

Module 9: Overcalls - Practice Hands

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

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

EW 2♠; EW 3♣; EW 1N; EW 2♦; NS 1♥;

Par -110: EW 2♠=; EW 3♣=

West	North	East	South
	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	2 ♥
All pass			

After the opening and response, West has 11 HCP and a good ♣ suit, so they overcall 2 ♣.

North may pass with a minimum hand but South should compete bidding 2 ♥ with their 3-card support, as they expect partner most likely has 5 ♥s.

East leads: ♣ K (high-low doubleton in partner's suit).

2 ♥ can go down, but it's a better score than if the opponents make 2 ♣.

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

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

NS 2♠; EW 2♥; NS 1♦; NS 1♣;

Par +100: EW 3♥x-1

West	North	East	South
		1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥	All pass

With South's 1 ♠ overcall, N/S and E/W compete for the contract up to 3 ♥.

Lead: ♣ J (South should not lead ♠s as this gives away a trick to the opp's, ♣ J top of sequence is a great alternative lead).

With good defence, the 3 ♥ contract can be defeated. It makes 8 tricks, i.e. down 1, but this is still a better score for EW than defending 2 ♠.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

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

NS 5♥; NS 4N; NS 4♠; NS 4♦; NS 2♣;

Par +450: NS 4♥+1

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

Too strong for a 1 NT opening, North opens 1 ♦.

East overcalls 2 ♣.

With 10+ HCP South can respond 2 ♥, which also shows a 5+-card suit. Their partner with 3-card ♥ support raises to game, as they know their side has at least 25 points.

West leads: ♣ 9 (high-low doubleton in partner's suit).

The ♣ lead and continuation creates a ♣ loser that Declarer can pitch on the top ♦s.

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

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

EW 4♥; NS 2♠; EW 3♦; NS 2♣;

Par -500: NS 4♠x-2

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

After the opponent's opening and raise, South has a good hand for a 2 ♠ overcall.

West's has more than minimum so they raise to 3 ♥s to invite game and East accepts with a maximum for their bid.

North leads: ♠ 6 (top of doubleton) South takes the ♠ K and ♠ A, dropping the ♠ Q and continues a J♠. If Declarer carelessly ruffs low, their contract can go down.

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Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

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

E 5N; EW 5♥; W 4N; EW 5♣; EW 3♠; EW 4♦;
Par -460: E 3N+2

West overcalls 1 NT (15-

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All pass

18 HCP with a ♠ stopper). East, opposite the 1 NT overcall, with 11 HCP, can work out their side has enough for game and raises to 3 NT.

Lead: ♠ 10 (high-low, doubleton in partner's suit).

With South's 1 NT, Declarer knows almost all the HCP are there. They cross to dummy with ♣ K and finesse South's ♥ K.

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

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

NS 3♠; EW 1N; EW 1♥; W 1♦; EW 1♣;
Par +140: NS 2♠+1

North's 1 NT overcall shows

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1 ♥	1 NT	Pass	2 ♠
All pass			

a stronger hand than a 1 NT opening - 15-18 HCP with stopper(s) in the opponent's suit.

South has a weak takeout to 2 ♠, which should play a lot better than 1 NT.

West leads: ♥ A

NS can make 9 tricks in ♠s contract, but can't make even 7 tricks in NT, if defended well.

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

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

EW 4♠; EW 3N; EW 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 2♣;
Par -620: EW 4♠=

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 NT	All pass

North should not bid after their opponent's 1 ♠ opening. When you have a good holding in the opponent's suit, it is normally best to pass.

Lead: ♥ 3

With the good inter-mediate cards in the ♠ suit, Declarer is best to play on that suit, where they can establish an extra three tricks to make their 3 NT contract.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

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

NS 6♥; NS 5N; NS 2♦; NS 1♠; NS 1♣;
Par +980: NS 6♥=

West	North	East	South
1 NT	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All pass			

North has a good hand to overcall 2 ♥ over the 1 NT opening and South has plenty to bid onto the game in 4 ♥.

East leads ♠ 10, top of a sequence.

Declarer knows West must have almost all of the outstanding high card points for their opening bid, so they win the ♠ A, and then leads the ♥ J to finesse West's ♥ K.