

Passing through

Of course with few points you will often have to pass , but sometimes you also have to pass even when you have a good hand.

i)The opponents open your best suit

e.g	N	E	S	W
	1S	?		
		AJxxx		
		KJ		
		Ax		
		xxxx		

Here East has 13 pts and quite possibly the best hand at the table. Unfortunately North has bid 1Sp which makes it difficult for East to come up with a bid. If East was to bid , the main {flawed } possibilities would be :-

- a) 1NT BUT this shows 15-17
- b) Double BUT this shows a shortage in the bid suit {spades} and length in the other suits.

Neither of these above bids work very well and in the long run you are better sticking to the rules and bidding *Pass* with such a hand.

Such *Passes* used to be termed *trap-passes* . The idea was that you would stay quiet and the opponents would bid too high and you might even be able to double them for penalties later in the auction. It has to be said that the opponents don't seem to fall into the trap as often as you would hope but that really is neither here nor there. You have to *Pass* on such hands as there is no other sensible bid available.

ii)The opponents open when you were going to open 1NT

e.g	N	E	S	W
	1H	?		
		AJxx		
		KJx		
		Axx		
		xxx		

If you had been the dealer you would have opened 1NT. Unfortunately you can't overcall with a bid of 1NT as that would show 15-17. Neither can you make a take-out double as you have the wrong shape. *Pass* is the correct call.

iii)The opponents open with a strong call

e.g	N	E	S	W
	2NT	?		
		AJ		
		KJxxxx		
		Axxx		
		x		

Your hand isn't bad of course but really it is just too rich to try and come in when an opponent is known to hold 20+ pts. You have to grin and bear it and bid *Pass*.