

Online resources for playing & learning about Bridge

NB: There are 2 basic versions of bidding in Bridge (& many more advanced versions!). In NZ, the most widely used version by beginners and learners is “ACOL”. Many online Bridge sites use “SAYC”. So, if you are practicing online bidding be sure you are on an ACOL site. If you are just practicing playing the hand, then it does not matter.

(If you are wondering, ACOL is not an acronym. It is simply the name of the bridge club in London where the system was developed in 1930, as the club was located on Acol Rd. SAYC is an acronym for Standard American Yellow Card as the original rules were printed on a yellow card.)

1. nzbridge.co.nz
The main website for NZ Bridge. Go to “Learn Bridge” in the menu header and you will find “Lesson Resources”, “Beginner Lesson Material” and “Articles for Newer Players” – all free.
2. Nofearbridge.co.uk
An excellent comprehensive site to learn and practice ACOL bridge. Free 2-week trial membership, then \$120NZD/year or \$35/3 months (billed in British pounds)
3. Skybridgeclub.com
ACOL based site offering 1 free hand/day. Also unlimited play & livestreams for \$18NZD per month. They also post many free educational videos on You Tube (search Sky Bridge Club)
4. Bridgebase.com (usually referred to as “BBO” for Bridge Base Online)
Offers many options for free online play, one of which is an extremely valuable free area offering practice play of structured hands at various levels of difficulty with immediate feedback on the correct line of play. After free signup, go to “Practice” (under Play & Watch Bridge) → “Bridge Master” and select the level of difficulty -- there are 66 Beginner hands offered! (NB bidding here is SAYC, but that does not impact the playing practice)
You can also observe live online play of players all over the world, but you need a bit of experience before attempting live play yourself!
5. Bridgebum.com
This free site just concentrates on different bidding conventions. It covers everything from the ACOL 2 Club bid to Stayman to some very esoteric stuff. But if you find yourself wanting to know about “Weak Jump Overcalls” or “Gerber Convention”—this is the place.

If you need any assistance with accessing these sites, please contact Joe Harris at joeharrisnz@gmail.com or 0223223314.