



16b: BEST BEHAVIOUR AT BRIDGE



This guide serves as a brief reminder of how to behave at the bridge table.

- Aim to arrive at least 10 minutes before play is due to commence.
- Greet others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round.
- Be a good “host” or “guest” at the table.
- Make bridge enjoyable for yourself, partner and opponents.
- Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play.
- You can compliment partner when he/she has bid or played well, but do not gloat. It’s ugly.
- Take care of your personal grooming.
- Ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.
- Enjoy the company as well as the game.

Table Manners when playing duplicate bridge

The following represents good practice at the bridge table:

- Cards should not be taken out of the board before all players are at the table.
- Before you look at your cards count your hand and ensure that you have exactly thirteen cards.
- Sort and count your cards quickly, so that you can bid promptly when it is your turn.
- Do not sort through your cards again when it is your turn to bid.
- The opening lead should be made face down until it is accepted by partner. This prevents irregularities such as leading when it is not your turn. It also enables your partner to ask any questions about the auction or alerts that have been made.
- As declarer, plan your campaign before you select a card from dummy.
- As declarer, always call for the card you wish dummy to play rather than touch dummy's cards yourself, (unless dummy is away from the table or has a disability, making the play of cards difficult).
- Dummy should not say anything or point to any of dummy's cards during play. The only exception is when declarer is discarding in a suit for the first time, when dummy can say, for example, "having no hearts?"
- As declarer, when you lead to a trick, wait for the next player to play his card before calling a card from dummy.
- Acquire the habit of playing 'smoothly' and in tempo. Avoid mannerisms, meaningful eye contact, sighs, grimaces and using extra words such as –"I guess I need to pass".
- Avoid hesitations by being consistent and deliberate in your bidding. A hesitation followed by a pass places an extra burden on partner to justify continuing with the bidding as this may have communicated information to one's partner.
- If you have a difficult decision you have a right to think but partner cannot take advantage of the knowledge that you had a problem. So if your partner takes time to bid / bids out of tempo and then passes, you should pass too unless that action would be totally illogical considering your hand.
- In play avoid 'snapping' the card or playing with undue emphasis as it may reveal special interest to either partner or opponent.
- The board should be left on the table during the bidding and play of the hand so everyone can see the vulnerability.
- At the end of a hand count your cards and mix them up before replacing them in the board. Do not mix up your cards until the result is agreed with the opponents.
- During play you are not allowed, without permission, to touch or handle your opponents' cards. If necessary ask your opponent to show you a particular card.
- On completion of the play do not hold long post-mortems unless you are clearly well ahead of the other tables.
 - Do not touch other players' cards – ask them to show you.
 - Thank your opponents at the end of the round and move quickly to your new table.