

# Playing bridge at home - Chicago

There is a hybrid form of bridge often played by duplicate bridge players when playing at home. It is called **Chicago**. Who plays with whom is determined by a 'cut for partners' – the cards are fanned out face down and each player draws a card. The two highest play together, the highest is dealer and can choose seating position and which pack of cards will be used first. Using two packs speeds the game up.

The cards are dealt anew for every hand but each hand is played as a separate entity and scored as duplicate bridge. There is no carry over of score from hand to hand. After each hand the score is recorded and the deal passes to the player to the left of the previous dealer.

A Chicago is four deals with the vulnerability predetermined:

- Deal 1** Neither side vulnerable
- Deal 2** Dealer's side only is vulnerable
- Deal 3** Dealer's side only is vulnerable
- Deal 4** Both sides vulnerable

This may look wrong but it isn't as the dealer changes after each deal, going round the table clockwise. Suppose North is the dealer first

- Deal 1** North deals, no one is vulnerable
- Deal 2** East deals, E/W are vulnerable, N/S are not vulnerable
- Deal 3** South deals, N/S are vulnerable, E/W are not vulnerable
- Deal 4** West deals and both sides are vulnerable
- Deal 5** East deals no one vulnerable

The score card shows the Chicago scores for eight contracts. It is an individual score card for the player who sat North throughout and was dealer on hand 1 in the first Chicago and hand 8 in the second.

There is no part score carry forward but each part score gets a 50 bonus. In this game, North's total was 650 and his opponents was 1170, so he lost by 520.

After the four deals have been played, the partnerships reform, cut for partners, and the cycle begins again. If preferred the partnerships can remain fixed. In this case the dealer on the first of each set of four deals moves around the table. Some players prefer a rubber form of Chicago, where the part score carries forward from one hand to the next. Some people play that the non-dealers side is vulnerable on hands two and three. As long as you agree it does not matter which you do. The score card shown can be used for a Chicago party at home, with a partner change after each set of four hands.

English Bridge Union Chicago Score Sheet					
Hand number	Vulnerable	Contract	Tricks by declarer	Score plus	Score minus
1	Neither	1NT by N	8	120	
2	Dealer	1NT by S	6		50
3	Dealer	3♠ by S	9	140	
4	Both	1♦ by N	8	90	
5	Neither	4♥ by E	10		420
6	Dealer	4♥ by S	9		100
7	Dealer	3NT by W	6	300	
8	Both	3NT by W	9		600
9	Neither				
10	Dealer				
11	Dealer				
12	Both				
13	Neither				
14	Dealer				
15	Dealer				
16	Both				