome.

Mentoring

Often, if you are an inexperienced teacher, you will benefit from having a chat with a more experienced teacher. If this appeals to you then contact education@bridgensw.com.au

Appendix A: Bidding Suit First Approach Examples

NZ Bridge	BNSW Lesson / Unit
Intro to Bridge	Lesson 1
1-Level Opening Bids	Lesson 4
Drawing Trumps	Mini Unit Drawing Trumps / Lesson 3
Responder's Limit Bids	Lesson 5
Distribution/Shortage Points	Mini Unit Distribution Points
Responder's New Suit Bids	Lesson 6
Opening Leads	Mini Unit Leads / Lesson 9
Balanced Hands	Lesson 7
Length	Mini Unit Length / Lesson 2
High from Short Hand	Mini Unit High from Short Hand / Lesson 2
Responder Rebids	<i>Not covered - Improver</i>
Ruffing in Short Hand	Mini Unit Ruffing in Short Hand / Lesson 3
Overcalls	Lesson 8
Scoring	Mini Unit Scoring / Bidding Levels
Takeout Doubles	Lesson 8

Trump - Beginners' Bridge	BNSW Lesson / Unit
Basic	Lesson 1
Scoring	Mini Unit Scoring / Bidding Levels
Leads	Mini Unit Leads
2nd Hand Low	Mini Unit Second Hand Low
3rd Hand High	Mini Unit Third Hand High
Early Bidding	Lesson 4
Drawing Trumps	Mini Unit Drawing Trumps
Game Plan	Mini Unit Scoring Mini Unit Distribution (shortage) Points Lesson 5 (Responding with a Fit)
High from Shorter Side	Mini Unit High from the Short Side
Responder Shifts	Lesson 6
Promotion	Mini Unit Force Out
Opening INT	Lesson 4 / Lesson 7
Length	Mini Unit Length
Overcalls / Doubles	Lesson 8
Finesses	Mini Unit Finesse