Beginner Bridge Lesson 12

NG34Bridge

Practise your Strong Opening Bids

Choose your next bid

	your nex			
1. West	North	East	South ?	South ♠ 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 2NT		South ?	South ♠ 2 ♥ 9 6 4 • Q J 7 3 2 • 9 8 7 3
4. West	North 2NT		South ?	South ♠ 2 ♥ Q J 9 8 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ J 9 8 3
5. West 2.	North 2NT	East Pass	South ?	South ♠ J 4 ♥ Q J 5 4 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ Q 7 3 2
6. West Pass	North 3♣	East Pass	South 2NT ?	South ♠ 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 do 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 $4\clubsuit$). We choose $4\clubsuit$ as we have an 8 card trump fit.

7. West 8.	North	East	South ?	South ♠ A Q 5 4 ♥ K Q 7 ♠ A K 6 2 ♣ K Q
8. West 9.	North	East	South ?	South ♠ A Q J 10 7 5 ♥ K Q J ♠ A K J ♣ 7
9. West	North 2♣	East Pass	South ?	South
10. West 11.	North 2∯	East Pass	South ?	South ♠ K 5 4 2 ♥ Q 7 3 • Q 3 • K 6 5
11. West 10.	North 2∯		South ?	South ♣ 5 2 ♥ A Q 9 7 6 ◆ 5 ♣ K 7 6 5 2
12. West Pass	North 2♣ 2NT	Pass	South 2 ♦ ?	South ♣ 5 ♥ J 9 7 2 ◆ 5 4 3 ♣ 7 6 5 4 2

Answer: 2♣

We have a balanced hand with 23 HCP, a tad too strong for a standard 2NT bid, so we open 24, planning to rebid 2NT, which shows 23-24 HCP. With 25-26 HCP we would rebid 3NT.

Answer: 2♣

We have 21 HCP and an unbalanced hand. We don't have the shape for a 2NT opening bid, and besides. This hand LOOKS more like 23 points than 21 points, thanks to those lovely spades. We can't imagine stopping below $4 \triangleq$ so we open $2 \triangleq$. planning to bid a game forcing $2 \triangleq$.

Answer: 2♦

We have to bid. Partner could have a huge hand, 28+ HCP. This bid is artificial. It is the cheapest possible bid, leaving the maximum room for partner to describe her hand below 3NT. Partner may have a two suited hand that will take two more bids to describe.

Answer: 2♦

In traditional Acol we would have bid 2NT with this balanced 9 HCP hand, but nowadays this bid has gone very much out of fashion, as it consumes a lot of valuable bidding space. Partner may have 5 diamonds and 4 spades, which will be impossible to describe if we respond 2NT. Or partner may have a balanced hand with a 4 card spade suit, planning to rebid 2NT, which would allow us to bid 3♣ (Stayman) and find the spade fit. If we respond 2NT instead of 2♦ then the spade fit will not be found.

Answer: 2♥

This is one of the rare situations where we should NOT bid 2 ◆. You have a powerful message which we can get across with one bid:
a) we have at least 8 HCP so the partnership has enough strength for a slam, and b) our announcement of a good 5+ card heart suit (two of the top three honours) may change partner's mind about the best slam contract − partner might have 6 diamonds and 3 good hearts, in which case our bid reveals the heart fit.

Answer: Pass

The 2♣-2♦-2NT sequence is the ONLY one that opener's partner is permitted to pass below game. North has 23-24 points so there is very little chance of making a game contract. But replace the ♥J with ♥Q and now the partnership has 25-26 HCP so we would have to bid 2♦

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