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Q. 1 – Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠A 6 3 2 ♥9 5 ♦A J 8 ♣K 9 7 6

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1♥ Pass 2♥ ?

What do you bid now?

A – You have a sound opening bid but an eight-loser hand. With both opponents already in the auction, to double now is fraught with danger – your doubleton in the enemy suit is a warning signal as is your lack of intermediates. Pass.

Q. 2 – Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q 3 ♥K 7 ♦K J 6 4 ♣A Q 9 8 3

Your right-hand opponent deals and opens the bidding with three hearts. What action do you take?

A – Your doubleton spade means that you have no margin of safety, so a double is out of the question, and to bid a minor shows a fat wallet. Should you bid three no trump, we salute your bravery. If you are our partner, please pass.

Q. 3 – Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K 10 9 6 5 2 ♥4 3 ♦Void ♣A 8 7 4 3

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass

1NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A – Partner's one-no-trump rebid promises a doubleton spade and a high card in diamonds. Your hand has tremendous trick-taking ability, so we would take our shot at four spades.

Q. 4 – Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠7 2 ♥A K 8 5 2 ♦A J 3 2 ♣8 4

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♦ Pass 2NT Pass

?

What do you bid now?

A – You are in a nonforcing auction – partner's two no trump was invitational. You have a minimum opening bid with no particular source of tricks since partner more than likely has no more than two hearts. Pass and settle for the partscore.

Q. 5 – Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K Q J 10 3 ♥9 4 ♦A K 8 ♣K 8 6

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A – Experience has shown that, when you have no idea where you want to play the hand, it is unwise to jump shift in response to partner's opening bid. Start with a simple one-spade response. Partner's next bid might clarify the situation.

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