

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0258:
"A Dozen of Marty Bergen's 'Bidding Conundrums'
for You as Bridge Responder"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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The ideas and questions presented here are drawn from Marty Bergen's article, "Improve Your Bidding Judgment—Part 53", published in the October, 2025 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. (p. 61)

About Bergen

Marty Bergen is a 10-time National Bridge Champion. Bergen has written a column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin since 1976. Two of his **69+** bridge books/booklets have won Best Bridge Book of the Year Awards from the American Bridge Teachers' Association. His 1996 book, Points Schmoints!, one of the best book award winners, has been especially influential. One of Esther's *most treasured* bridge books is Bergen's 2011 little "pocket book", Pocket Posh: Tips for Bridge Players. Bergen has invented quite a few bridge conventions/systems including DON'T, Bergen Limit Raises, and in the first few pages of Points Schmoints! the "**Rule of 20**".

The following 12 bridge questions each assume that Opponents are silent throughout the auction and in each case the bidding has proceeded as follows:

<i>Partner</i>	<i>YOU</i>
1♦	1♥
1♠	???

1. *What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:*

♠ 8 7 6 3 ♥ K Q 6 3 2 ♦ Q ♣ Q J 7 (10)

¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

Partner	YOU
1♦	1♥
1♠	???

2. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ T 9 4 ♥ K Q J 9 6 4 2 ♦ J ♣ K Q (12)

3. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ T 9 4 ♥ A K J 9 6 4 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ 3 (11)

4. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ A Q T 9 ♥ 9 8 7 6 3 ♦ A T ♣ 5 2 (10)

5. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ 6 2 ♥ A J T 9 7 5 4 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ J (9)

6. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ 7 ♥ 8 6 5 4 2 ♦ A J 9 ♣ J 4 3 3 (6)

7. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ A K J ♥ Q J 7 5 4 ♦ 6 5 2 ♣ 7 4 (11)

8. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ A T 8 7 ♥ A 8 7 5 3 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 7 4 (8)

9. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ 8 7 ♥ A Q J 8 6 ♦ -- ♣ K 9 7 6 5 3 (12)

10. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ 6 4 3 ♥ A K J 7 3 2 ♦ J 4 ♣ Q J (12)

11. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ J T ♥ K J 8 5 ♦ T 6 4 2 ♣ A K J (13)

Partner	YOU
1♦	1♥
1♠	???

12. What would you bid at your 2nd turn within the auction if you held:

♠ A Q ♥ 9 8 6 5 4 3 ♦ Q J T 8 ♣ 2 (9)

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0258_a1.pdf