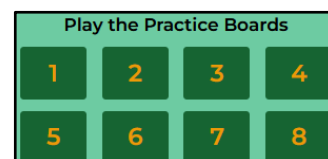


Playing the Practice Boards Online

You can practise online on your own after each lesson, bidding and playing any or all of the boards again and reading my notes about them.

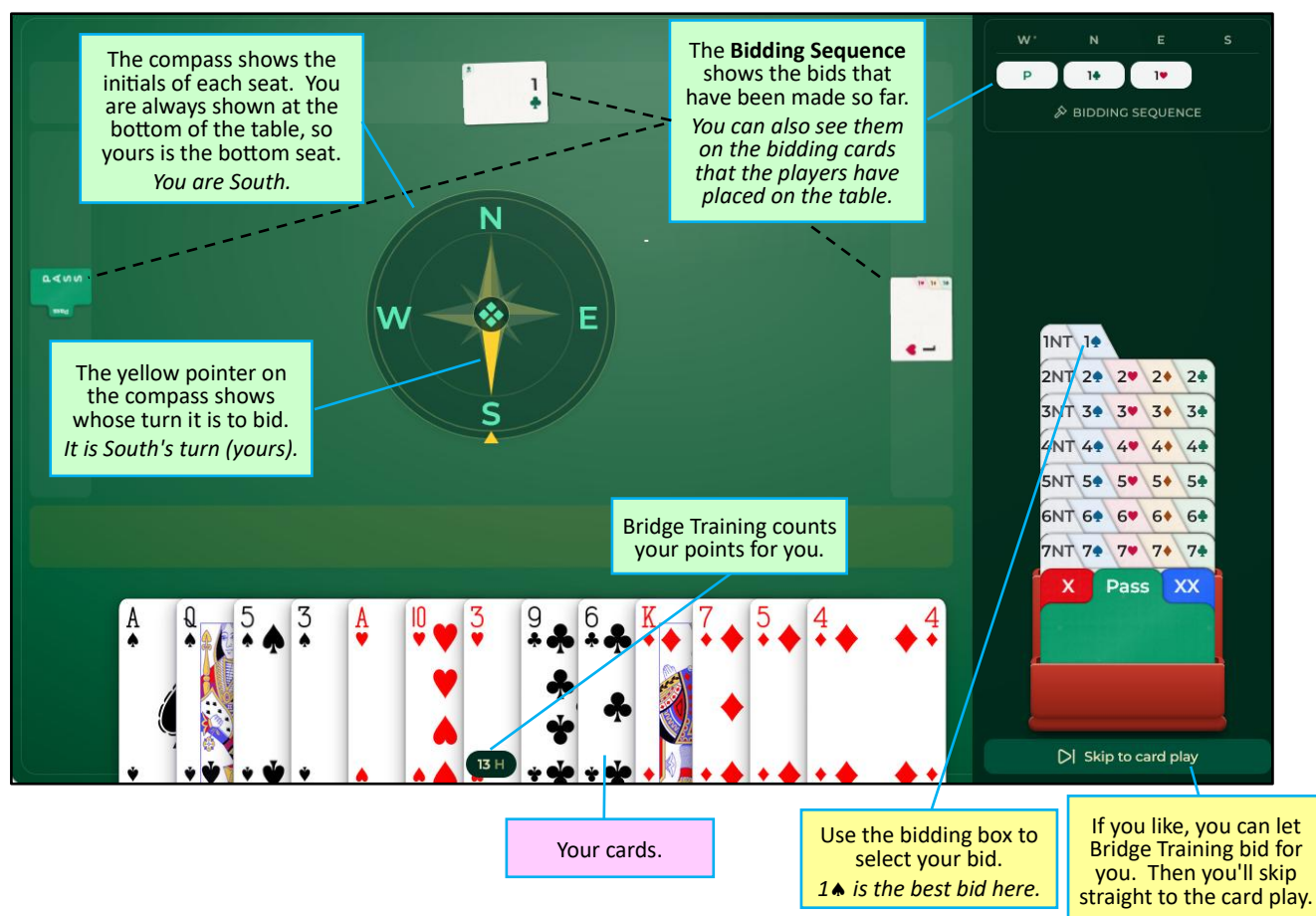
The links to them are on your Student Resources page of the BridgeWithNick website. To play a board, just click on its numbered link.



Clicking on a link will take you to **BridgeTraining**, a French website (with an English-language version!). It is free and you don't have to register. You can play each board as often as you like.

BIDDING

Most boards begin with the bidding. You'll see a screen like this.



The compass shows the initials of each seat. You are always shown at the bottom of the table, so yours is the bottom seat. *You are South.*

The **Bidding Sequence** shows the bids that have been made so far. *You can also see them on the bidding cards that the players have placed on the table.*

The yellow pointer on the compass shows whose turn it is to bid. *It is South's turn (yours).*

Bridge Training counts your points for you.

Your cards.

Use the bidding box to select your bid. *1♠ is the best bid here.*

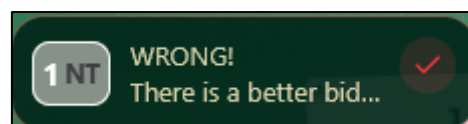
If you like, you can let Bridge Training bid for you. Then you'll skip straight to the card play.

1NT 1♠
2NT 2♣ 2♥ 2♦ 2♠
3NT 3♣ 3♥ 3♦ 3♠
4NT 4♣ 4♥ 4♦ 4♠
5NT 5♣ 5♥ 5♦ 5♠
6NT 6♣ 6♥ 6♦ 6♠
7NT 7♣ 7♥ 7♦ 7♠

X Pass XX

Skip to card play

If your bid doesn't match the one that I have set for BT, it will tell you so (brutally!) and let you try again. If there's still no match, it will just make the set bid for you. So you can never end up in the wrong contract.



BT is programmed to work only with the bids that I have set for it. It may be that your bid is just as good as or even better than mine, but it won't allow you to make it. I'm afraid that you'll just have to accept this.

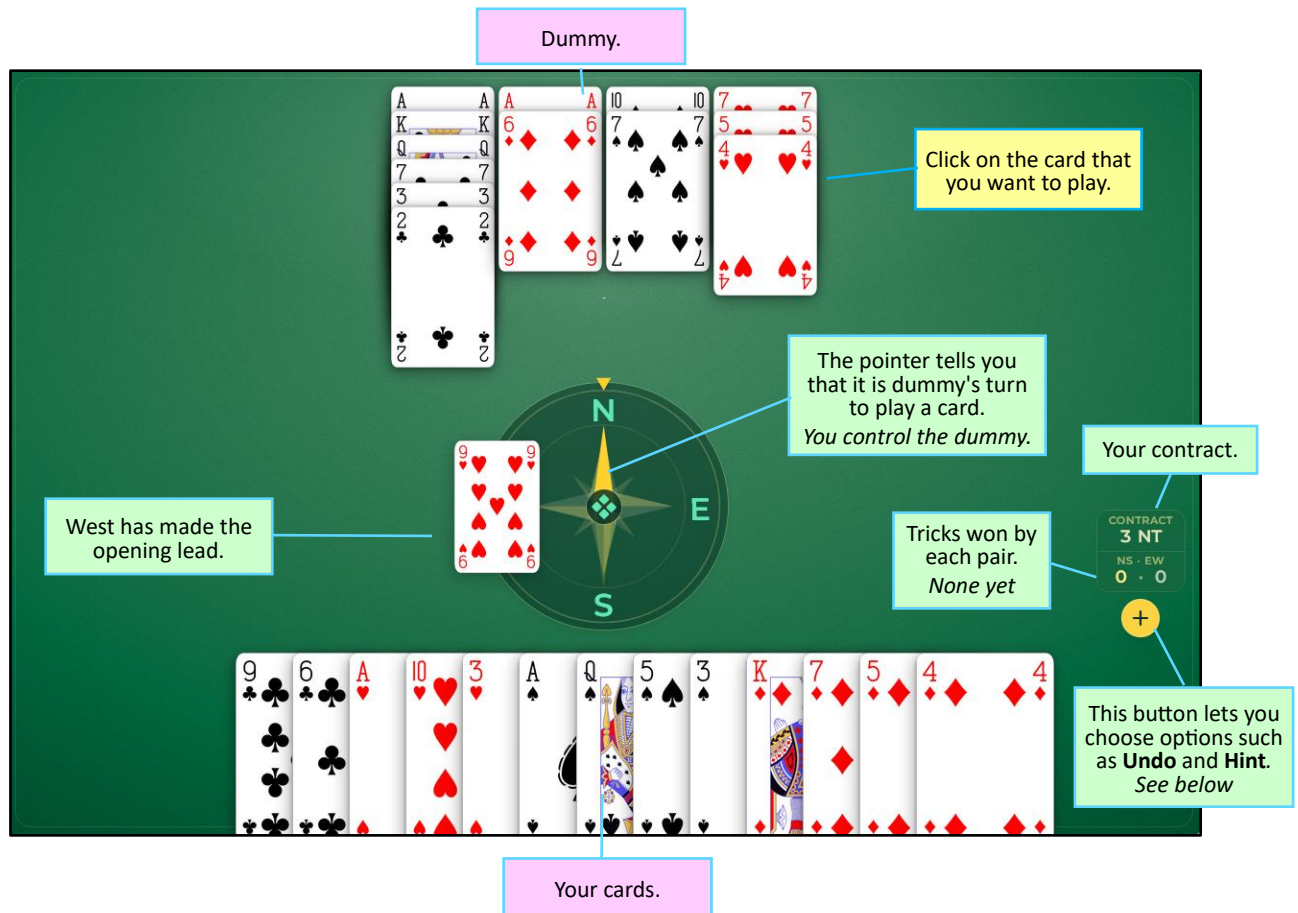
BT will then show you the other players' bids. If they don't all pass, it will be your turn to bid again.



When there have been three consecutive passes, the auction will be over and the card play will begin.

PLAYING THE CARDS

You will usually be the declarer so that you can practise declarer play. You'll see a screen like this.



Click on the card that you want to play from dummy or your hand.

If you make a mistake and want to take a card back, click on the (+) button and **undo** it (see below).

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.

The (+) Button

If you click on it, you will see these options.

Forward Skip the card play and read my notes (see below).

Rewind Restart the card play.

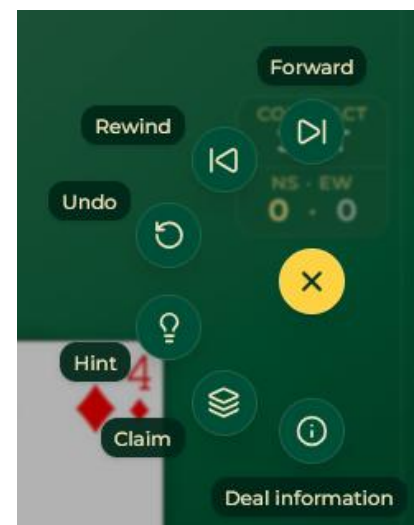
Undo Take back the last card that you or dummy played.

Hint Ask BT to highlight the best card(s) to play now.

Claim Claim how many tricks you will win, without having to play them. BT will check.

Deal Information View the auction again and see the previous tricks (use the < > arrows to move through them).

(X) Hide the options and go back to the card play.



REVIEWING THE PLAY

After the last trick, Bridge Training will show you the review screen.

The screenshot shows a bridge hand review interface. At the top left, a callout states: "Bridge Training will give you up to 3 stars if it thinks you've done well." The score area shows three stars and "+430". Below this, the contract is "3NT · 10 tricks".

The hand is displayed with four players: North (13 HCP), West (5 HCP), East (9 HCP), and South (13 HCP, DECL.). Each player's cards are listed. A central compass rose shows the orientation. To the right of the compass, a callout says: "Lets you bid and play the deal again." Below the compass, there are buttons for "Replay the deal" and "View the tricks". A callout for "View the tricks" says: "Lets you see all the tricks again. Use the < > arrows to move through them."

Below the hand information, there is a "SHARE MY SCORE" section with icons for email, chat, and Facebook. A callout for the chat icon says: "You can read my notes about the deal."

The main text area contains a play analysis: "West leads ♥9 - top of a doubleton in her partner's suit. Declarer has 7 sure tricks and needs 2 more. She can: (a) finesse her ♠Q if East has ♠K 1 extra trick, lose 0 first, probable (because East has bid) (b) set up dummy's long clubs 3 extra tricks if they split 3-2, lose 0 first, probable She chooses the clubs because only they will win enough tricks. Probable outcome: contract made +1".

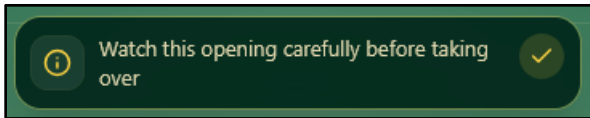
At the bottom right, there is a yellow "Next →" button. A callout for this button says: "Shows you this pop-up window."

The pop-up window at the bottom shows two options: "Replay the deal" and "Play another deal". A callout for "Replay the deal" says: "Lets you bid and play the deal again." A callout for "Play another deal" says: "Lets you bid and play a random deal from Bridge Training's collection. See below." The pop-up also includes a "DIFFICULTY" section with four icons representing increasing difficulty levels, and a "Cancel" button at the bottom.

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

Only choose Bridge Training's *Play another deal* option if you want to play a random deal that has been provided by another teacher and is not matched to your course.

OCCASIONAL VARIATIONS



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



Sometimes, you'll be a defender, not the declarer, so that you can practise defender play.

Your cards will still be at the bottom of the screen and the dummy will be on your left or right.