

TIPS ON HOW TO WIN AT BRIDGE

1. The most important skill any bridge player can possess is to be a **good partner**. Bring out the best in your partner by respect and understanding.
2. Show **no emotion** when dummy appears, as opponents will draw inferences from your expressions.
3. Don't dwell on **previous hands**.
4. Think and plan at **trick one**. Any plan is better than no plan!
5. Bid and play in an **even tempo**. You should pause briefly before any bid or play, especially against good opponents.
6. **Concentrate properly**. Switch off when you're dummy, and between sessions.
7. Don't show opponents **your cards**. Hold them well back and put honours and singletons near the centre.
8. Don't be **intimidated**. Show poise, and keep your wits about you
9. Be a **tough competitor**. Don't become inattentive and careless after a bad session.
10. Act **decisively**. Gain a reputation and be alert during the auction.
11. The most experienced partner should **adapt**. Play a basic system and avoid obscure bids.
12. Adhere to your **system**. Develop partnership trust.
13. Be selective in using **conventions**. Use ones that are easy to remember and understand.
14. Don't try for unusual **"brilliant" plays!** Be creative but don't go to extremes.
15. Don't **loose interest** when holding terrible hands, especially v. astute declarers!
16. **No teaching** during the session! Discuss and analyse after the game.
17. Develop a **killer instinct** during the hand.
18. Develop a **positive mental attitude**. Show optimism and confidence.
19. Strive to **improve**. Ask better players; read; compete against good opponents.
20. **Analyse** objectively.
21. Develop a Bridge **sense of humour**. Accept injustices, and partners fallacies!
22. **Evaluate** your contract. If sacrificing, take the sure good score. If you're in an inferior contract, you may need to take risks. Avoid minus 200!
23. Be a **practical player**. Aim for the best result possible rather than the best possible result. e.g. defeat the contract; bid what you can make.
24. Improve your **Bridge etiquette**. Be courteous; be a good sport; Avoid gloating, griping, or talking during a hand.
25. Put it all to **work**. Choose **one** behaviour you want to change, and improve that for five sessions; then choose another area to improve.

From Mike Lawrence's booklet called "Winning Ways"