



Weekly Bridge Quiz #35

August 29, 2025



Both the pros' answers and ChatGPT's answers for this quiz are listed below. On the last page, checkout the Recap sheet showing your answers compared with Chat's answers. Compare with your partner(s) and discuss the questions where you differ. Helps to be on the same page.

Q1: Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- Q H- Q J 10 4 D- A Q J 7 5 C- A 9 7

As dealer, what call would you make?

Pros' Answer: This is the kind of hand that caused the ACBL to change the rules and allow an opening 1NT bid with a singleton. We prefer a higher singleton, so we would open 1D.

ChatGPT: Bid 1 ♦

Analysis /

Count: 16 HCP. Distribution 1 ♠-4 ♥-5 ♦-3 ♣. The hand is unbalanced (singleton ♠) with a **five-card ♦ suit** and an Ace of clubs and a good sequence in ♦ (A-Q-J). With 16 HCP and a clear 5-card suit, this is a textbook **one-level suit opening** rather than 1NT: you have both high card strength and distributional value to justify showing a suit. Opening the 5-card ♦ at the one level (1 ♦) lets partner find a fit or place the contract; it also preserves room to describe shape on the rebid.

Why not 1 ♥? You have 4 ♥ but the longest suit is ♦ (5); standard modern practice is to open longest suit (and with 5 ♦ /4 ♥ you should open 1 ♦). Why not 1NT? A 1NT opening typically promises a relatively balanced shape — this hand is unbalanced (singleton ♠) and contains a 5-card suit and extra playing strength, so 1NT would misrepresent shape.

Modern Expert Opinion (with modern conventions)

- **Open 1 ♦**. This accurately shows your 5-card ♦ suit and keeps room for partner to respond.
- **If partner replies 1 ♥ (4-card major preference):** you have found an 8-card fit.
- **If partner replies 1 ♠ (or 1NT):** you can rebid 1NT only if your agreement treats 1NT rebid as 16–18 and you accept an unbalanced hand slightly; however the safer, clearer choice is 2 ♦ (showing 5 ♦ and playing strength).
- **If responder raises ♦ or shows a fit,** you will happily compete toward game — your side likely has the strength and distribution for 4 ♦ or possibly 4 ♥ if partner has a 4-card ♥ fit and extra values.
- **If opponents interfere,** your hand is well placed to bid on (you have controls and a solid 5-card suit) — treat doubles/competitions according to partnership but **do not** convert this to a penalty action; it's a constructive opening.

Notes

- Primary principle: **show longest suit first**. Five \spadesuit + 16 HCP = 1 \spadesuit open. Keep in mind partnership style: if you play “four-card major first” where you open a 4-card major ahead of a longer minor, some would open 1 \heartsuit . That is an acceptable alternative only if that is your firm agreement; otherwise open 1 \spadesuit .
- Rebid style: with 5-card suit and 16 HCP, a 2 \spadesuit rebid after a 1-level response is the natural way to show both length and values (and avoids misstating shape with 1NT).

Likely Contract

1 \spadesuit (then depending on responder: 2 \spadesuit / raise to 3 \spadesuit / 4 \spadesuit) — Practical final contract at most tables: 4 \spadesuit if partner has normal support; otherwise a part-score in \spadesuit (e.g., 2 \spadesuit / 3 \spadesuit). For expert pairs expecting to hunt for major fits you might end up in 4 \heartsuit only if partner shows a 4-card \heartsuit fit and extra values; otherwise expect the final contract to be 4 \spadesuit (if game) or a \spadesuit part-score.

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Q2: North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- K Q J 6 2 H- J 6 3 D- 7 6 C- K 9 3

As dealer, what call would you make?

Pros' Answer: At any other vulnerability, we would slide a club in with our spades and open 2S. At this vulnerability, **Pass**.

ChatGPT: **Bid Pass**

Analysis

- High card points (HCP): 10.
- Shape: 5–3–2–3 (balanced-ish but with a 5-card major).
- Opening bid range: Normally need 12 HCP or Rule of 20.
 - *Rule of 20:* (HCP 10) + (length of 2 longest suits 5+3 = 8) = 18 → too low.
 - *Rule of 22 (with quick tricks):* Also fails.

This hand falls short of standard opening requirements. With 10 HCP and no favorable distribution, it's not enough for a first- or third-seat opener, especially vulnerable.

Modern Expert Opinion

- **Pass:** The correct action as dealer, vulnerable, is to pass.
- **Light opening?** Some modern pairs will stretch to a 1♠ opener non-vulnerable in third seat to be obstructive. But in first seat, vulnerable, experts would *not* open this hand.
- **If partner opens:** You're well-placed to respond (you have 10 HCP and a good spade suit).

Notes

- This is a classic “just under an opener” hand. In first or second seat, vulnerable, pass is clear.
- If white-on-red (favorable vulnerability) and in third seat, some experts might shade an opening with the spade suit to preempt opponents, but not here.

Likely Contract

- After a pass, partner may find an opening bid; likely contracts could be part-score in spades, notrump, or possibly a spade game if partner has extras.
- On your own, you have no opening action.

Recommended call as South (dealer): Pass.

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Q3: East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- Q 7 H- A 10 7 6 4 2 D- 10 9 8 7 C- 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
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2H	Pass	3C	Pass
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What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Partner's bid is forcing and augers a misfit for hearts. Bid your other suit. Bid 3D.

ChatGPT: Bid Pass

Analysis

You opened **2♥** (weak 2). The hand is classic: 6-card suit, 6–10 HCP, vulnerable, with a good top honor (A♥). You did your job: preempt.

Partner now bids **3♣** — this is **natural and forcing** in most expert partnerships (over a weak 2, a new suit is forcing). Partner has values and is interested in game, or at least exploring.

Your hand: minimum, no extra distributional shape, no fit in clubs, no secondary suit, and you've already fully described your hand with the weak 2 opening.

Modern Expert Opinion (with modern conventions)

- **Pass** is the expert call. Partner is allowed to take another call if strong enough, but you should not continue. You've shown your hand.
- Rebidding hearts (**3♥**) would exaggerate — it suggests some extra playing strength. You already promised a 6-card suit, and your ♥ texture is mediocre outside of the Ace.
- Supporting clubs (raising to **4♣**) would be wildly misleading — you have only one club.
- A double or 3NT are out of the question.
- Modern style: once opener shows a weak 2, *any* further action must be based on clear extra playing strength (e.g., side suit, singleton, extra high cards). Here you have **nothing more** to say.

Notes

- Partner's **3♣** bid is forcing and keeps the auction alive — if partner is strong enough, they will bid again. Your pass does not end the auction.
- Remember: opener of a weak 2 should be disciplined — “announce your hand and then get out of the way.”
- If your partnership agreement instead treats **3♣** as “non-forcing, to play” (rare at expert level), then passing is still right — you have no alternative.

Likely Contract

If partner is strong, the deal may end in **3NT**, **4♥**, or **5♣**.

Your action now: **Pass**

Q4: Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:





S- A K 5	H- A 8 5 3	D- A K J 6	C- 9 7
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1D	Pass	1S	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: This hand is strong enough for a reverse bid of 2H, but that would promise 5 diamonds. Bid 2NT.

ChatGPT: Bid 2NT



Analysis

You opened 1  with a **22-point powerhouse** (three Aces and K in spades, AKJ in ). Partner responded 1 , showing at least 4  and 6+ points.



You now must make a strong rebid:

- Minimum rebids are inappropriate (you are far above a normal opener).
- You need to show extras and keep the auction forcing.



Options:

- **2NT rebid** = 18–19 balanced (too weak; you're stronger).
- **Jump to 3NT** = 19–21 balanced (still an underbid).
- **Jump shift to 3 ** = game force, but bypasses NT strength description.
- **Reverse into 2 ** = strong, unbalanced hand (but undervalues your points—you're too big).
- **2NT (planning to raise later)**: common expert choice — start with 2NT (suggesting 18–19), then raise later to show extras.
- Alternatively, use **jump to 2NT as 18–21, then invite slam later with quantitative tools**.

Modern Expert Opinion (with modern conventions)

- The cleanest expert rebid is **2NT**. It keeps the auction low, describes strength (balanced with diamonds stopped), and allows partner to clarify values.
- Yes, you are slightly stronger than “textbook 18–19 NT,” but the expert method is to start with **2NT** and then upgrade later if partner shows interest.
- **A direct 3NT** risks shutting down exploration for slam.
- **A reverse into 2 ** is playable but inferior: your hand is better evaluated as balanced with huge HCP, not unbalanced.
- With modern tools (new minor forcing, checkback Stayman), partner can still explore for the right strain.
- If partner later shows values (game force), you will drive toward **6NT** or **6 ** depending on fit.

Notes

- You are too strong to downgrade this to a normal invitational sequence.
- Best expert practice: understate a bit with 2NT, then catch up.
- After 2NT, partner may use **checkback Stayman / new minor forcing** to ask about  length. You can then show 4 .

Likely Contract

Most expert pairs will end in **6NT** (23+ balanced HCP between you) or **6♠** if partner has 4+ spades and some strength.

Your immediate call: **2NT**.

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Q5: North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- 2 H- Q 10 6 D- Q 9 6 3 C- J 9 8 7 4

Partner opens 1S and right-hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: Some would pass, but we bid 1NT. With any luck, partner will bid a new suit at the 2 level and we will have improved the contract.

ChatGPT: Bid 1NT

Analysis

You hold 5 HCP (Q♥, Q♦) and a singleton ♠ opposite partner's opening. Your hand is weak but has 5 clubs and 4 diamonds, so it's unbalanced with a singleton.

Possible responses:

- 1NT (semi-forcing in modern methods, 6–9 HCP, no fit)
- 2♣ (natural, but only 5 HCP, too weak to bid a new suit at the two-level unless game-forcing)
- 2♦ (same problem — promises 10+ in most modern systems)
- 2♠ (raising partner with only one small spade would be a gross misrepresentation)
- Pass is not an option opposite an opening — you must respond with something.

Correct expert action is 1NT. With 5 HCP, no spade fit, and stoppers outside, this is the textbook semi-forcing 1NT response (shows 6–9, denies spade support, may be balanced or a weak misfit hand).

Modern Expert Opinion (with modern conventions)

- **Bid 1NT.** In modern systems, this is semi-forcing (partner can pass with a true minimum or rebid naturally). It is the “catch-all” for hands too weak to respond at the 2-level but not suitable to pass.
- You absolutely do not invent a 2♣ or 2♦ — those are reserved for 10+ points in most expert agreements.
- Do not raise spades with a singleton — misleading.
- Vulnerable: conservative description is important — 1NT keeps the auction under control.
- After 1NT, partner may rebid 2♠ with 6+ cards and minimum strength; or invite/game with extras.

Notes

- Responder with 5–9 HCP and no fit uses 1NT as the safety valve.
- In older “forcing NT” systems, opener must bid again; in semi-forcing (more common now), opener may pass if minimum balanced with no better option.

Likely Contract

Most often the auction will end in 1NT or 2♠, depending on opener's rebid.

At expert tables: 1NT or 2♠ are the likely final contracts.

Q6: East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

S- A 3 H- Q J 6 D- J 10 8 7 4 C- A 10 3

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1S Pass 2S ?

What call would you make?

Pros' Answer: If you pass, you may end up defending at the 2 level, and you don't want that. Double (X), for takeout.

ChatGPT: Bid X for Takeout

Analysis

Partner (West) opened **1♠** and East raised to **2♠** (limit raise or simple raise depending on style). You, as South, are in the balancing seat.

Your hand: **13 HCP**, with balanced distribution **2♠-3♥-5♦-3♣**. You have good controls (**♠A**, **♣A**) and a 5-card **♦** suit, but no major fit.

Decisions:

- **Pass:** conservative, but you may be letting them buy a comfortable part-score. Vulnerability favors competing if reasonable.
- **Double:** in this position is “takeout” (not penalty). You have support for the unbid suits **♥** and **♦**, plus tolerance for **♣**. This is the best descriptive call.
- **2NT:** would show 18–19 balanced, too strong for this hand.
- **3♦:** natural, but shows a long suit and typically more shape. Your **♦** suit (J 10 8 7 4) is weak; not the right descriptive choice.

Modern Expert Opinion (with modern conventions) /

- The expert call is **Double** (takeout). You have opening values, shortness in their suit (only 2 **♠**), and support for all other suits. This is textbook balancing action.
- Partner, knowing you are balancing, will not overvalue your strength. North can:
 - Bid 3 **♥** with length,
 - Bid 3 **♦** with a fit,
 - Or leave it if penalty doubles are agreed later in the sequence.
- Passing risks missing your vulnerable game in **♥**, **♦**, or even NT.

Notes

- Vulnerability is key: they are E-W vulnerable, so pushing them up may gain a part-score swing or lead to a good penalty.
- Your double is not “penalty” — you don't have the trump stack for that. It's takeout, showing extras and shape.
- If you and partner play **Support Doubles** or other competitive gadgets, the takeout double here is still standard.

Likely Contract

If you double, partner will likely choose **♥** or **♦**. Final contracts might be **3♥**, **3♦**, or defending **2♠** doubled if partner converts.

At expert tables: **Double** is routine, with the final contract most often **3♥** or **3♦**.

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Recap for Weekly Bridge Quiz #35 using ChatGPT bid answers - 2025								
#	Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total Matches
	Expert:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	1NT	X	
	Expert2:							
1	Al S:	1D	Pass	3H	2NT	Pass	Pass	3
2	Annie D:	1D	Pass	3H	2NT	Pass	X	4
3	Betty G:	1D	Pass	3H	3NT	1NT	Pass	3
4	Betty W:	1D	1S	3H	2NT	Pass	Pass	2
5	Bill B:	1D	Pass	3H	2NT	Pass	Pass	3
6	Bill S:	1H	Pass	Pass	3H	1NT	Pass	3
7	Bob P:	1D	Pass	3D	3S	Pass	Pass	2
8	Candace:	1D	Pass	Pass	3H	Pass	Pass	3
9	Charlene:	1D	1S	3H	2NT	1NT	Pass	3
10	Cheryl S:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	X	5
11	Dean L:	1H	Pass	3D	2NT	1NT	X	4
12	Denny:	1D	Pass	3H	2NT	1NT	3D	4
13	Diane M:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3D	4
14	Donald R:	1D	Pass	3H	2NT	1NT	X	5
15	Doris M:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	X	5
16	Doris W:	1D	Pass	3D	2H	Pass	X	3
17	Dwayne/Marcia:	1D	Pass	3D	3H	Pass	3D	2
18	Dwight S:	1D	1S	X	2H	2C	3D	1
19	Elaine S:	1D	1S	Pass	3H	1NT	Pass	3
20	Fran B:	1D	Pass	3H	2NT	Pass	Pass	3
21	Francine:	1D	Pass	3H	2NT	1NT	Pass	4
22	George R:	1D	Pass	3H	2H	Pass	Pass	2
23	Greg F:	1D	Pass	3D	2NT	Pass	Pass	3
24	Jackie R:	1NT	1S	Pass	4S	1NT	3D	2
25	Jean C:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	3D	4
26	Jeannine:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	X	5
27	Jim P:	1D	1S	3D	2NT	Pass	Pass	2
28	Joseph H:	1NT	Pass	Pass	2NT	1NT	3D	4
29	Larry M:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	1NT	X	6
30	Lowell L:	1D	Pass	3D	2H	Pass	X	3
31	Marge G:	1D	Pass	3H	2H	Pass	3D	2
32	Marilyn H:	1D	1S	3H	2NT	Pass	Pass	2
33	Maureen M:	1D	Pass	3D	2H	Pass	X	3
34	Michael F:	1D	Pass	3D	2NT	Pass	Pass	3
35	Nancy S:	1D	Pass	Pass	3S	1NT	X	5
36	Phil M:	1D	Pass	3H	2H	Pass	Pass	2
37	Phyllis/Rusty:	1NT	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	X	4

38	Rick W:	1D	Pass	3H	4S	1NT	3D	3
39	Robert T:	1D	Pass	Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass	4
40	Roland:	1D	Pass	Pass	4S	Pass	Pass	3
41	Steve C:	1D	Pass	3D	2NT	Pass	3D	3
42	Susan D:	1D	Pass	Pass	3S	Pass	Pass	3
43	Warren T:	1D	Pass	Pass	2H	Pass	X	4