

BIDDING CONVERSATIONS - WEEK 2

ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS

LAST REVISED ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

1. **a) Respond 2♥ (cheap raise).** You have 8 dummy points (8 HCP) with three-card support for partner's hearts. The *cheap raise* to 2♥ describes a hand with 6-9 dummy points and at least three hearts.
- b) Respond 2NT (Jacoby).** You have 15 dummy points (15 HCP) and four-card support for partner's hearts. The *Jacoby 2NT* response describes a hand with at least 13 dummy points and at least four hearts.
- c) Respond 2♣ (new suit forcing).** You have 11 dummy points (11 HCP) with three-card support for partner's hearts. Because you do not have a fourth heart to make a *limit raise*, you should start with a *new suit forcing 2♣* to describe a hand with 10-12 points and usually four (but it might only be three) clubs. You can show your heart support on the next turn.
- d) Respond 4♥ (preemptive).** You have five-card support for partner's hearts but you only have 6 dummy points (5 HCP + 1 ♦ SSP). If your partner has a minimal opening, your opponents could have as many as 23 high card points, enough for a part score or a possible game when distribution points are included. A *preemptive raise* to 4♥ makes it difficult for your left hand opponent to make a bid.

If you are chicken to jump to game, you can make a cheap raise to 2♥ and hope your partner has extra strength or opponents do not compete.

2. **a) Respond 3♠ (limit raise).** You have 11 dummy points (11 HCP) with four-card trump support. The most descriptive response is a *limit raise* to describe a hand with 10-12 dummy points and at least four spades.
- b) Respond 2♦ (new suit forcing).** You have 14 declarer points (13 HCP + 1 ♦ LSP) without three-card support for partner's spades. The partnership has about 25 high card points which is often enough strength to bid a no trump or major suit game. Given stoppers in the unbid suits you could just jump to a 3NT game. But a *new suit forcing 2♦* response describes a hand with at least 10 points and at least four diamonds. This gives your partner a chance to refine the description of the hand. For example, your partner might rebid spades to show extra length which would give the partnership an eight-card spade fit.
- c) PASS.** Although you do have four-card trump support, you only have 4 dummy points (3 HCP + 1 ♥ SSP) which is not enough strength to respond. Given the nine-card trump fit, you can compete up to the three level (nine tricks) if your left hand opponent makes an overcall or a takeout double.
- d) Respond 2NT (Jacoby).** You have 17 dummy points (17 HCP) so the partnership might have a chance for a slam. A *Jacoby 2NT* response gives your partner a chance to refine the description of the hand. If partner bids clubs to show a singleton or a void, a slam is a definite possibility.

3. Your partner's *Jacoby 2NT* response describes a hand with at least 13 dummy points and at least four spades.
- Rebid 4♠.** You only have 14 declarer points (13 HCP + 1 ♠ LSP) counting the weak ♦J. Since you do not have a singleton or a void, jump to the 4♠ game to limit the hand to 13-16 declarer points without an interest in slam.
 - Rebid 3NT.** You have 17 declarer points (16 HCP + 1 ♠ LSP). Rebid 3NT to describe a hand with 17-18 declarer points and an interest in a slam.
 - Rebid 3♥.** Opener's priority after a *Jacoby 2NT* response is to show a singleton or a void regardless of the strength of the hand.
4. Your right hand opponent has at least 12 points and a short heart suit to make the *takeout double*. Your partnership has little chance for a slam.
- Respond 2♣.** You have 11 dummy points (10 HCP + 1 ♠ SSP) and four-card heart support, enough for a normal limit raise. But after a double, a 3♥ response would be preemptive. Respond a *new suit forcing 2♣* to describe a hand with at least 10 points and at least four clubs. Plan to rebid hearts on the next turn.
 - Respond 2♥ (cheap raise).** You have 8 dummy points (7 HCP + 1 ♣ SSP) with three-card heart support, enough to raise hearts to the two level, the normal response if your opponent had passed.
 - Respond 3♥ (preemptive raise).** You have 7 dummy points (5 HCP + 1 ♠ SSP + 1 ♣ SSP), enough to make a *cheap raise*. But after a *takeout double* it is more effective to apply the *Law of Total Tricks* to the nine-card trump fit and make a *preemptive raise* to 3♥ to make it more difficult for West to advance the double.
5. You have 18 declarer points (17 HCP + 1 ♥ LSP) and an unbalanced hand with a five card major. You should not open no trump with an unbalanced shape so the most descriptive opening bid is 1♥.
- Rebid 4♥.** Your partner's *limit raise* to 3♥ describes a hand with 10-12 dummy points and at least four hearts. The partnership has 28-30 (18+10 to 18+12) total points so a game is ensured but without unusual distribution a slam is unlikely. Rebid the 4♥ game.
 - Rebid 3♥.** Your partner's *cheap raise* to 2♥ describes a hand with 6-9 dummy points and at least three hearts. The partnership has 24-27 (18+6 to 18+9) total points so a game is possible. Rebid 3♥ to invite partner to bid the game if partner has 8-9 dummy points.
 - Rebid 3NT.** Your partner's *Jacoby 2NT* describes a hand with at least 13 dummy points and at least four hearts. The partnership has 31-?? (18+13 to 18+??) total points so a slam is possible if the partnership has the necessary controls. Rebid 3NT to narrow the strength of your hand to 17-18 declarer points with a possible interest in a slam.

6. Your partner's **2♥** response describes a weak hand with 6-9 declarer points and at least three-card heart support.
- Rebid 3♦**. You have 15 good declarer points (14 HCP + 1 ♥ LSP) plus a weak ♦ J. Given the quality of the major suits, a game is possible if your partner has help to cover the diamond losers. Rebid **3♦**, a *help suit game try*, to ask partner for diamond help.
 - Rebid 3♥**. You have 17 declarer points (16 HCP + 1 ♥ LSP). Since you do not need help to cover losers in a weak suit, rebid **3♥** to invite partner with 8 or 9 dummy points to bid the game.
 - PASS**. You only have 13 declarer points (12 HCP + 1 ♥ LSP) and know the partnership only has 19-22 (13+6 to 13+9) total points which is not enough to try for a game.
7. Your partner's new suit forcing **1♠** response describes an unlimited hand with at least 6 points and at least four spades.
- Rebid 2♥ (a reverse)**. You have 18 declarer points (17 HCP + 1 ♦ LSP) so you know the partnership has at least 24 (18+6) points, enough to make a three level contract if partner prefers diamonds over hearts. That means it is safe to bid the **2♥** reverse to describe a hand with at least 17 points, five diamonds, and four hearts.
 - Rebid 2♦**. You have 14 declarer points (13 HCP + 1 ♦ LSP) which means the partnership might have as few as 20 (14+6) total points which is usually not enough to make a three level contract. Since you should not reverse to **2♥**, rebid **2♦** to describe a hand limited to 13-16 points with at least five diamonds.
 - Rebid 2♣**. You have 14 declarer points (13 HCP + 1 ♦ LSP) which means the partnership might have as few as 20 (14+6) total points which is enough to make a two level contract. Rebid **2♣** to describe a hand limited to 13-16 points with at least four diamonds and at least four clubs.
8. a) Your partner's *new suit forcing* **2♦** response describes an unlimited hand with at least 10 points and at least four diamonds. The *cheap* **3♠** rebid limits partner's hand to 10-12 dummy points with at least four diamonds and at least three spades.
- b) **Rebid 4♠**. You have 15 declarer points (14 HCP + 1 ♠ LSP) which gives your partnership 25-27 (15+10 to 15+12) total points with an eight-card spade fit and an eight-card diamond fit. This should be enough strength to try for the **4♠** game.
9. a) Your partner's **1♠** opening bid describes a hand with 13-21 declarer points and at least five spades. Partner's rebid of **3♣** after your *Jacoby* **2NT** response refined the description to a hand with a singleton or void in clubs.
- b) **Rebid 4♠**. You have 17 dummy points (16 HCP + 1 ♦ SSP) which gives the partnership 30-?? (17+13 to 17+??) total points which is approaching slam strength. But partner's **3♣** rebid shows a singleton or void in clubs which means your club honors are probably wasted values for the purposes of a slam. Your partnership will likely lose a club trick and one or more heart tricks which makes a slam risky.

BRIDGE STATISTICS

MEDIUM STRENGTH OPENING BIDS
(13-21 DECLARER POINTS)

OPENING BIDS

PERCENT OF 10,000,000 RANDOM DEALS		
OPENING BID	OPENING SEAT	
	FIRST	SECOND
2NT	0.3 %	0.3 %
1NT	3.8 %	3.1 %
1♠	6.6 %	4.8 %
1♥	6.3 %	4.6 %
1♦	8.7 %	6.5 %
1♣	8.0 %	5.9 %
TOTAL	33.8 %	25.2 %

MAJOR SUIT OPENING BIDS

PERCENT OF 10,000,000 RANDOM DEALS		
OPENING BID	OPENING SEAT	
	FIRST	SECOND
1♠	6.6 %	4.8 %
1♥	6.3 %	4.6 %
TOTAL	13.0 %	9.5 %

MINOR SUIT OPENING BIDS

PERCENT OF 10,000,000 RANDOM DEALS		
OPENING BID	OPENING SEAT	
	FIRST	SECOND
1♦	8.7 %	6.5 %
1♣	8.0 %	5.9 %
TOTAL	16.7 %	12.4 %

RESPONSE BIDS THAT SUPPORT PARTNER'S MAJOR SUIT OPENING BID

RESPONSES TO 1♠ OPENING BIDS
(RHO PASSED)

PERCENT OF OPENED HANDS		
RESPONSE BID	RESPONSE SEAT	
	THIRD	FOURTH
4♠	1.8 %	1.3 %
3♠	5.3 %	5.3 %
2NT	5.0 %	5.7 %
2♠	14.5 %	12.8 %
TOTAL	26.6 %	25.2 %

RESPONSES TO 1♥ OPENING BIDS
(RHO PASSED)

PERCENT OF OPENED HANDS		
RESPONSE BID	RESPONSE SEAT	
	THIRD	FOURTH
4♥	1.7 %	1.3 %
3♥	5.3 %	5.3 %
2NT	4.8 %	5.5 %
2♥	11.2 %	9.8 %
TOTAL	23.1 %	21.9 %