

# Week five: Intermediate Bridge

## General Concepts

Review: Strong 2 opening

New Concepts: Pre-emptive bid; Weak 2 openings

Weak two openings

A weak two opening is used for the sole purpose to disrupting the opponent's bidding.

Advantages:

Opponents have to enter the auction at a higher level

Deprive the opponents of bidding space.

Lead directing

Very descriptive; showing point range, shape of hand and suit quality

A weak two bid describes a hand with exactly 5-11 (some books say 6-10) HCP and a disciplined 6 card suit if vulnerable (2/3 top honors or 3/5 top honors)

Consider your position at the table

In opening or direct seat (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> position), most of the hand's strength should be in the long suit

In 3<sup>rd</sup> position, partner has already passed so you have a bit more wiggle room

In 4<sup>th</sup> position, you have the option to pass out the hand. To open the bidding one needs to be able to take at least 8 tricks.

In disrupting opponents, you may have also taken away bidding space from a partner holding a very good hand

You should **not** have a side 4-card major or a void. This distributional hand makes it difficult for partner to estimate the potential of the hand.

(examples from ACBL Bridge Series Commonly Used Conventions, pp 225-241)

1) ♠ 94  
♥ AJT873  
♦ K95  
♣ 64

2) ♠ QT7642  
♥ 8  
♦ T53  
♣ K82

3) ♠ T73  
♥ 4  
♦ KQJT95  
♣ 962

4) ♠ AKJT95  
♥ 3  
♦ QJ83  
♣ T2

8HCP  
disc. (3/top 5)  
Bid 2 ♥

5HCP  
not disc.  
pass unless in 3<sup>rd</sup> pos.  
non-vul

6HCP  
disc.  
Bid 2 ♦

11HCP –too strong to  
open a weak 2  
Bid 1 ♠

5) ♠ 4	6) ♠ K975	7) ♠ AQJ98
♥ AQT9763	♥ T87542	♥ 62
♦ J62	♦ A83	♦ T973
♣ 83	♣ -	♣ 74

7HCP	7HCP	6HCP
disc	poor suit quality	5 card suit
Bid 3♥	void in clubs	open in 3 <sup>rd</sup> seat
	Pass	non-vul

Responses:

A raise of opener's suit to any level is to play. Opener is expected to pass  
 A jump to 3NT or game in a new suit is to play. Opener is expected to pass.

Responder may ask for more information by:

Bidding a **new suit below game level.**

**The bid is forcing** for one round, showing a quality 5 card or longer suit.

Opener raises responder's suit with **three card support**, or a doubleton honor

Opener rebids the original suit with **no fit** for responder's suit, and a minimum point count (5-8); bids a new suit or no trump with a maximum point count (9-11)

An artificial bid of 2NT is forcing one round. 2NT shows game interest, should be holding at least 16+ points, 4 quick tricks and is asking for a feature in which to utilize opener's long suit

Opener bids the original hand at the 3 level with a minimum hand.

Opener bids suit showing a feature (A or Kx) and 9-11 points, forcing

Opener bids 3NT with no outside feature and maximum points

RONF- Raise is the **Only Non-Forcing** bid

What is responder's bid after the auction (examples from ACBL Bridge Series Commonly Used Conventions, pp 225-241)

W	N	E	S
2♥	P	?	

1) ♠ KT8765	2) ♠ AK952	3) ♠ 3	4) ♠ 97
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♥ 3	♥ K83	♥ QT5	♥ Q4
♦ KQ3	♦ 3	♦ T942	♦ Q842
♣ Q52	♣ KJ93	♣ K9753	♣ AJ752

10HCP	14HCP+3 dummy pts	5HCP	9HCP
1 cd support	3 cd support	3 card support	2 cd support
Pass	Bid 4♥	Bid 3♥(4♥) as pre-empt	Bid 3♥

5) ♠ QJ3	6) ♠ AQJT975	7) ♠ AT93
♥ 5	♥ -	♥ K72
♦ AKQJ975	♦ 75	♦ AQ7
♣ AJ	♣ AKJ8	♣ T42

  

15HCP	15HCP+3	11HCP
1cd support	Bid 4♠	bid 2 NT
Bid 3NT	void in ♥	asking for feature to play in a suit -no♣ stopper

After Interference:

- If LHO doubles, all choices for responder stays the same;
  - Bid game in partner's suit with 4 card support (law of total tricks)
  - Bid 2NT with 3 card support asking for further description
  - Redouble for penalty with 15 HCP and shortage in partner's suit,.

- If LHO overcalls, all choices for responder stays the same depending on bidding space;
  - Bid 2NT asking for feature with sufficient points and support
  - Cue bid opponent's suit with a big hand and slam interest

Pre-empting at 3 level or higher

- Don't exceed the rule of 500
  - If not vulnerable, and doubled, you can get set 3 (100-300-500)
  - If vulnerable, and doubled, you can get set 2 (200-500)

Responding to a pre-empt

- Pass or raise partner's suit
- Avoid no trump without having a source of your own tricks or a fit with partner's suit
- A new suit by responder below game level is forcing.

Lesson 5 Exercise 1 (pre-dealt hand)                      N     E     S     W

Concept: review of strong 2 openings, Blackwood                      P     P     2♣     P

N            E            S            W  
 9HCP+1 8HCP+1 21HCP+3 2HCP

2♥	P	2♠	P
2NT	P	4NT	P
5♦	P	6♠	P
P	P		

♠9            Dir: North  
 ♥AKQ54     Vul: None  
 ♦762  
 ♣T962

♠62	♠JT4
♥762	♥T83
♦T983	♦AQJ54
♣Q754	♣83

♠AKQ8753  
 ♥J9  
 ♦K  
 ♣AKJ

North opens the auction with a pass, as does East. South with a 7 card ♠ suit and 21 HCP hand, opens the auction with a 2♣ bid. West passes. North with a 3 honor, 5 card suit and 8+HCP bids 2♥. East passes. South re-evaluates his/her hand. With 24 total points and at least 8 HCP from North and a 5 card suit with at least 2 to 3 honors considers slam. South bids 2♠ to show a suit preference. West passes. North bids 2NT waiting for further hand description. East passes. South bids 4NT asking for aces. West passes. North assuming slam will be in ♠, bids 5♦ showing one ace. East passes. South assuming the ace is in ♥, bids 6♠.

West leads the ♣4 showing an honor. South plays low and is prepared to play the ♣J if the ♣Q doesn't fall. South plays 3 rounds of trump, the ♥J and leads the small ♥ to the ♥A,K,Q dumping the ♦K and ♦2 making 7♠.

Concept: weak two opening against an opening hand w/ 5 card suit

W	N	E	S
8HCP+2	10HCP+2	16HCP+2	6HCP

♠J65	Dlr: West
♥A86	Vul: Both
♦K98743	
♣Q	

♠94	♠AKQT2
♥KJT732	♥-
♦A6	♦QJT
♣762	♣A9843

♠873  
♥Q954  
♦52  
♣KJT5

W	N	E	S	OR	W	N	E	S	OR	W	N	E	S
2♥	P	2♠	P		2♥	P	2NT	P		2♥	P	2NT	P
3♥	P	4♣	P		3♦	P	3♠	P		3♦	P	3NT	P
P	P				P	P				P	P		

1<sup>st</sup> scenario

South leads the ♦5 to the board, the board ducks and North takes it with the ♦K. North leads a ♦back with the dummy takes with the ♦A. Dummy leads the ♥2 which East trumps with the ♣3. East plays the ♠A, K and Q and the ♣A. East leads ♣3 forcing the ♣10. South plays the ♣K and J. South leads ♥4, Dummy plays the 10 and North covers with the ♥A and East trumps. East plays the ♠10 and 2. Down 2.

2<sup>nd</sup> scenario

South leads the ♦5 to the board, the board ducks and North takes it with the ♦K. North leads a ♦back with the dummy takes with the ♦A. East plays the ♠A, K and Q and the ♣A. East leads ♣3 forcing the ♣10. South plays the ♣K and J. South leads ♥4, Dummy plays the 10 and North covers with the ♥A and East trumps. East plays the ♣9 and the ♦10 which North wins with the K♦. Leading a ♦back East wins with the ♦Q. You have 1 trump left.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> scenario

South leads the ♣5 which East wins with the ♣A over North's ♣Q. East plays the 5 ♠'s and leads a ♣ and South wins 3♣ tricks. South leads a ♦ which East ducks hoping for the ♦K to fall. If North ducks, West's ♦Q is good and West plays the ♣3 and leads a ♦ to the board's ♦A making 3NT.

### Lesson 5 Exercise 3 (pre-dealt hand)

Concept: weak 2 opening with minimum response and singleton in partner's suit

S	W	N	E	S	W	N	E
9HCP+2	10HCP	11HCP+1	10HCP+1	2♠	P	P	P

♠J  
♥T7654  
♦AK74  
♣QJ4

Dlr: South  
Vul: Both

♠QT52	♠83
♥KQ3	♥AJ9
♦T652	♦J83
♣K7	♣AT865

♠AK9764  
♥82  
♦Q9  
♣932

South opens the auction with a weak two bid, showing 6 ♠'s and disciplined (2/top 3 honors or 3/top 5 honors). West passes as does North. North with minimum points and no quality 5 card suit, North cannot ask for a feature. East passes.

West leads the ♥K, the ♥Q and the ♥3. South trumps East's ♥A. South leads the ♠4. West covers with the ♠Q and leads the ♣K. South plays the ♣4 and ducks with the ♣5. West leads back the ♣A and East shows out with a high/low. East leads another ♣ that West trumps. West leads a ♦2 and the board overtakes with the ♦A and ♦4 to South's ♦Q. South leads the ♠A and ♠K. East shows out of trump so South leads and other ♠ to draw West's ♠Q. West leads another ♦ that South takes on the board. South's remaining trump allows the contract to be made.

Lesson 5 Exercise 4 (pre-dealt hand)

Concept: weak 2 opening with support by responder

W            N            E            S  
 9HCP+2   15HCP   11HCP   5HCP

W	N	E	S
2♥	3♣	3♥	P
P	P		

♠Q9            Dir: West  
 ♥75            Vul: N-S  
 ♦A975  
 ♣AKQ75

♠J85	♠A764
♥KQJT62	♥A98
♦Q64	♦KT
♣6	♣9832

♠KT32  
 ♥34  
 ♦J832  
 ♣JT4

West opens the bidding with a weak 2 bid holding 9HCP and 4/top 5 honors. North bids 3♣ showing an opening hand. East bids 3♥ showing some support and value. South holding 5HCP passes. West may not bid again.

North leads the ♣A followed by the ♣K which West trumps. West leads the ♥K and ♥2 to the ♥A on the board. East leads the ♦10, South plays the ♦2. West ducks and North wins with the ♦A. North leads back a ♣ which is trumped by West. West plays a ♠J hoping to drop the ♠K. If North plays low, East will duck and South covers with the ♠K. South leads the ♠2 that North covers with the Q and East's ♠A. West leads a ♣ back to trump and West has 2 good ♦ and a good trump making 3♥

Lesson 5 Exercise 5 (pre-dealt hand)

Concept: weak 2 opening asking for a feature

N	E	S	W
10HCP+2	11HCP	14HCP+1	11HCP+1

N	E	S	W
2♠	P	2NT	P
3♣	P	4♠	P
P	P		

♠AK7432 Dlr: North  
 ♥875 Vul: None  
 ♦98  
 ♣K4

♠T6 ♠J8  
 ♥KJ4 ♥Q9632  
 ♦AK732 ♦J64  
 ♣875 ♣JT6

♠Q95  
 ♥AT  
 ♦QT5  
 ♣AQ932

North opens 2♠ holding 6♠ with 2/top3 honors and 10 HCP. East passes and South bids 2NT looking for feature into North's hand. West passes and North bids 3♣. East passes and South bids 4♠ holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> side suit.

East leads the ♣J hoping to knock out North's feature. North takes it with the ♣K. North leads two rounds of trump and the ♥2 winning with the ♥A. North will lead three rounds of ♣'s dumping a ♦ and trumping the last one. North leads a small ♦ and West wins with the ♦A and leads the ♦K, which North trumps. North leads a small ♥, West plays the ♥K and ♥J which Dummy wins and leads a small ♦ and North has two trump left. North loses 1♥, 1♦ makes 5.

Lesson 5 Exercise 6 (pre-dealt hand)

W	N	E	S
8HCP+2	12HCP+1	8HCP+1	12HCP

W	N	E	S
2♠	P	P	P

♠863 Dlr: West  
 ♥A6543 Vul: Both  
 ♦KJ7  
 ♣A9

♠AQT752 ♠K4  
 ♥97 ♥QT2  
 ♦Q65 ♦T94  
 ♣75 ♣QJT62



♠J9  
 ♥KJ8  
 ♦A832  
 ♣K843

If West were to pass, North would open the bidding with 1♥ and South would be sure that they reached game.

If West opens the bidding 2♠, North has more of a challenge because the bidding space has been greatly reduced. North cannot use a takeout double because he/she does not have shortness and 3 of each of the other suits. An overcall of 3♥ holding only 12HCP is rather chancy. If North chooses to overcall, South has a lead directing bid. If North doubles for penalty, the most East-West can go down is 2 tricks, not vulnerable, for a score of 500. North-South missed an opportunity of 4♥ and a game score of 620

Lesson 5 Exercise 7 (pre-dealt hand)

N	E	S	W
10HCP	8HCP+2	11HCP	11HCP+1

N	E	S	W
P	2♥	P	P

♠A2            Dlr: North  
 ♥852           Vul: None  
 ♦AJ64  
 ♣JT42

♠KQ654	♠83
♥J	♥KQT963
♦852	♦K7
♣KQ75	♣963

♠JT97  
 ♥A74  
 ♦QT93  
 ♣A8

North with 10 HCP must pass. East holding a disciplined 6 card ♥suit, opens the bidding with a weak two bid. South cannot double because he/she does not have a 3 card ♣ suit. Nor can South overcall because he/she does not hold a quality 5 card suit. West holding only 12 points should not bid the ♠suit because a new suit is forcing and he/she could get the bidding too high. West cannot bid no trump as he/she has no stopper in ♦, therefore should pass. North could bid in the balancing seat but neither a takeout double nor an overcall looks feasible. On lead, South should lead the ♠J, top of a sequence. North wins the 1<sup>st</sup> trick with ♠A. When East gets in the lead, he/she should draw trump and try finesses in both ♦ and ♣.

Lesson 5 Exercise 8 (pre-dealt hand)

E	S	W	N
8HCP+2	9HCP+2	8HCP	15HCP

E	S	W	N
P	2♦	P	2NT (feature?)
P	3♥	P	3NT

♠AK74      Dlr: East  
 ♥T62      Vul: N-S  
 ♦K5  
 ♣KQT4

♠QT95	♠J62
♥A8	♥QJ973
♦J62	♦94
♣J973	♣A82

♠83  
 ♥K54  
 ♦AQT873  
 ♣65

If South were to pass, West would open the bidding with 1♥ and East would be sure that they reached game.

If South opens the bidding 2♠, West has more of a challenge because the bidding space has been greatly reduced. West cannot use a takeout double because he/she does not have shortness and 3 of each of the other suits. An overcall of 3♥ holding only 12HCP is rather chancy. If West chooses to overcall, North has a lead directing bid. If West doubles for penalty, the most North-South can go down is 2 tricks, not vulnerable, for a score of 500. East-West missed an opportunity of 4♥ and a game score of 620

worksheet

1) ♠ 94  
♥ AJT873  
♦ K95  
♣ 64

2) ♠ QT7642  
♥ 8  
♦ T53  
♣ K82

3) ♠ T73  
♥ 4  
♦ KQJT95  
♣ 962

4) ♠ AKJT95  
♥ 3  
♦ QJ83  
♣ T2

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
disc./undisc  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
disc./undisc  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
disc./undisc  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
disc./undisc  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

5) ♠ 4  
♥ AQT9763  
♦ J62  
♣ 83

6) ♠ K975  
♥ T87542  
♦ A83  
♣ -

7) ♠ AQJ98  
♥ 62  
♦ T973  
♣ 74

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
disc./undisc  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
disc./undisc  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
disc./undisc  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

What is responder's bid after the auction

W	N	E	S
2♥	P	?	

1) ♠ KT8765  
♥ 3  
♦ KQ3  
♣ Q52

2) ♠ AK952  
♥ K83  
♦ 3  
♣ KJ93

3) ♠ 3  
♥ QT5  
♦ T942  
♣ K9753

4) ♠ 97  
♥ Q4  
♦ Q842  
♣ AJ752

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
cd support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
cd support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
card support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
cd support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

5) ♠ QJ3  
♥ 5  
♦ AKQJ975  
♣ AJ

6) ♠ AQJT975  
♥ -  
♦ 75  
♣ AKJ8

7) ♠ AT93  
♥ K72  
♦ AQ7  
♣ T42

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
cd support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
cd support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
card support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

HCP \_\_\_\_\_  
cd support Y/N  
Bid \_\_\_\_\_

Weak two's: bids are 2♦ or 2♥ or 2♠ (remember 2♣ bid shows a strong hand-22-24 points)

A weak two hand holds a six card suit that is **disciplined** (two of the top three honors or 3 of the top 5 honors) and 5-11 (6-10 HCP) **without** a side 4 card major

Three reasons for opening a weak two

1. Deprive opponents of bidding space
2. Lead directing bid
3. Very descriptive bid with narrow point range, definite shape and quality of suit

When to pre-empt:

1. As dealer-opening hand
2. Over RHO, bid in the direct seat

When not to pre-empt

1. **Do not** pre-empt over partner's bid
2. Do not pre-empt in **4<sup>th</sup> seat** after 3 passes; open at 1 level.

Pre-emptor

Responder



→Pass with one or no card support and opening count

→Raise pre-emptor's suit with 10+ pts and 3+ trump

→Must pass-partner is simply raising pre-empt

→3NT or game in a new suit is to play

→Bid new suit with a **quality** 5+ card suit and 13+ pts (can be forcing or non-forcing for one round-**non-forcing must be alerted-partnership agreement**)

→With no support and no side suit, rebid pre-empted suit

→Raise responder's suit with 3 card support

→2NT (considering game) asking for a feature (entry into the hand), forcing for one round and alertable.

→ Bid outside suit with A or K x

→Rebid original suit w/o feature

With quality 7 + card suit use rule of 500

Don't exceed the rule of 500

If not vulnerable, and doubled, do not get set more than 3 tricks (100-300-500)

If vulnerable, and doubled, do not get set more than 2 tricks (200-500)