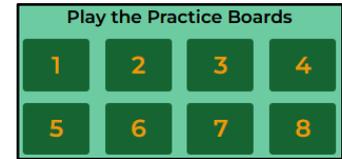


Using the Practice Boards

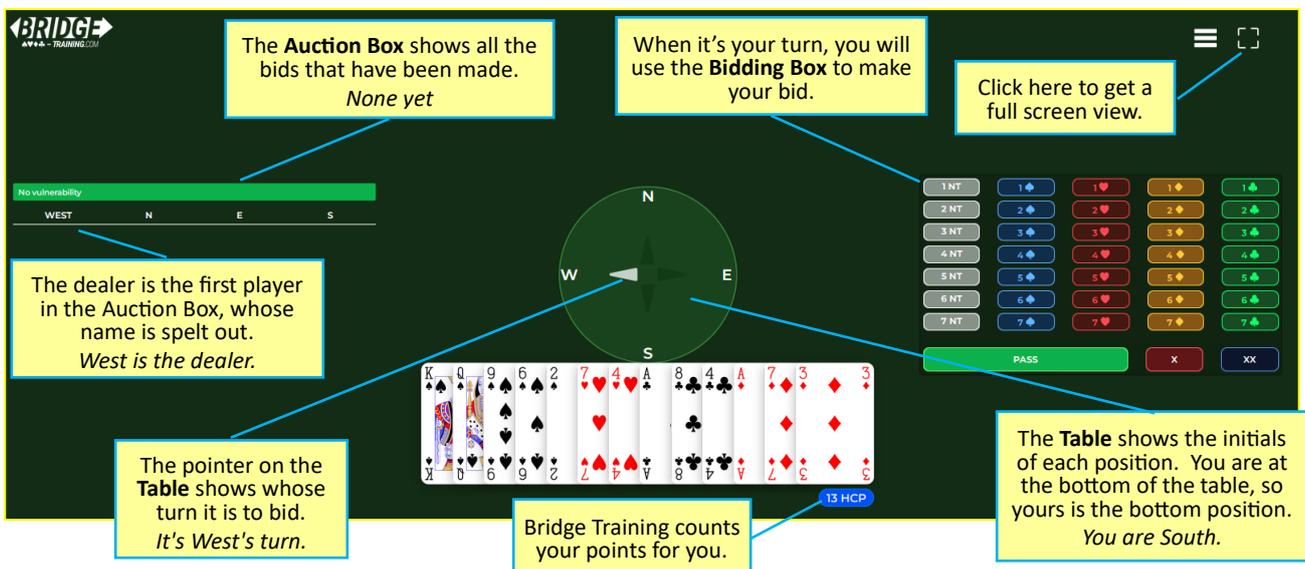
You can practise online on your own after each lesson, bidding and playing any or all the boards again and reading my notes about them. The links to them are on your Student Resources page of the BridgeWithNick website.

To play a board, just click on its link. This will take you to **BridgeTraining**, a French website (with an English-language version!). It is free and you do not have to register; you can play each board as often as you want.



BIDDING

At the start, you will see something like this:



The **Auction Box** shows all the bids that have been made.
None yet

When it's your turn, you will use the **Bidding Box** to make your bid.

Click here to get a full screen view.

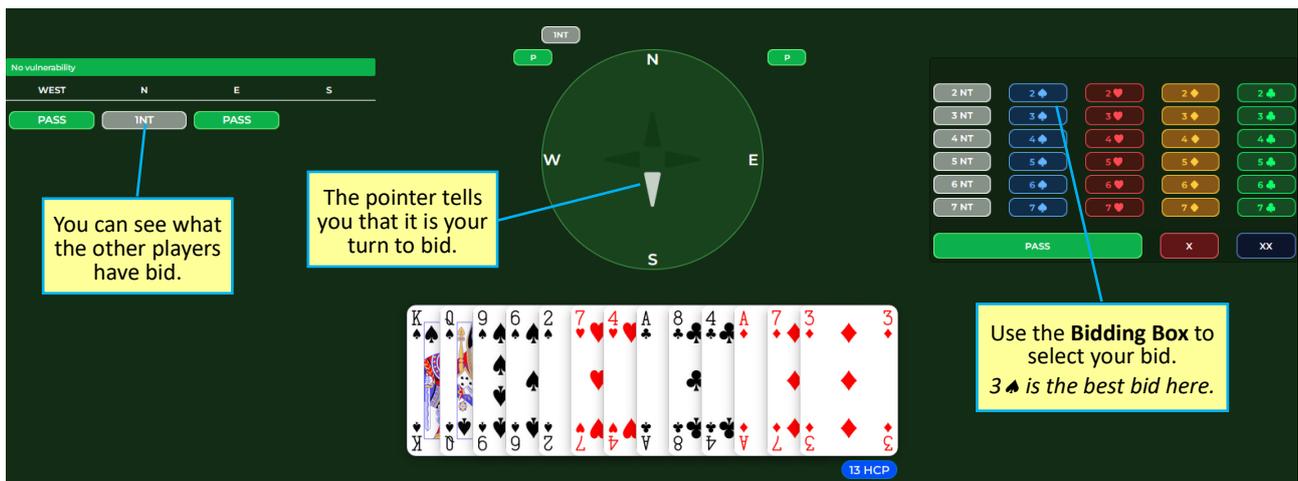
The dealer is the first player in the Auction Box, whose name is spelt out.
West is the dealer.

The pointer on the **Table** shows whose turn it is to bid.
It's West's turn.

Bridge Training counts your points for you.

The **Table** shows the initials of each position. You are at the bottom of the table, so yours is the bottom position.
You are South.

Bridge Training very quickly makes the other players' bids. Then you will see something like this:



You can see what the other players have bid.

The pointer tells you that it is your turn to bid.

Use the **Bidding Box** to select your bid.
3♠ is the best bid here.

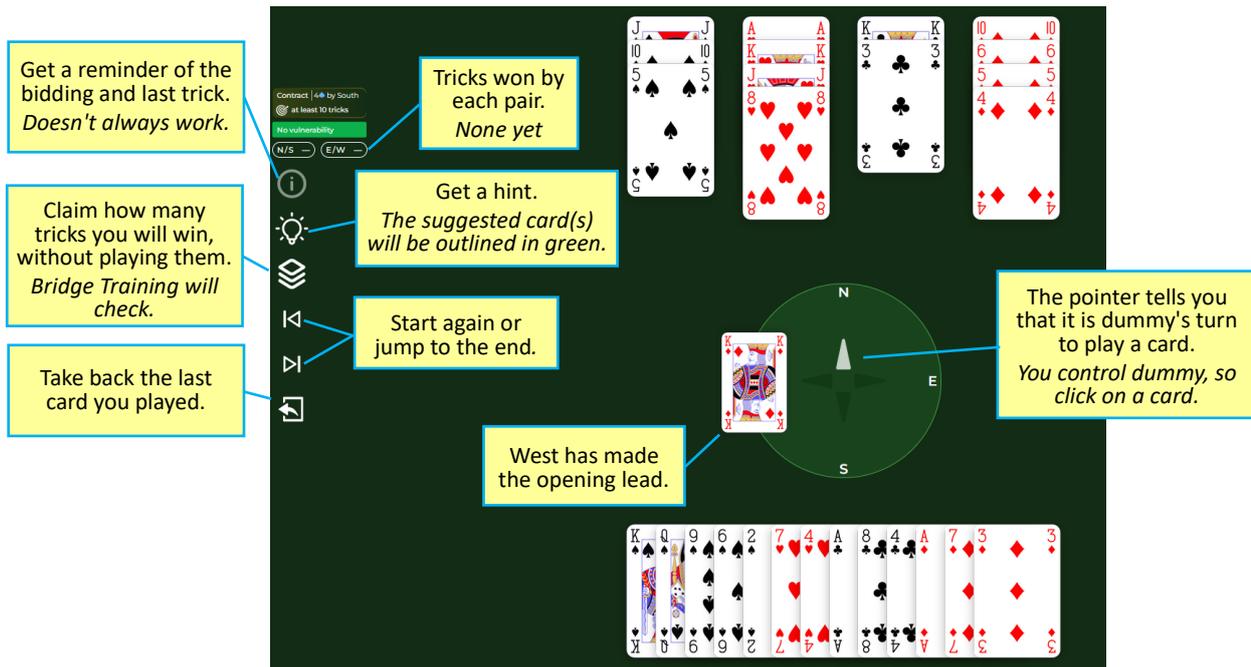
WRONG !
There is a better bid...

Bridge Training only allows the bid that I have set for it. If yours is not a match, it will tell you so – brutally! If your second attempt also doesn't match it will just make the set bid for you. So you can never end up in the wrong contract.

Carry on until the auction is over.

PLAY

You will usually be the declarer so that you can practise declarer play. You will see something like this:



After each trick, all four cards will stay on the table until you click once anywhere on the screen to signal that you are ready for the next trick.

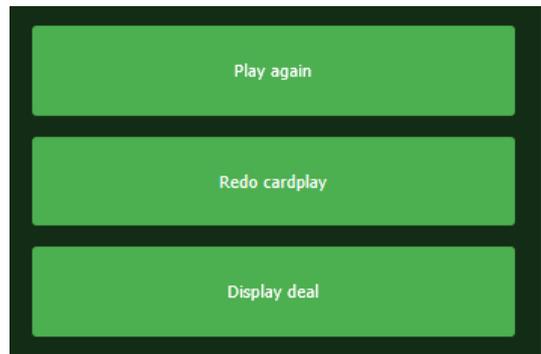
At the end of the play, you will see three options.

Play again returns to the start of the bidding.

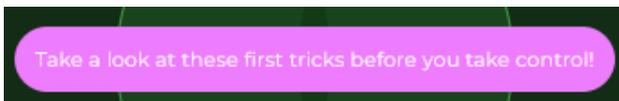
Redo cardplay returns to the start of the play.

Display deal shows all four hands and my notes on the bidding and play.

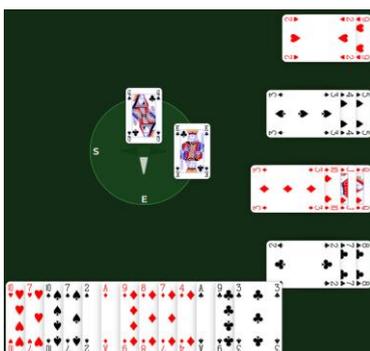
If you want to play another board, exit the Bridge Training website and select a new board on your BridgeWithNick resources page.



Occasional variations



Sometimes, Bridge Training will play your cards for the first few tricks, so that you reach a position that gives you something useful to practise.



Sometimes, you will become the defender so that you can practise defender play. Your cards will still be at the bottom of the screen and dummy will be on your left or right.