



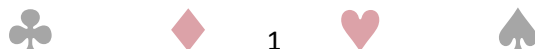
Standard Canadian Eh!

A Complete Guide to the Standard American Bidding System

For the Exciting Game of Bridge

Warren Watson

Fifth Edition ©2019





Preface

“If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.” – Henry David Thoreau, Walden

This book is about the Standard American bidding system for the card game of bridge, which is easily the best mental game there is. No matter what level a player is at, there is a challenge, and there can be improvement. It is never too late to learn, and it is never too late to get good at the game.

For that purpose, building a strong foundation in Standard American is highly recommended. After all, an advanced system, such as Two Over One, reverts back to Standard American in several bidding situations. Bidding by a passed hand and in competition are just two examples.

A beginner, at the kitchen table in the 1980s, may have learned Goren four-card majors, Notrump without transfers and strong two bids. In addition, game forcing sequences were 1♥ then 3♥ and 1♦ then 2NT. A player may remember making a drop-dead bid of 2♥ or 2♠ over partner’s 1NT, but he bid anyways. This changed because duplicate players used five-card majors, transfers, weak two bids and limit bids.

For the most part, a player’s mental energy should be used defending and playing the cards, so the bidding system should be down pat. Knowing Standard American well helps with that.

This book, on bidding, has three parts.

- Bidding in an uncontested auction
- Bidding in a contested auction
- The appendices with scoring, quizzes and the answers



Proper bidding lays the foundation for developing good declarer play by, above all, landing in the proper contract. Furthermore, defending a hand also relies on good bidding. The defense is easier if partner knows what to lead, the opponents are too high, or they are in the wrong contract.

There is a summary at the beginning of each uncontested auction chapter, as well as a summary of contested auction bidding in chapter twenty-one. The quizzes serve as a measure of how good a foundation, in uncontested and contested bidding, has been established. Question five of the chapter eighteen quiz actually proves that pass, not sorry, is the hardest word. Sorry, Elton John¹.

Everybody enjoys those partners who either have a firm understanding of Standard American or are actively pursuing that firm understanding. With this book, a solid foundation of the Standard American system is built, allowing a player's enjoyment of bridge and demand at the partnership desk to increase.

¹ Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word, Elton John and Bernie Taupin, Blue Moves, Rocket and MCA, 1976.





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Trail, BC, Pencil on Paper, 24.5cm x 17.5cm, 2016

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Self Portrait, Pencil on Paper
20cm x 24.9cm, 2015

