

Beginner Bridge Lesson 12

Practise your Strong Opening Bids

Choose your next bid

1.	West	North	East	South	South
1.				?	♠ A J 3 ♥ A Q 7 4 ♦ K 7 ♣ A Q 10 3
2.	West	North	East	South	South
				?	♠ A J 3 ♥ A Q J 4 ♦ K J ♣ A K 10 3
3.	West	North	East	South	South
		2NT	Pass	?	♠ 2 ♥ 9 6 4 ♦ Q J 7 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7 3
4.	West	North	East	South	South
		2NT	Pass	?	♠ 2 ♥ Q J 9 8 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ J 9 8 3
5.	West	North	East	South	South
2.		2NT	Pass	?	♠ J 4 ♥ Q J 5 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ Q 7 3 2
6.	West	North	East	South	South
Pass	3♣	Pass		2NT ?	♠ A Q 7 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ A 7 6 ♣ K Q 6 3

Answer: 2NT

We have a balanced 20 HCP

Answer: 2♣

We have a balanced 24 HCP, just a point too strong for 2NT, so we open 2♣, planning to bid 2NT. This shows 23-24 HCP. With just one point we would rebid 3NT, which shows 25-26 points.

Answer: Pass

There is no weak take-out bid after a 2NT opening, so we pass with fewer than 4 points. With 5 points we would always bid.

Answer: 3

We have 4 HCP. With 3 HCP we must pass and with 5 HCP we must bid 3♥. A 4 HCP hand is 'on the margin'. We have to ask ourselves if it is worth an upgrade. Here we have a good 5 card heart suit so we upgrade and bid a game forcing 3♥. This shows EXACTLY 5 hearts. Partner can choose between 3NT and 4♥. With 6+ hearts we would bid 4♥, knowing we have a heart fit.

Answer: 3♣

Stayman. With 6 points we have enough strength for game. We are hoping to find a spade fit.

If we had just 4 points and this hand we would have to pass. If we bid Stayman we can't stop below 3NT.

Answer: 4♠

Partner's bid is forcing to game and shows exactly 5 cards. (With 6 spades partner would have bid 4♠). We choose 4♣ as we have an 8 card trump fit.

13.							
West	North	East	South		South		
	2♣	Pass	2♦		♠ 5		
Pass	2NT	Pass	?		♥ K 9 7 2		
					♦ 5 4 3		
					♣ 7 6 5 4 2		
14.					South		
West	North	East	South		♠ 5		
	2♣	Pass	2♦		♥ K Q 7 5 2		
Pass	2NT	Pass	?		♦ J 4 3		
					♣ 7 6 5 4		
15.					South		
West	North	East	South		♠ 5		
	2♣	Pass	2♦		♥ 9 8 7 5		
Pass	2♠	Pass	?		♦ J 4 3 2		
					♣ 7 6 5 4		
16.					South		
West	North	East	South		♠ 5		
	2♣	Pass	2♦		♥ Q 9 6 5 4 2		
Pass	2NT	Pass	?		♦ 7 4 3 2		
					♣ 7 6		

Answer: 3♣

Stayman. With 3 points South must not pass, and is hoping that a heart fit can be found.

Answer: 3♥

South was not strong enough for an immediate positive 3♥, which would have promised 8+ HCP, but can now show her 5 card heart suit.

Answer: 2NT

North's 2♠ bid is 100% forcing. It is unlimited in strength. North could have 28 or more points. Responder's 2NT rebid is a special case. It does not promise a balanced hand. It is what is known as a 'second negative', showing a very weak hand – 0-3 points, which will be a cautionary warning if opener has a very strong hand and is thinking about a possible slam.

Answer: 4♥

South's hearts will be useless in a No Trump contract but there is an 8+ card heart fit so in a heart contract South's hearts should provide at least three tricks. South should not bid 3♥ as this bid is now game forcing and would only promise 5 hearts.