

Practise Natural Responses to Opening 3 Weak 2's

<p>1. Dlr: North Vul: None West North East South 2♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ 4 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ A Q 8 6 ♣ K J 9 5 3</p>	<p>Answer: Pass Partner has a maximum of 10 points and the hand looks like a misfit. 2♠ might well be our last making contract.</p>
<p>2. Dlr: North Vul: None West North East South 2♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ K 8 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A 10 8 4 3 ♣ Q 5 2</p>	<p>Answer: 3♠ Our hand is ideal for a pre-emptive raise to 3♠, bidding to the level of the fit. The opponents might miss a makeable 4♥, or alternatively they might be pressurised into bidding 4♥ and going down.</p>
<p>3. Dlr: North Vul: None West North East South 2♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ 7 ♥ A Q 2 ♦ Q 6 2 ♣ K Q J 9 5 4</p>	<p>Answer: 3♣ With opening points and more to spare, and a good 6 card club suit, our hand is very suitable for a non-forcing 3♣ bid, offering partner a choice of contracts. We probably have more chance to make this contract than 2♠. Occasionally partner will have a maximum hand and bid 3♦, after which we could reach a good 3NT.</p>
<p>4. Dlr: North Vul: None West North East South 2♥ Dbl ?</p>	<p>South ♠ Q 10 8 4 3 ♥ K 10 6 4 ♦ 2 ♣ J 7 3</p>	<p>Answer: 4♥ With four card support and unbalanced distribution we should raise to the level of the fit, i.e. 4♥. The opponents might still reach their best contract (probably 5♦ or 6♦), but at least we've made it difficult for them. If they double, there's a fair chance that partner can make eight tricks, which, not vulnerable, would represent a good sacrifice against a making game. If vulnerable vs. Not-vulnerable opponents we would bid 3♥, one less than the level of the fit.</p>
<p>5. Dlr: North Vul: None West North East South 2♦ Pass ?</p>	<p>South ♠ 10 9 5 ♥ 4 2 ♦ K 9 6 ♣ A Q 10 4 2</p>	<p>Answer: 3♦ It's most unlikely that we'll be allowed to play the hand in 2♦. It's true that a single raise might not shut the opponents out, but it could still make it more difficult for them to find their best contract.</p>

<p>6. Dir: North Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>2♦ Dbl ?</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ K 6</p> <p>♥ Q 10 8 5 4</p> <p>♦ 2</p> <p>♣ A J 9 7 3</p>	<p>Answer: Pass</p> <p>It's possible that either 2♥ or 3♣ is a better contract than 2♦, but they could be a whole lot worse, so it's definitely correct to pass. West hasn't converted East's takeout double to penalties yet (by passing), and even in the unlikely event that he does, we might not go badly down in 2♦ doubled.</p>
<p>7. Dir: North Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>2♦ Dbl ?</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ 2</p> <p>♥ A 10 8 5 4</p> <p>♦ K 7 6 3 2</p> <p>♣ 10 3</p>	<p>Answer: 5♦</p> <p>With an excellent fit, we raise to the level of the fit. We might occasionally make 5♦ opposite a hand like ♠xxx ♥x ♦AJxxx ♣Kxx. If not, it's quite likely that the opponents could make at least 4♠.</p>
<p>8. Dir: North Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>2♥ Pass ?</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ K 8 5</p> <p>♥ Q 10 7 3</p> <p>♦ A 8 2</p> <p>♣ 10 8 3</p>	<p>Answer: 3♥</p> <p>With 4333 shape (no ruffing potential), we should tend to raise only to one less than the level of the fit. A single raise might be sufficient to cause problems for the opponents.</p>
<p>9. Dir: North Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>2♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ A 4 3</p> <p>♥ A 6 5</p> <p>♦ K 8 3 2</p> <p>♣ 10 8 2</p>	<p>Answer: Pass</p> <p>We might consider making an immediate raise to the level of the fit, but with our balanced 11 points we're right to try to buy the contract in 2♠. If West bids something, we can always compete with 3♠ on the next round.</p>
<p>10. Dir: North Vul: NS</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>2♠ Pass ?</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ K 9 6 3</p> <p>♥ Q 7</p> <p>♦ 9 4 3</p> <p>♣ 10 7 5 2</p>	<p>Answer: 3♠</p> <p>At adverse vulnerability we should be wary of "raising to the level of the fit". On this hand a single raise is best, since our trumps are strong enough to make it unlikely that we'll have to play in 3♠ doubled.</p>
<p>#410 Dir: North Vul: None</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>2♠ 3♦ ?</p>	<p>South</p> <p>♠ 2</p> <p>♥ K 9 6 3 2</p> <p>♦ K J 9 6</p> <p>♣ A Q 8</p>	<p>Answer: Dbl</p> <p>We can't be absolutely certain of defeating 3♦, but this contract is very likely to go down, perhaps heavily. We therefore make a penalty double.</p>