

HIGH CARD POINTS (HCP)

An excellent first step in accessing the strength or weakness of your hand is to total your *High Card Points (HCP)*.

ACE: 4 points; KING: 3 points; QUEEN: 2 points; JACK: 1 point

NOTE: The Aces, Kings, Queens, Jacks, and Tens are all called HONOR CARDS but the Ten gets zero HCP.

1. Determine the High Card Points for each of these four hands. Check that the sum of all four is 40.

HCP count			
♠ K Q 8 ♥ J 10 9 5 4 ♦ 4 ♣ A K 10 5	♠ A J 9 6 5 4 ♥ Q ♦ K 6 ♣ Q 4 3 2	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> W N E </div> ♠ 7 3 2 ♥ K 8 7 2 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ 9 8 6	♠ 10 ♥ A 6 3 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 3 2 ♣ J 7

NORTH: _____ SOUTH _____ N & S TOTAL: _____
 WEST: _____ EAST: _____ E & W TOTAL: _____ **TOTAL OF 4 HANDS?** _____

2. How many *High Card Points* are there in a deck of 52 cards? _____
- What is the average number of High Card Points that each player receives on each hand? _____
- How many HCP's do you think you need for a "strong" hand? _____ for a "very strong" hand? _____
- How few HCP's do you think you have for a "weak" hand? _____ for a "very weak" hand? _____
- What is the highest number of HCP you could be dealt in one hand? _____ the lowest? _____

3. These questions require that you know about "**Combinations**". Notation: $C(n, r)$ or nCr or $\binom{n}{r}$.
- How many different hands are possible for North? _____
- Write each answer in the form *I of every* _____ **hands**. Determine the probability that your 13-card hand:
- A. has zero *High Card Points*? *I of every* _____ B. has the maximum number of HCP? *I of every* _____
- C. has no *Honor Cards*? *I of every* _____ D. has exactly one *Void* [no cards in one suit]? *I of every* _____
- E. On 3-27-18 at STLBC, Dummy's highest card was an 8. The probability of that is *I of every* _____

Given the total HCP of both partners, this list estimates the number of tricks that can be taken in NT:

20-22: 1 NT; 23-24: 2 NT; 25-26: 3 NT; 27-28: 4 NT; 29-31: 5 NT; 32-35: 6 NT; 36+: 7 NT