

## Competing in the Auction when the Opponents Open 1NT

Should I bid or should I pass?

### Use Mel's Rule of 8:

It's sometimes good bridge to make a direct overcall of 1NT using a convention such as DONT. But be careful that you don't get into trouble and get doubled, especially when vulnerable. Here's a helpful guideline:

Add the # of cards in your two longest suits. From that number, Subtract the # of losers in your hand (losers = missing A, K, Q in each suit)

If the result is 2 or more, bid something. If the result is 1 or less, pass. But be sensible. Have at least 6 high card points. (2 + 6 = 8).

Note on loser count: With a singleton we only worry about the Ace, with a doubleton, only the A and K.

AKxxx	One loser — missing the Q
KJxx	Two losers — missing the A and Q
Qxx	Two losers — missing the A and K
x	One loser — missing the A
Qx	Two losers — missing the A and K

### Mel's Rule of 8 Quiz

Your Right Hand Opponent (RHO) opens 1NT and no one's vulnerable. Do you bid or pass with the following hands?

Hand A

♠ QT653

♥ AQ64

♦ 52

♣ 95

Hand B

♠ QJ8

♥ KJ763

♦ K85

♣ A4

Hand C

♠ 8

♥ AQ8642

♦ JT75

♣ 84