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Opening Extract from...

Play Bridge in 10 Minutes

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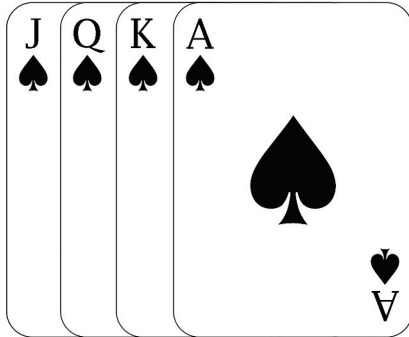
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*Cartoons hand coloured, using
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Ace, King, Queen and Jack are called Honour Cards. Sometimes the Ten is considered an Honour Card when it's accompanied by the Jack. Spades, Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs are the suits and rank down in that order. Spades and Hearts are called major suits; Diamonds and Clubs are minor suits.

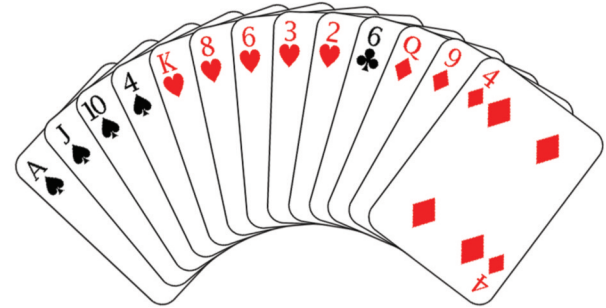


Judging your hand

You do this by counting your points. Here's how it works:

Jack	1 point
Queen	2 points
King	3 points
Ace	4 points

If your hand looks like this, how many points do you have?



The answer is 10 points, an average hand.

As each pack amounts to 40 points, you'll need at least 12 points to make an opening bid. Each pair bids against the other to win the contract. Just like at Sotheby's, the prize goes to the highest bidder.



*"Shame he can't play
Bridge like he shuffles."*

Bidding

The two partnerships bid against each other to decide who will make the contract, which suit will be Trumps, or whether there will be no Trumps. No Trumps is a higher bid than a suit bid.

Trumps

A suit that has been chosen as the master suit is called the Trump suit. If a suit has been led in which you hold no cards, you may use a card from the Trump suit to trump the trick. If another player does not play a higher Trump card, the trick is yours.

No Trumps

If no master suit has been chosen, all suits are equal.



*"It's 9 pm Robert. We're
here to play Bridge."*

Like Golf, Bridge is a game where a lifetime of practice is never enough. Maybe this helps to explain their enduring popularity. However, Bridge will always have the edge because Bridge is played at Golf Clubs whereas Golf is never played at Bridge Clubs.