

LESSON 8

Two-Over-One



General Concepts

General Introduction

Group Activities

Sample Deals



GENERAL CONCEPTS

Two-Over-One

Two-over-one is not part of the standard convention card. However, it is popular among tournament players in North America. This lesson provides an introduction to the basic two-over-one style.

Bidding

The two-over-one style discussed in this lesson is two-over-one game forcing. Other variations are possible — such as two-over-one game forcing, except for a 2♣ response, or except when responder rebids the same suit at the three level. These are included in the Appendix of the textbook, if your students want to look further into this.

Only the essential concepts are covered here: two-over-one responses and the forcing 1NT. A complete two-over-one game forcing style usually includes a number of additional conventions. The ideas presented here, however, are enough to get started.

Here are the topics covered:

Two-Over-One

This clarifies the use of the term two-over-one and reviews the standard approach, which does not commit the partnership to game in some sequences. Some of the challenges associated with the standard approach are illustrated, especially the challenge of knowing whether a specific bid is forcing or non-forcing.

Two-Over-One Game Forcing

The concept of playing two-over-one as game forcing is introduced. The major advantage is that it removes any doubt for the partnership about which sequences are forcing and which are invitational after a two-over-one response. This part of the concept is straightforward.

Principle of Fast Arrival

This section covers an important bidding principle: the faster the final contract is reached, the weaker the hand that places the contract. You have to take care in the practical application of this idea. It is a principle that isn't universally accepted, so this section could be skipped with an inexperienced group.

Handling Interference

This section covers the major exceptions to two-over-one game forcing. When there is interference over the opening bid, responder's two-over-one response is no longer game forcing. In addition, when responder is a passed hand, a two-over-one response is no longer forcing — to game or otherwise.

1NT Forcing

This section introduces the downside of two-over-one game forcing. The 1NT response has to cover a much wider range of hands. This leads to the need to play the response of 1NT as forcing, when the opening bid is a major suit. 1NT is not forcing in response to a minor suit, because responder has more bidding room. 1NT also isn't forcing by a passed hand.

Opener's Rebid after 1NT Forcing

Opener's rebid after a forcing 1NT response is discussed. Most of the time, opener simply makes a natural response. The only complication arises when opener would have passed a non-forcing 1NT response and may now have to manufacture a rebid.

Responder's Rebid after a Forcing 1NT Response

The forcing 1NT response is quite straightforward to apply — responder bids 1NT with any hand unsuitable for a two-over-one response. The challenge arises at responder's second bid, after hearing opener's rebid. This section covers responder's options. It is important to emphasize that responder must bid again with an invitational-strength hand — the same type of hand that would have led to an invitational sequence, if the partnership was not playing 1NT forcing.

Handling Interference

The effect on 1NT forcing after interference by the opponents is discussed. A 1NT response becomes natural, if there is an immediate overcall or takeout double after the opening bid. Interference after a 1NT forcing response removes the obligation for opener to manufacture a rebid.

Play & Defense

The deals in this lesson are all examples of two-over-one game forcing and 1NT forcing in action.

They include some examples of safety plays.

The first deal shows how two-over-one can make it easier for the partnership to reach a slam. To reach slam, the slam-bidding methods covered in earlier lessons can be used. There isn't much to the play except for declarer to avoid the trap of taking an unnecessary finesse before trumps have been drawn. To further illustrate the effect of two-over-one, a variation of the deal can be constructed in which the objective is to avoid getting too high after a two-over-one response.

The second deal illustrates another example of two-over-one game forcing with the addition of the principle of fast arrival to avoid getting too high. In the play, declarer must be careful to take a safety play in the trump suit to avoid losing a trick.

The third deal illustrates the use of a forcing 1NT response to show a three-card limit raise of opener's major. In the play, declarer again must handle the trump suit carefully to avoid an unnecessary loser.

The fourth deal illustrates the advantage of using the forcing 1NT response to find an appropriate partscore contract. The partscore can be defeated, but only with excellent defense. Discussing the defense to defeat the contract can be omitted unless the students are quite experienced.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This lesson covers a concept that is outside the scope of standard conventions, but is becoming part of standard bidding in North American tournaments.

You might start the lesson like this:

“In this lesson, we'll discuss a concept that isn't part of the standard bidding structure we have discussed so far. It is a style that is commonly used among competitive players, however, and one you might encounter when playing duplicate bridge.”

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Two-Over-One

Introduction

“One key to good bidding is for each member of the partnership to recognize whether a particular bid is forcing, invitational or a signoff. There are many situations which create almost insurmountable challenges using standard methods.”

Instructions

“The cards are sorted into suits. Give each player one suit and construct the following hand in front of North.

“In spades: the king and a low card.

“In hearts: the queen and two low cards.

“In diamonds: the queen and three low cards.

“In clubs: the ace, the jack and two low cards.”

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding-right: 20px;">NORTH</td> <td style="width: 50%;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♠ K x</td> <td>1 ♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♥ Q x x</td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♦ Q x x x</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">♣ A J x x</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	NORTH	SOUTH	♠ K x	1 ♠	♥ Q x x	2NT	♦ Q x x x		♣ A J x x	
NORTH	SOUTH										
♠ K x	1 ♠										
♥ Q x x	2NT										
♦ Q x x x											
♣ A J x x											

Check that each table has the correct starting hand set up dummy style in front of North.

“**Suppose South deals and opens the bidding 1 ♠. What is North’s response?** (2 ♣.) With 12 high-card points, you are too strong for 1NT. Using standard methods, North is too weak to jump to 2NT, which would be forcing, showing 13 or more points. North might play a jump to 2NT as artificial, the Jacoby 2NT response showing a forcing raise in spades. Instead, North simply starts with a new suit. When responding with four-card suits, bidding up the line, 2 ♣ is typical. Responding in a new suit at the two-level over partner’s one-level suit bid is referred to as a two-over-one response.

“**Suppose South rebids 2NT over North’s 2 ♣ response. What does that show?** (A balanced minimum.) South has described a minimum-strength balanced hand of 12 to 14 points with a five-card spade suit. With a balanced hand of 15 to 17 points, South would have opened 1NT. With 18 or 19 points, South could jump to 3NT.

“**Is South’s rebid forcing?** (No.) Although some partnerships might have an agreement that North’s two-level response has guaranteed a second bid, most partnerships would treat South’s 2NT rebid as non forcing. North is allowed to pass with a minimum. A two-over-one response in standard methods is not forcing to game.

“Over South’s 2NT rebid, what call would North make? (Pass/3NT.) North is in a quandary. If South has 14 points, or even a good 13 points with a five-card suit, the partnership should have enough for 3NT. In modern bidding, 25 combined points should give the partnership a good play for game, when the points are relatively evenly divided between the two hands. If South has only 12 or a poor 13 points, however, the partnership may have no play for 3NT, and it would be best to stop in 2NT.

“North would like to bid 2NT inviting South to game with a maximum. North will have to guess whether to pass or bid game. There is no right answer using standard methods.

“It would be an equally difficult situation if North held 11 points. North might get the partnership to a poor contract by raising to 3NT or might miss an excellent game contract by passing.

“South opens 1♠, North responds 2♣ and South raises to 3♣. Now what call does North make? (Pass/3NT.) Again, there is no easy answer. By pushing on to 3NT, North might be getting the partnership into a hopeless game with 24 combined points. By passing, North might miss a good game contract. The partnership might even be in a 4–3 fit, if South has raised with three-card support.

“This illustrates one of the flaws in the standard approach to two-over-one responses. It uses up a lot of bidding room, and the partnership may not be left with any satisfactory invitational sequence.

“To illustrate another shortcoming, change the North hand.

“In diamonds: add the ace.

“In clubs: take away the jack.

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">NORTH</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ K x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ Q x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ A Q x x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">?</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ A x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </table>	NORTH	SOUTH	♠ K x	1♥	♥ Q x x	3♦	♦ A Q x x x	?	♣ A x x	
NORTH	SOUTH										
♠ K x	1♥										
♥ Q x x	3♦										
♦ A Q x x x	?										
♣ A x x											

“South opens 1♥. What is North’s response? (2♦.) With 15 high-card points plus a five-card suit, North knows the partnership belongs in at least game. With only three-card support for hearts, North shouldn’t make an immediate forcing raise in that suit. Instead, North can start with a two-over-one response of 2♦, waiting to hear South’s rebid.”

Some participants might suggest other calls. A natural, forcing, 2NT response is a possibility, but doesn’t describe the heart support or the fine diamond suit. The same flaw is present in a response of 3NT, showing a strong balanced hand. A response of 2♦ keeps most options open.

“**South raises North’s 2♦ response to 3♦. Would a rebid of 3♥ be forcing?** (No/Yes.) Although some partnerships might agree to play a rebid of 3♥ as forcing in this situation, the standard approach is to treat it as non forcing. A rebid of 3♥ would be invitational, showing three-card support and a hand of limit-raise strength, 10 to 12 points.

“Similarly, even a raise to 4♦ would be treated as non forcing in most partnerships.

“**What rebid should North make?** (4♥/5♦/4♣.) If a rebid of 3♥ is non forcing, North has a difficult choice. North could simply jump to 4♥. That will get the partnership to game in an eight-card fit, but will give up on the possibility of slam. North could jump to 5♦, but that might bypass the best contract of 4♥. North could make a forcing bid, such as 4♣ or 3♠, but that would simply muddy the waters. South would be unaware of North’s intentions.

“North will probably settle for the practical bid of 4♥, but that might not be the best contract.

“Leave the North hand face up and construct the following hand in front of South.

“In spades: the ace and a low card.

“In hearts: the ace, the king and three low cards.

“In diamonds: the king and three low cards.

“In clubs: two low cards.

NORTH ♠ K x ♥ Q x x ♦ A Q x x x ♣ A x x	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NORTH</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> </table>	NORTH	SOUTH	2♦	1♥	4♥	3♦		Pass	SOUTH ♠ A x ♥ A K x x x ♦ K x x x ♣ x x
NORTH	SOUTH									
2♦	1♥									
4♥	3♦									
	Pass									

“**What would South open the bidding?** (1♥.) With 14 high-card points and a five-card suit, South would open 1♥.

“**What would North respond?** (2♦.) North makes the two-over-one response of 2♦.

“**What would South rebid?** (3♦.) With a minimum hand, South would raise to 3♦.”

Actually, South has quite a good hand for diamonds and might consider a jump to 4♦ — but that wouldn't be everyone's choice.

“If North now jumps to 4♥, what call would South make? (Pass.) With only 14 high-card points, South will probably settle for game. It might be dangerous to move beyond the four level, since there might be two club losers and another loser somewhere.

“If the hearts and diamonds divide reasonably, how many tricks will North–South take? (13.) If the hearts divide 3–2, there are five tricks in hearts. If the diamonds divide no worse than 3–1, there are five tricks in diamonds. Together with the ♠AK and the ♣A, that's all 13 tricks.

“It is possible that the partnership will stop at the game level when a grand slam is reasonable.”

Summary

“In standard methods, there are many challenges for the partnership after a two-over-one response. Even though this is a forcing response, it doesn't commit the partnership to game. That can leave many sequences in which the partnership is unsure whether it belongs in partscore, game or slam.”

Two-Over-One Game Forcing

Introduction

“One possible solution to the dilemma of handling two-over-one responses is for the partnership to discuss guidelines for each possible sequence that might occur. There’s a simpler solution, however.”

Instructions

“Start with the hands as they are.

NORTH	NORTH	SOUTH	SOUTH
♠ K x		1♥	♠ A x
♥ Q x x	2♦	3♦	♥ A K x x x
♦ A Q x x x	3♥	3♠	♦ K x x x
♣ A x x	4♣	4NT	♣ x x
	5♥	(6♥)	

“What is South’s opening call? (1♥.)

“What is North’s initial response? (2♦.)

“What is South’s rebid? (3♦.)

“What bid would North like to make at his point to clarify the situation? (3♥, forcing.) North would like to show heart support, without using up all of the bidding room below the game level. The ideal bid at this point would be a forcing 3♥ call. That leaves plenty of room for the partnership to explore for the best game or to move toward slam.

“Many partnerships simplify this whole situation through the following agreement:

- A two-over-one response by an unpassed hand is forcing to game.

“Playing two-over-one game forcing, North can bid 3♥ at this point without any worry about being passed. The initial 2♦ response already committed the partnership to the game level. Any bid below game, therefore, must be forcing.

“Over North’s 3♥ bid, what call could South make? (3♠.) South didn’t promise anything extra with the raise to 3♦, so South can now show a top-of-the-line hand for either diamonds or hearts by cuebidding 3♠, showing interest in reaching slam.

“If South cuebids 3♠, what call might North make? (4♣.) Now North can confirm interest in slam by cuebidding 4♣, showing first-round control of clubs.

“Notice that the partnership is still below the game level, but both partners have had an opportunity to express interest in reaching a slam. After this start, the partnership should reach an excellent 6♥ contract or even a grand slam.”

There’s no need to go into the detailed auction to reach a small or grand slam. The partnership would probably need to use some form of Key Card Blackwood to consider the grand slam. A grand slam isn’t necessarily a good contract on these combined hands, since it requires a 3–2 division of the missing hearts.

“Why is the agreement that two-over-one is game forcing only if responder did not pass originally? (Responder can’t have enough to insist upon game.) By passing originally, responder has shown fewer than 12 or 13 points. Unless responder’s hand can be revalued after partner’s opening bid, it is unlikely that responder can have enough to force the partnership to game.

“Even if responder’s hand does revalue upward, opener could have a light opening in third or fourth position. That is why most partnerships use conventions such as Drury after third- and fourth-position openings, in place of two-over-one game forcing.

“Change the South hand.

“In spades: take away the ace and add the queen.

“In hearts: take away the ace and add a low card.

“In clubs: take away two low cards and add the king and the jack.

NORTH
 ♠ K x
 ♥ Q x x
 ♦ A Q x x x
 ♣ A x x

NORTH	SOUTH
	1♥
2♦	3♦
3♥	4♥
Pass	

SOUTH
 ♠ Q x
 ♥ K x x x x
 ♦ K x x x
 ♣ K J

“What would South bid? (1♥.) With 12 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card suit, South would open 1♥.

“What would North respond? (2♦.)

“What would South rebid? (3♦.) South would raise North’s suit.

“What would North call next? (3♥.) North can now show three-card heart support by bidding 3♥.

“May South pass? (No.) Even with a minimum opening bid, South may not pass if the partnership is playing two-over-one game forcing. North’s 2♦ response committed the partnership to the game level.

“What call would South make? (4♥.) With a minimum opening bid, South would settle for game in the eight-card major-suit fit by bidding 4♥.

“What call would North make after South’s 4♥ bid? (Pass.) North would have no reason to bid again. South has shown a minimum opening bid and expressed no interest in slam. North would pass and settle for game.

“Is 4♥ a good spot? (Yes.) 4♥ is the best contract for North–South. 3NT is unlikely to make if the opponents lead spades. 5♦ is also unlikely to make. Declarer has to lose the ♠A and may also lose two heart tricks, unless the missing hearts lie very favorably. Even 4♥ isn’t 100% secure. If the hearts divide badly, declarer could lose three heart tricks and the ♠A. However, 4♥ is certainly where the partnership would like to be.”

Summary

“Two-over-one game forcing can make it easier to explore for the best game contract or to look for slam. Once the initial two-over-one response has been made, any bid below game is forcing. Neither partner needs to jump to game for fear of being passed in a partscore contract. It can make the partnership more comfortable because there is no longer any doubt about whether a bid is forcing or invitational.”

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 1 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise One — Two-Over-One Game Forcing

West opens the bidding 1♥. What does East respond with each of the following hands?

1) ♠ K 10 6
♥ J 6
♦ Q 10 8 5 3
♣ Q 9 5

2) ♠ Q J 7 6 3
♥ 9 3
♦ K 7
♣ A Q J 2

3) ♠ 5 2
♥ Q 9 4
♦ 7 6 3
♣ A J 8 6 2

4) ♠ J 7 2
♥ 4
♦ A K J 7 4
♣ Q 10 8 4

5) ♠ K 9 8 5
♥ 10 6
♦ A K J 6 3
♣ K 5

6) ♠ 10 3
♥ 6
♦ A J 5 3
♣ K J 10 6 3 2

Exercise One Answer — Two-Over-One Game Forcing

- 1) 1NT. This is the same bid East would make whether or not the partnership plays two-over-one. The only difference is that East knows West will bid again since the 1NT response is forcing. That will be too bad if 1NT is the best possible contract on this deal, but it's the price that must be paid for using this convention.
- 2) 1♠. No reason for East not to make a natural response. 1♠ is forcing.
- 3) 2♥. Playing five-card majors, East should raise with three-card support.
- 4) 1NT. Playing natural methods, East could respond 2♦. Playing two-over-one, a response of 2♦ would be forcing to game. East isn't quite strong enough for that and must settle for 1NT. The good news is that West will bid again, giving East an opportunity to further describe the hand.
- 5) 2♦. East has enough to commit the partnership to game and makes a natural response, bidding the longest suit first.
- 6) 1NT. Unless the partnership is playing that a response of 2♣ followed by 3♣ is non forcing, East has to make a forcing 1NT response. East will have an opportunity to show the club suit after West makes a rebid.

➡ "Let's do Exercise 2 in the student text to review what we have just discussed."

Exercise Two — Opener's Rebids

What call does West make with the following hands after the auction goes as shown?

1)	♠ A K J 8 7 3 ♥ 10 5 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ J 8	WEST 1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2 ♥ 3 ♠	SOUTH Pass Pass
2)	♠ K J 8 6 2 ♥ A Q 8 3 ♦ 9 4 ♣ Q 5	WEST 1 ♠ 2 ♥ ?	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2 ♦ 2NT	SOUTH Pass Pass
3)	♠ 8 6 ♥ K Q 10 8 6 2 ♦ 9 4 ♣ A K 5	WEST 1 ♥ 2 ♥ ?	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2 ♦ 3 ♥	SOUTH Pass Pass
4)	♠ K 10 8 7 4 ♥ J 8 3 ♦ K 4 ♣ A 7 5	WEST 1 ♠ ?	NORTH Pass	EAST Pass 2 ♥	SOUTH Pass Pass
5)	♠ 10 6 ♥ K Q 10 8 5 ♦ A Q J 3 ♣ 5 4	WEST 1 ♥ 2 ♦ ?	NORTH 1 ♠ Pass	EAST 2 ♣ 3 ♣	SOUTH Pass Pass

Exercise Two Answer — Opener's Rebids

- 4 ♠. East's 2 ♥ response committed the partnership to at least game. East's 3 ♠ bid is forcing, leaving room to explore slam possibilities. With nothing to add to the conversation, West settles for 4 ♠.
- 3NT. The 2NT bid is forcing once East started with a two-over-one. West has shown a five-card spade suit and a four-card heart suit. If East doesn't want to support either of these suits, notrump looks like the spot.
- 4 ♣. After the 2 ♦ response, the partnership is committed to at least game. East's 3 ♥ bid shows interest in a slam. With a minimum hand and heart support, East could have jumped to 4 ♥. West should cooperate with East by cuebidding 4 ♣ (see Chapter 6). The first-round control of clubs may be what East needs to know about before bidding a slam.
- Pass. Since East passed originally, the 2 ♥ response is not forcing. With a light opening bid, there's no need for West to bid again. Hearts should be a satisfactory trump suit.
- Pass. After the interference, East's 2 ♣ bid is not game forcing. The 3 ♣ bid is only invitational so, with nothing else to say, West should stop in partscore.

Principle of Fast Arrival

Introduction

“Although two-over-one game forcing can leave the partnership more room to search for the best contract, once you know where the partnership belongs, there’s no advantage to any further exploration.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In diamonds: take away the ace and add the jack.

“Change the South hand.

“In hearts: add the ace.

“In diamonds: take away the king.

NORTH ♠ K x ♥ Q x x ♦ Q J x x x ♣ A x x	NORTH 2 ♦ 4 ♥	SOUTH 1 ♥ 2 ♥ Pass	SOUTH ♠ Q x ♥ A K x x x x ♦ x x x ♣ K J
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“**What would South open?** (1 ♥.) With 13 high-card points plus 2 length points for the six-card suit, South would start with 1 ♥.

“**What would North respond?** (2 ♦.) With 12 high-card points plus 1 length point for the five-card diamond suit, North has enough to respond 2 ♦ and commit the partnership to the game level. North shouldn’t raise hearts right away with only three-card support.

“**What is South’s rebid?** (2 ♥.) Although South has three-card support for diamonds, South will probably give priority to showing the sixth heart by rebidding 2 ♥.

“**After South’s 2 ♥ rebid, what would be North’s next call?** (4 ♥.) North could show heart support at this point by bidding 3 ♥, which would be forcing. There’s no need, however, for North to conserve any bidding room. North knows the partnership belongs in game in hearts. With a minimum for the game-forcing 2 ♦ response, North has no interest in looking for a possible slam contract. North can simply jump to 4 ♥.

“The advantage of jumping to 4 ♥ is twofold. It tells partner that North isn’t interested in going beyond game. It also gives no additional information to the opponents. With nothing to guide them, the opponents might lead a club, for example, making declarer’s task easy, since one of South’s diamond losers can then be discarded on an extra club winner in dummy.

“If North were to bid only 3♥, South might make a move toward slam, since South holds a very good hand for the minimum-sounding 2♥ rebid. South might show some values in clubs, for example. The defenders may then get off to the best lead against 4♥, perhaps even getting a diamond ruff to defeat the contract. Worse, even if North stops at 4♥, South might consider taking another bid, which would get the partnership too high.

“North’s jump to 4♥ in this situation — when 3♥ was available as a forcing bid — is sometimes referred to as the principle of fast arrival. Jumping directly to game shows no interest in looking for any other contract. Going slowly, would show interest in exploring other possibilities — perhaps getting to slam or doubt about whether hearts is the best denomination.”

Summary

“As usual, simple is often best. Once you know where the partnership belongs, get there as quickly as possible. If you make extraneous bids along the way, there’s always the chance that partner will misunderstand where you are heading and get the partnership to the wrong spot. Extra bids also give the opponents additional information and additional opportunities to enter the bidding — with a lead-directing double, for example.

“The principle of fast arrival is that the faster the final contract is reached, the weaker the hand that places the contract. Conversely, the slower the approach, the stronger the suggestion that a higher contract may be appropriate.”

With an experienced group you could point out that the concept of fast arrival should be discussed carefully with partner. Not all jumps to game are signoffs, showing a weak hand. In some sequences, jumps carry very specific information. Such picture bids are beyond the scope of this lesson series, however.

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 3 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Three — Principle of Fast Arrival

What does East call with each of the following hands after the auction goes as shown?

1)	WEST 1♥ 2♥	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2♦ ?	SOUTH Pass	♠ A 4 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A K J 9 7 5 ♣ 6 4
2)	WEST 1♠ 2♠	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2♣ ?	SOUTH Pass	♠ K Q 7 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A Q J 8 5
3)	WEST 1♥ 2♦	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2♣ ?	SOUTH Pass	♠ K 2 ♥ 7 3 ♦ K Q 8 3 ♣ A J 9 7 5
4)	WEST 1♥ 2♥	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2♣ ?	SOUTH Pass	♠ K Q 10 ♥ 3 ♦ Q J 10 5 ♣ K Q 9 7 3
5)	WEST 1♠ 2♥	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 2♣ ?	SOUTH Pass	♠ 9 3 ♥ A J 6 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ A K 9 8 5

Exercise Three Answer — Principle of Fast Arrival

- 3♥. The 2♦ response by East committed the partnership to at least game. There still could be a slam, if West has a good heart suit and first- or second-round control of clubs. East should raise to the three level to leave room to explore. West may be able to cuebid 4♣. If not, East can settle for game.
- 4♠. If West has a minimum opening bid, East has no interest in going beyond game. By jumping to game, East uses the principle of fast arrival to send that message to West.
- 3♦. East can't be certain that the best contract is 5♦. The partnership might still belong in 3NT, 4♥ — if West has six of them — or even 6♦. East should raise to 3♦, and see what partner has to say next.
- 3NT. Without a fit in West's suit and strength in all of the other suits, East jumps to game in notrump. By using the principle of fast arrival, West gets the message that East doesn't have much interest in any other contract. By bidding 2NT first and then 3NT, East would be indicating interest in other contracts.
- 2NT. No need to jump to 3NT when there is the possibility of bigger things. East leaves room for West to make a further descriptive bid. West might rebid 3♥, for example, showing a five-card suit, and slam might be possible.

Handling Interference

Introduction

“There are exceptions to a two-over-one response being game forcing. One exception has been discussed already. A two-over-one response by a passed hand is not forcing to game. Another exception occurs when the opponents interfere.”

Instructions

“Pick up all of the cards and sort them into suits. Put out the following hand in front of North.

“In spades: three low cards.

“In hearts: two low cards.

“In diamonds: the ace, the queen, the jack and three low cards.

“In clubs: the king and a low card.

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♠ x x x	1 ♠	2 ♦	1 ♣						
♥ x x									
♦ A Q J x x x									
♣ K x									

“**Suppose South opens 1♣, and West passes. What call does North make?** (1♦.) No problem. North would show the diamond suit at the one level. A one-level response is forcing, but is not forcing to game.

“**Suppose South opens 1♣, and West overcalls 1♠? What call does North make?** (Pass/2♦.) West’s overcall creates a challenge for North. North doesn’t have enough strength to commit the partnership to the game level. With a doubleton heart, North doesn’t have the right type of hand to make a negative double. If South were to bid hearts, the auction might get out of control.

“North could pass. South will get another opportunity to bid, holding more than a minimum opening. Passing is dangerous, however. East might raise spades to the two level or higher, and North–South may now have difficulty getting back into the auction. Even if South does make another bid, North will have difficulty catching up and showing this amount of strength.

“To get around this dilemma, a two-level response in a new suit after an overcall is not treated as forcing to game. It is forcing for one round. Responder may have enough to force to game, but the partnership is not committed to game. In effect, it is as though the partnership has returned to standard methods where two-over-one responses are not game forcing. North can make the convenient response of 2♦ without being concerned about getting the partnership too high. If South makes a minimum rebid such as 2NT or 3♣, North can pass or make a non-forcing rebid of 3♦.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away a low card and add the king.

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“**Suppose South deals and opens 1♥. West overcalls 1♠. What call does North make?** (2♦.) With 13 high-card points and a six-card diamond suit, North has more than enough to respond 2♦, which is forcing for one round.

“**Suppose East passes, and South rebids 2♥. West passes. Now what call does North make?** (4♥.) North must be careful to get the partnership to a game contract. Because of West’s interference, the 2♦ response is not forcing to game. South might pass, if North raises to only 3♥ or rebids 3♦. Instead, South should put the partnership in game by jumping to 4♥. South probably has a six-card heart suit for the 2♥ rebid.

“Although it doesn’t apply on this hand, North does have a forcing bid available. A cuebid of the opponent’s suit, 2♠. This is one of the reasons that a new suit response at the two level isn’t game forcing after an overcall. A cuebid of the opponent’s suit is always available to show a game-forcing hand at some point in the auction. When the opponents don’t interfere, there is no cuebid available, so the two-over-one game forcing concept is more useful.

“Let’s consider the auction from the other side of the table, when North is the opening bidder.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away the king and add the jack.

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♥ J x	Pass	Pass	3 ♥																		
♦ A Q J x x x	Pass	Pass	Pass																		
♣ K x	Pass	Pass	Pass																		

“**What would North bid?** (1♦.) North has 11 high-card points plus 2 length points for the six-card suit, enough for an opening bid of 1♦.

“Suppose East overcalls 1 ♠, and South responds 2 ♥. West passes. What call does North make? (3 ♦.) South’s 2 ♥ bid is forcing, so North must bid something. North can show a minimum hand by rebidding the diamond suit at the cheapest available level, 3 ♦.

“East passes, and South now bids 3 ♥. West passes. What call does North make? (Pass.) Because of East’s interference, South’s 2 ♥ bid followed by a 3 ♥ rebid isn’t forcing. With a minimum opening bid, North can pass, leaving the partnership in partscore.

“Let’s change the scenario.

“Suppose North opens the bidding 1 ♦, and East passes. South responds 2 ♣, and West overcalls 2 ♠. Does North have to bid? (No.) Although South’s 2 ♣ response is forcing, North doesn’t have to bid when West overcalls. South will get another opportunity to bid, so passing doesn’t risk ending the auction.

“North could rebid 3 ♦, but with a minimum opening bid, North should probably pass at this point.

“Suppose North does pass, East passes and South rebids 3 ♣. West passes. Can North pass? (No.) If East had overcalled, South’s 2 ♣ bid would not be game forcing. When East passed, however, South’s 2 ♣ response committed the partnership to the game level. West’s overcall hasn’t changed that. South’s 3 ♣ rebid is forcing, since the partnership has not yet reached the game level. North can’t pass.

“What call does North make? (3 ♦.) North can now rebid the diamond suit. Since North passed West’s 2 ♠ overcall, North is simply showing a minimum opening bid with five or more diamonds. North’s 3 ♦ bid is also forcing, since game has not yet been reached. The next move will be up to South.”

Summary

“When you open the bidding in a suit at the one level, partner’s two-level response in a new suit is forcing to game, unless partner is a passed hand or unless your left-hand opponent has overcalled. If your left-hand opponent passes, partner’s two-level response is game forcing, even if your right-hand opponent interferes.”

1NT Forcing

Introduction

“Playing two-over-one game forcing appears to make the partnership’s bidding much easier. There’s no longer any question of whether partner’s bid is invitational or forcing after a two-over-one response. As with all conventions, however, there is a price to pay. You can’t play two-over-one game forcing without adding another conventional agreement.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away a low card.

“In hearts: add the queen.

“In diamonds: take away the ace.

“In clubs: add the jack.

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“Suppose South deals and opens the bidding 1 ♠. West passes. What call does North make? (1NT.) Playing two-over-one game forcing, North doesn’t have enough to respond 2 ♦. With 10 high-card points plus 1 length point, North doesn’t have enough to commit the partnership to game. South might have as few as 12 or 13 points.

“Instead, North’s only option is to start with a response of 1NT. Playing two-over-one game forcing, the response of 1NT has to cover a much greater range than the standard 6 to 9 or 6 to 10 points.

“This can make it very awkward for the partnership to find its best contract, especially when the opening bid is a major suit. If the opening bid is 1 ♥, responder’s only options with fewer than 13 points are to respond 1 ♠ or 1NT, unless responder has the right type of hand to make an immediate raise of opener’s suit. After a 1 ♠ opening bid, responder has no option other than to raise or bid 1NT.

“If responder can have 11 or 12 points for a 1NT response, opener can’t be sure that the partnership doesn’t belong in game, even when holding a minimum-strength hand of 14 or 15 points.

“To circumvent this problem, partnerships that use two-over-one as a game force usually have the following agreement:

- Unless responder passed originally, a response of 1NT to an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ is forcing for one round.

“This is referred to as 1NT forcing. On most hands, it will actually be advantageous to have this agreement instead of the standard agreement that a 1NT response is non forcing.

“**For example, suppose South’s opening bid is 1♥. What would North respond?** (1NT.) With 10 high-card points plus 1 point for the doubleton spade, North has enough strength for a limit raise, but only three-card support. North can’t make an immediate jump raise to 3♥. Playing standard methods, North could respond 2♦, planning to show heart support at the next opportunity.

“Playing two-over-one game forcing, North can’t respond 2♦, since that would commit the partnership to game. Instead, North must start with a 1NT response.

“Now it is advantageous that the 1NT response is forcing. South must take another bid, giving North an opportunity to describe the hand.

“**Suppose South rebids 2♥. What call would North make?** (3♥.) North can now show an invitational strength hand, with fewer than four-card support, by raising to 3♥.

“**Suppose South opens 1♥, North responds 1NT and South rebids 2♣. What call does North make?** (3♥.) North can show an invitational hand with three-card support by jumping to 3♥. This is a jump preference. A rebid of only 2♥ by North would be a simple preference, showing a minimum hand with 6 to 9 points — and only two-card support, because North didn’t raise right away.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: add four low cards.

“In diamonds: take away the queen and the jack.

“In clubs: take away the jack and a low card.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ x x				1♠
♥ Q J x x x x x	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
♦ x x x	Pass	2♥		
♣ K				

“**Suppose South opens the bidding 1♠. What call does North make?** (1NT.) With only 6 high-card points plus 3 points for the seven-card suit, North would respond 1NT, whether using standard methods or 1NT forcing.

“Playing standard methods, the 1NT response might end the auction if opener passes. 1NT is unlikely to be a good contract. Playing 1NT forcing, North will get another chance to bid.

“**Suppose South rebids 2♣ after the forcing 1NT. What call will North make?** (2♥.) Now North can show the heart suit by bidding 2♥. South will know that North has a long heart suit with too little strength to show it immediately at the two level. The partnership is likely to reach its best contract, thanks to the forcing 1NT response.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away three low cards.

“In clubs: add the queen and two low cards.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ x x	Pass	1NT	Pass	1♠
♥ Q J x x	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♠
♦ x x x				
♣ K Q x x				

“**South opens the bidding 1♠. What response does North make?** (1NT.) With 8 high-card points and only two spades, North would respond 1NT. This is the same response North would make playing standard methods.

“1NT might be the best contract for North–South. South can’t pass, however, since the 1NT response is forcing.

“**Suppose South rebids 2♠. What call does North make?** (Pass.) When South rebids the spade suit, North can pass, leaving the partnership in partscore. This is exactly what North would do playing standard methods, if South had rebid 2♠ after a non-forcing 1NT response. Not much difference.”

At this point, don’t discuss what North would do if South rebid 2♦, instead of 2♠. After the next section, it will become much clearer why North should give preference back to 2♠.

“The 1NT response is only forcing if the opening bid is 1♥ or 1♠. That’s because responder will usually have other options when the opening bid is a minor.

“**Suppose South’s opening bid is 1♦. What would North respond?** (1♥.) South would show a four-card major suit at the one level by responding 1♥.

“**Suppose South now rebids 1NT. What call would North make?** (Pass.) South is showing a minimum balanced hand, and North would pass. The partnership can stop in 1NT, when the opening bid is a minor suit.

“Change the North hand.
 “In spades: add the king.
 “In hearts: take away a low card.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ K x x	Pass	1NT?		1♦
♥ Q J x				
♦ x x x				
♣ K Q x x				

“**Suppose South opens the bidding 1♦. What call does North make?** (1NT/2NT.) This is a little awkward playing two-over-one game forcing, because North isn’t strong enough to respond 2♣, committing the partnership to game.

“If the partnership would treat a 2NT response as forcing, showing a balanced hand of 13 or more points, then North’s only option is to respond 1NT. With 11 high-card points, there’s some danger that the partnership will miss a game. Opener will pass with a minimum hand containing as many as 15 or 16 points.

“To get around this, many partnerships play a jump response to 2NT over an opening bid of 1♣ or 1♦ as invitational, showing 11 or 12 points. This works well in concert with two-over-one game forcing.”

Summary

“When the partnership plays two-over-one game forcing, it usually also plays 1NT forcing in response to an opening major suit bid. 1NT is non forcing in response to a minor-suit opening bid or when responder is a passed hand.”

➔ “Let’s do Exercise 4 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Four – 1NT Forcing

What does West respond with each of the following hands, when East opens the bidding 1♥ and South passes?

1) ♠ K J 4

♥ 9 3

♦ A J 10 7

♣ Q 10 6 3

2) ♠ 10 8 3

♥ 6

♦ K J 8 7 6 2

♣ K 9 4

3) ♠ J 6 2

♥ A 10 4

♦ J 4 3

♣ K Q 6 2

Exercise Four Answer – 1NT Forcing

- 1) 1NT. Playing standard methods, West would be too strong for 1NT. Playing two-over-one, a 1NT response is forcing, so West will have an opportunity to show additional strength on the rebid.
- 2) 1NT. The forcing 1NT response doesn't promise a balanced hand.
- 3) 1NT. West has enough strength for a limit raise in hearts but only three-card support. West should start with a forcing 1NT response, planning to bid 3♥ at the next opportunity.

Opener's Rebid after 1NT Forcing

Introduction

“After an opening major-suit bid, a response of 1NT is forcing. Finding a rebid is usually straightforward for opener, although there can be awkward situations.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: add the king and a low card.

“In diamonds: take away two low cards.

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“**What would North open?** (1♥.) North would open the bidding in the five-card major suit, 1♥.

“**Suppose South responds with a forcing 1NT. What is North's rebid?** (2♣.) Having already shown the major suit, North can show a second suit by bidding 2♣. This is the same call North would make even if the 1NT response were non forcing, since North has an unbalanced hand.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: add a low card.

“In clubs: take away the queen.

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“**What would North open?** (1♥.) With 12 high-card points and a six-card suit, North would open 1♥.

“**Suppose South responds 1NT. What is North's rebid?** (2♥.) With an unbalanced hand and a six-card suit, North would rebid the hearts at the cheapest available level to show a minimum-strength opening bid. Again, this is the same rebid North would make if the 1NT response were non forcing.

“Change the North hand.

“In clubs: take away a low card and add the ace.

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“What would North open? (1♥.)

“If South responds 1NT, what call does North make? (3♥.) With 16 high-card points plus 2 points for the six-card suit, North has a medium-strength hand which can be shown by jumping to 3♥. The forcing 1NT response hasn’t changed the standard rebid with this hand.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away the jack.

“In diamonds: add the king.

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“What would North open? (1♥.) With 18 high-card points and a five-card suit, North is too strong to open 1NT. Instead, North starts with 1♥.

“Over South’s forcing 1NT response, what call does North make? (2NT.) North would raise the 1NT response to 2NT, inviting game. This is the usual way to show a balanced hand of 18 or 19 points.

“So far, nothing has changed due to the forcing 1NT response.

“Change the North hand.

“In clubs: take away the ace and the king and add the jack and a low card.

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“What would North open? (1♥.) With 12 high-card points and a five-card suit, North would open 1♥.

“**What call does North make if South responds 1NT?** (2♣.) Playing standard methods, North would pass the 1NT response, holding a minimum balanced hand. When the 1NT response is forcing, North has to take a second bid. Having already shown a five-card heart suit, North will have to manufacture a rebid on a three-card suit by bidding 2♣.

“Treat the clubs as a four-card suit. Responder will be aware that you might occasionally have to bid a three-card minor suit in this situation, when you don’t have a six-card major suit to rebid.

“North can’t bid 2NT. As the previous example showed, a raise to 2NT is invitational, showing 18 or 19 points.

“**Suppose North rebids 2♣, and South now raises to 3♣. What call does North make?** (Pass.) Don’t panic. South is making an invitational raise, showing 11 or 12 points and club support. With a minimum opening bid, you should pass the invitation. South figures to have at least five clubs to raise in this position. South is aware that you might have to bid a three-card suit.

“**Suppose North opens 1♥, South responds 1NT and North rebids 2♣. South now bids 2♦. What call does North make?** (Pass.) South is showing a hand with five or more diamonds that was too weak to respond 2♦. With a minimum hand, North should pass and leave the partnership in partscore. South could have a very weak hand with six or seven diamonds.

“**Suppose North opens 1♥, South bids 1NT and North bids 2♣. South now jumps to 3♥. What call does North make?** (Pass.) South’s jump preference to 3♥ shows an invitational hand of 11 or 12 points with three-card support. South would have made an immediate limit raise with four-card support. With a minimum opening bid, decline the invitation by passing.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away a low card.

“In diamonds: add a low card.

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">WEST</th> <th style="width: 25%;">NORTH</th> <th style="width: 25%;">EAST</th> <th style="width: 25%;">SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH		1♥	Pass	1NT		2♣		
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH													
	1♥	Pass	1NT													
	2♣															
♠ K x																
♥ K Q x x x																
♦ K x x																
♣ Q x x																

“**What is North’s opening bid?** (1♥.)

“**What does North rebid if South responds 1NT?** (2♣.) With a choice between three-card minor suits, the standard approach is to bid 2♣. This is similar to opening the bidding with 1♣, when you have a choice between opening 1♣ or 1♦ on a three-card suit.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add two low cards.

“In diamonds: take away a low card.

“In clubs: take away a low card.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ K x x x		1♥	Pass	1NT
♥ K Q x x x	Pass	2♥		
♦ K x				
♣ Q x				

“**What is North’s opening bid?** (1♥.)

“**What is North’s rebid if South responds with a forcing 1NT?** (2♥.)

This is very awkward. South didn’t raise hearts right away. South also has fewer than four spades; otherwise South would have responded 1♠. North doesn’t have a satisfactory call:

- You can’t afford to bid 2♠, because that would be a reverse, showing at least a medium-strength hand, and it would be forcing for one round.
- You can’t bid 2NT, since that would show 18 or 19 points.
- Manufacturing a bid on a two-card suit is also unappealing. Partner will assume you have at least a three-card suit, if you bid 2♣ or 2♦.

“Since you can’t pass, your only option is to rebid 2♥. That will sound to partner as though you have a six-card suit, but you don’t have a better choice. This is a time when you would not be happy to be playing 1NT forcing.

“**Would it make any difference if South had passed originally?** (Yes.) If South is a passed hand, the 1NT response is not forcing. You could simply pass and get out of this awkward rebid problem.”

Summary

“Unless responder is a passed hand, you must find a rebid after opening 1♥ or 1♠ and hearing a Forcing 1NT response from partner. Most of the time, you can make your standard rebid, as if the 1NT response were non forcing. The only exception is when you have a minimum hand with which you would pass a standard 1NT response. Since you must bid something, you may have to manufacture a bid on a three-card minor suit, or simply rebid your five-card major suit.”

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 5 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Five — Opener's Rebid after 1NT Forcing

What does West rebid with the following hands after the auction shown?

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
?			
1) ♠ Q J 9 7 5 3	2) ♠ K Q 9 8 3	3) ♠ A 10 8 7 3	
♥ J 4	♥ 4	♥ Q 5	
♦ A 7 3	♦ A J 8 4 2	♦ K 7 2	
♣ K J	♣ Q 3	♣ A 9 3	
4) ♠ A Q J 8 3	5) ♠ A Q J 7 4	6) ♠ A K Q 9 6	
♥ K J 7	♥ A 9 4	♥ 8	
♦ A J 6	♦ 10 7 3	♦ K 6 4	
♣ Q 4	♣ J 5	♣ A K 10 3	

Exercise Five Answer — Opener's Rebid after 1NT Forcing

- 1) 2♠. West has an opportunity to show the sixth spade. This is the same rebid West would make if 1NT were not a forcing response.
- 2) 2♦. West should make a natural rebid, showing the second suit.
- 3) 2♣. If the 1NT response were not forcing, West could pass. Using this convention, however, West has to manufacture a rebid. With no four-card suit, West bids 2♣ on the three-card suit. West can't raise to 2NT, since East might have a very weak hand.
- 4) 2NT. With a balanced hand too strong to open 1NT, West raises to 2NT. That bid shows this type of hand.
- 5) 2♦. Ugly, but West doesn't want to rebid 2♠ with only a five-card suit or bid 2♣ with a doubleton. 2♦ is the lesser of evils.
- 6) 3♣. A response of 2♣ could be passed. Here West has enough to commit the partnership to game by making a jump shift.

Responder's Rebid after 1NT Forcing

Introduction

“The forcing 1NT response covers a wide range of hands. Responder has to be prepared to describe the hand after hearing opener’s rebid.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away the king and two low cards.

“In hearts: take away the king.

“In diamonds: add two low cards.

“In clubs: add two low cards.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ x				1 ♠
♥ Q x x x	Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♣
♦ K x x x	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ Q x x x				

“**South opens the bidding 1 ♠. What is North’s response?** (1NT.) With 7 high-card points and no support for spades, North starts with a forcing 1NT response.

“**South rebids 2 ♣. What call does North make?** (Pass.) Although the 1NT response was forcing, opener’s 2 ♣ rebid is not. Responder isn’t required to bid again unless opener makes a reverse or a jump shift. With a clear preference for clubs, North should pass.

“It’s possible that South has only a three-card club suit, but North should not be concerned about that. It’s more likely that South has four or five clubs. Besides, if South has chosen to bid a three-card club suit, it must be because South has only a five-card spade suit and no four-card suit. The 4–3 fit in clubs should be better than a 5–1 fit in spades.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add the queen.

“In clubs: take away the queen.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ Q x				1 ♠
♥ Q x x x	Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♣
♦ K x x x	Pass	2 ♠	Pass	Pass
♣ x x x	Pass			

“South opens the bidding 1♠. What is North’s response? (1NT.) With only a doubleton spade, North would respond with a forcing 1NT.

“South rebids 2♣. What call does North make? (2♠.) With three clubs and only two spades, it would appear that North prefers clubs to spades. Even playing standard methods, however, there are good reasons for returning to 2♠ instead of passing 2♣:

- South is known to have a five-card spade suit and is likely to have only a four-card club suit. Returning to 2♠ will put the partnership in the 5–2 fit, which should play as well, or better, than the 4–3 fit.
- Bidding 2♠ is more flexible than passing 2♣, since it gives opener another opportunity to bid. Opener could have a medium-strength hand of 16 to 18 points — just short of a jump shift. Bidding 2♠ will allow opener to show extra strength, perhaps getting the partnership to a close game.
- Opener will know that responder has only a doubleton spade. With three-card support, responder would have raised right away. If opener has five spades and five clubs, opener may bid 3♣, showing the full shape of the hand and allowing the partnership to play in its eight-card fit.
- A partscore in a major suit will score better than a partscore in a minor suit, if the same number of tricks can be taken in either strain —or sometimes even when an extra trick can be taken in the minor suit.

“When playing forcing 1NT, there is an extra incentive for returning to the major suit when holding only three-card support for the minor suit. Responder may have been forced to bid a three-card minor suit, and you don’t want the partnership playing in a 3–3 fit.

“Returning to the doubleton spade with three-card support for the minor suit is referred to as giving false preference. Experienced players sometimes give false preference with four-card support for the minor suit and two-card support for the major suit.

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away a low card and add the ace.

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">WEST</th> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">NORTH</th> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">EAST</th> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1 ♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ Q x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A Q x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2NT</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ K x x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ x x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH				1 ♠	♠ Q x	Pass	1NT	Pass	♥ A Q x x	Pass	2NT	2♣	♦ K x x x				♣ x x x			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH																						
			1 ♠																						
♠ Q x	Pass	1NT	Pass																						
♥ A Q x x	Pass	2NT	2♣																						
♦ K x x x																									
♣ x x x																									

“**South opens 1 ♠. What call does North make?** (1NT.) With 11 high-card points, North isn’t strong enough to respond in a new suit at the two level since that would be game forcing. Instead, North settles for a forcing 1NT response.

“**Over the 1NT response, South rebids 2♣. What call does North make?** (2NT.) By rebidding 2NT, North is showing 11 or 12 points, inviting opener to bid game with a little more than a bare minimum. It is not a weak bid. North is showing a hand that wasn’t quite strong enough for a two-over-one response with some length and strength in the unbid suits.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add a low card.

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">WEST</th> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">NORTH</th> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">EAST</th> <th style="width: 25%; padding: 5px;">SOUTH</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1 ♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ Q x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1NT</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A Q x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">3 ♠</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ K x x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ x x x</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH				1 ♠	♠ Q x x	Pass	1NT	Pass	♥ A Q x	Pass	3 ♠	2♣	♦ K x x x				♣ x x x			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH																						
			1 ♠																						
♠ Q x x	Pass	1NT	Pass																						
♥ A Q x	Pass	3 ♠	2♣																						
♦ K x x x																									
♣ x x x																									

“**South opens the bidding 1 ♠. What does North respond?** (1NT.) With 11 high-card points, North isn’t strong enough to make a game-forcing two-over-one response. With only three-card support, North can’t make an immediate limit raise to 3 ♠. Instead, North starts with a forcing 1NT response.

“**Over the 1NT response, South rebids 2♣. What call does North make?** (3 ♠.) North is too strong for a simple preference back to 2 ♠, which would show a minimum response and only a doubleton spade. Instead, North shows a limit raise with 3 ♠.

“This sequence shows a limit raise of partner’s major with only three-card support. South can pass or continue to game.

“Suppose South opened 1♥ instead of 1♠. How would North plan to respond? (Similar manner.) North would make a similar plan to show the strength for a limit raise with three-card support. North would start with 1NT, planning to bid 3♥ at the next opportunity.

“If South rebids 2♣, for example, North would give jump preference to 3♥. If South were to rebid 2♥, North would raise to 3♥.

“Suppose South opens 1♥, North responds 1NT and South rebids 2♦. What call does North make? (3♥.) Despite the four-card support for diamonds, North should follow through with the original plan and give jump preference to 3♥. It’s more likely that the partnership can make game in the major suit than the minor suit.

“This is another example of false preference. North could make an invitation-
al raise to 3♦, but inviting game in hearts is the more practical choice.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away the queen and a low card.

“In hearts: take away the ace and add four low cards.

“In clubs: take away a low card.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ x				1♠
♥ Q x x x x x	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣
♦ K x x x	Pass	2♥		
♣ x x				

“South opens 1♠. What is North’s response? (1NT.) North has 5 high-card points plus 2 length points for the six-card suit. That’s not enough for a two-over-one response, so North would start by bidding 1NT.

“Over North’s 1NT response, South rebids 2♣. What call does North make? (2♥.) Now North can afford to bid 2♥. This shows a five-card or longer heart suit with a hand too weak to respond 2♥ over 1♠. It also implies that North doesn’t care much for either spades or clubs. South will usually pass and leave North to play partscore in hearts, unless South has exceptional distribution or extra strength.

“Suppose South opens 1♠, North responds 1NT and South rebids 2♦, What call does North make? (Pass.) Having found a fit in diamonds, North should pass. There’s no need to look for a fit in hearts. South has shown at least five spades and four diamonds, so there’s not much room left for hearts. South could have a singleton or void in hearts.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add a low card.

“In hearts: take away two low cards and add the ace and the jack.

“In diamonds: take away a low card.

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ x x				1 ♠
♥ A Q J x x x	Pass	1NT	Pass	2 ♣
♦ K x x	Pass	3 ♥		
♣ x x				

“**Suppose South opens 1 ♠. What does North respond?** (1NT.) With 10 high-card points plus 2 length points for the six-card suit, North doesn’t have quite enough for a game-forcing two-over-one response. Instead North starts with a forcing 1NT.

“**Over North’s 1NT, South rebids 2 ♣. What call does North make?** (3 ♥.) A rebid of 2 ♥ would show a weak hand with five or more hearts. Instead, North should jump to 3 ♥, showing a good six-card or longer suit and a hand of invitational strength—just under the strength for a two-over-one response.

“South can pass the jump to 3 ♥ with a minimum opening, since South knows North wasn’t quite strong enough to bid 2 ♥ over the 1 ♠ opening. With a little extra, however, South can continue to game.

“**Would the auction go any differently if North passed originally, and South opened 1 ♠?** (Yes.) As a passed hand, a 1NT response would not be forcing. Instead, North can simply respond 2 ♥. This is no longer game forcing, since North passed originally. In fact, it isn’t even forcing. South could pass the 2 ♥ response.”

Some students might point out that North might have opened with a weak 2 ♥ bid.

Summary

“The 1NT forcing response is only a one-round force. Opener must bid again, but responder doesn’t have to bid again unless opener makes a forcing bid—a reverse or a jump shift. Since the 1NT response covers a wide range, however, responder should plan on making an invitational rebid with any hand of 11 or 12 points.”

➡ “Let’s do Exercise 6 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Six — Responder's Rebid after 1NT Forcing

What does East rebid with the following hands after the auction shown?

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	
	1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	
	2 ♦	Pass	?		
1)	♠ J 2 ♥ 10 7 4 2 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ Q 9 4 2	2)	♠ 8 ♥ A 6 4 ♦ J 9 7 4 ♣ J 10 7 6 3	3)	♠ 7 3 ♥ K Q 10 9 5 ♦ 7 5 ♣ Q 8 6 2
4)	♠ 9 7 ♥ K Q 9 8 ♦ J 6 5 ♣ A Q 7 5	5)	♠ K 10 5 ♥ A J 5 3 ♦ Q 8 ♣ J 7 4 3	6)	♠ 8 ♥ A Q J 9 8 5 ♦ J 6 4 ♣ Q 9 4

Exercise Six Answer — Responder's Rebid after 1NT Forcing

- 1) 2 ♠. West has at least five spades but could have only a three-card diamond suit. East should put the partnership in its seven-card fit. That also gives West another opportunity to bid with a medium-strength hand.
- 2) Pass. Even if West has only three diamonds, this looks like the best spot for the partnership.
- 3) 2 ♥. This shows a five-card or longer heart suit but not enough to respond 2 ♥ initially. West can pass or return to 2 ♠ with good spades and a singleton or void in hearts.
- 4) 2NT. This is an invitational bid, showing 11 or 12 points.
- 5) 3 ♠. This shows a limit raise in spades with only three-card support.
- 6) 3 ♥. This is highly invitational, but West can pass with a minimum and no fit. It shows the type of hand where East would respond 2 ♥, if the partnership weren't playing two-over-one game forcing.

Handling Interference (The Subsequent Auction)

Introduction

“As with most conventions, interference by the opponents can affect the 1NT forcing agreement. Let’s look at some examples.”

Instructions

“Change the North hand.

“In hearts: take away the ace, the queen and two low cards.

“In diamonds: add the queen and a low card.

“In clubs: add the queen and a low card.

NORTH

♠ x x
♥ J x
♦ K Q x x x
♣ Q x x x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	Double		1 ♥

“**Suppose South opens 1 ♥, and West passes. What would North respond?** (1NT.) If West passes, North would make the usual 1NT forcing response, waiting to hear North’s rebid before deciding what to do next.

“**Suppose South opens 1 ♥, and West overcalls 1 ♠. What call does North make?** (Double.) West’s overcall changes the situation. North can now make a negative double to describe this hand — support for the unbid suits and enough strength to compete at the two level.

“When the opponents interfere over partner’s major-suit opening, responder is given additional options such as passing, making a negative double and cuebidding. This means that there is no need to use the 1NT forcing convention after interference. It reverts to a natural bid.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away a low card the add the ace and the jack.

“In diamonds: take away the king.

“In clubs: take away the queen and add a low card.

NORTH

♠ A J x
♥ J x
♦ Q x x x
♣ x x x x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	1NT		1 ♥

“**South opens 1♥, and West overcalls 1♠. What call does North make?** (1NT/Double.) North has a choice. With strength in the opponent’s suit, North can make a natural, non-forcing, 1NT call. North could also make a negative double to show support for the unbid suits. It’s a matter of judgment, but 1NT is probably the more practical call.

“**Suppose South opens 1♥, and West makes a takeout double. What call does North make?** (1NT.) West’s double removes the forcing 1NT convention. Instead, North can make a natural 1NT response, which South could pass with a minimum balanced hand.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: take away the ace.

“In diamonds: take away a low card.

“In clubs: add the ace and the queen.

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">WEST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">NORTH</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">EAST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">2♣</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♥</td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	1♠	2♣		1♥
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH						
1♠	2♣		1♥						
♠ J x									
♥ J x									
♦ Q x x									
♣ A Q x x x x									

“**Suppose South opens 1♥, and West passes. What call would North make?** (1NT.) North doesn’t have quite enough to bid 2♣, which would be a game-forcing two-over-one response. Instead, North would start with a forcing 1NT response.

“**Suppose South opens 1♥, and West overcalls 1♠. What call would North make?** (2♣.) After the 1♠ overcall, a response of 1NT would be natural, showing 6 to 10 points and some strength in spades. The two-over-one game force, however, is also off after the overcall. North can respond 2♣. This is forcing, but not game forcing.

“Now let’s look at things from opener’s point of view.

“Change the North hand.

“In spades: add the ace and two low cards.

“In diamonds: add the ace and a low card.

“In clubs: take away the ace, the queen and three low cards.

NORTH	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">WEST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">NORTH</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">EAST</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">SOUTH</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">2♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1♠ 2♦</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1NT</td> </tr> </table>	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	2♣	1♠ 2♦	Pass	1NT
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH						
2♣	1♠ 2♦	Pass	1NT						
♠ A J x x x									
♥ J x									
♦ A Q x x x									
♣ x									

“**What would North open?** (1 ♠.) With 12 high-card points and two five-card suits, North would open in the higher-ranking suit, 1 ♠.

“**East passes, and South responds 1NT. If West passes, what call would North make?** (2 ♦.) North would show a second suit by bidding 2 ♦.

“**Suppose North opens 1 ♠, East passes and South responds 1NT. West now overcalls 2 ♣. What call does North make?** (2 ♦.) West’s overcall doesn’t prevent North from showing the second suit by bidding 2 ♦.

“**Suppose North opens 1 ♠, East passes and South responds 1NT. West now overcalls 2 ♥. What call does North make?** (Pass.) West’s overcall has made it difficult for North to conveniently show the second suit. Bidding 3 ♦ with a minimum opening bid might get the partnership too high.

“South’s 1NT response doesn’t guarantee any more than 6 points, and South’s high cards might be in the club suit. Although the 1NT response is forcing if West passes, North doesn’t have to bid if West interferes. North should pass.

“Passing doesn’t end the auction. South will still get another opportunity to bid. With a hand of invitational strength, South will take some action — perhaps reopening with a cooperative double. Now North will be able to bid the diamonds without promising any extra strength.

“**Suppose North opens 1 ♠, East passes, South responds 1NT, and West overcalls 2 ♦. What call does North make?** (Pass/Double.) West’s interference relieves North from the obligation of bidding. North could pass. North, however, might prefer to make a penalty double in this situation — assuming that is the partnership agreement. Whether North chooses to make a penalty double may depend on the quality of the diamond suit.

“The standard agreement would be that North’s double is for penalty in this auction. Some partnerships, however, would have the agreement that North’s double would be for takeout — making it very unattractive on this hand!

“Change the North hand.

“In diamonds: take away two low cards.

“In clubs: add two low cards.

NORTH
 ♠ A J x x x
 ♥ J x
 ♦ A Q x
 ♣ x x x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 ♠	Pass	1NT
2 ♣	Pass		

“What would North open? (1 ♠.) With 12 high-card points and a five-card suit, North would open 1 ♠.

“East passes and South responds 1NT. If West passes, what call would North make? (2 ♣/2 ♦.) Since the 1NT response is forcing and North doesn’t have a six-card spade suit, North has to manufacture a bid in a three-card minor suit. With three cards in both minors, the standard practice is to bid 2 ♣ — although the disparity in the strength of the two suits might sway North to bid 2 ♦.

“Suppose North opens 1 ♠, East passes, South responds 1NT, and West comes in with an overcall of 2 ♣. What call does North make? (Pass.) West’s overcall has removed North’s obligation to bid after the forcing 1NT response. North doesn’t have to manufacture a rebid on a three-card suit. Instead, North can pass. Bidding 2 ♦ in this situation would promise a four-card or longer diamond suit.”

Summary

“Although the 1NT response to 1 ♥ or 1 ♠ is forcing if the opponents are silent, the situation changes if the opponents interfere. If there is a takeout double or an overcall over the opening bid, the 1NT response is natural, non forcing. If an opponent interferes after a forcing 1NT response, opener doesn’t have to bid unless it is convenient to do so.”

➔ “Let’s do Exercise 7 in the student text to review what we have just discussed.”

Exercise Seven – The Subsequent Auction

What call does West make with the following deals after the auction goes as shown?

1)	♠ K J 9 6 2 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A Q 8 3 ♣ K 5	WEST 1 ♠ 2 ♦ ?	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 1NT 2♥	SOUTH Pass Pass
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2)	♠ A 2 ♥ A Q 10 7 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K J 10 4	WEST 1♥ 2♣ ?	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 1NT 3♥	SOUTH Pass Pass
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3)	♠ Q 3 ♥ A Q 9 8 4 ♦ K 8 2 ♣ Q 9 5	WEST 1♥ ?	NORTH 1♠	EAST 1NT	SOUTH Pass
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4)	♠ A J 10 8 3 ♥ J 5 ♦ K Q 9 4 ♣ A 6	WEST 1♠ 2♦ ?	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 1NT 2NT	SOUTH Pass Pass
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5)	♠ K J 2 ♥ A Q 10 7 5 ♦ 9 3 ♣ Q 5 4	WEST 1♥ 2♣ ?	NORTH Pass Pass	EAST 1NT 3♣	SOUTH Pass Pass
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Exercise Seven Answer – The Subsequent Auction

- 1) Pass. East shows a weak hand with five or more hearts. Looks like this is the best partscore. East hasn't shown support for either of West's suits.
- 2) 4♥. East shows a hand of limit-raise strength with only three-card support for hearts. With more than a minimum, West accepts the invitation.
- 3) Pass. When the opponents interfere, the 1NT response is no longer forcing.
- 4) 3NT. East shows 11 or 12 points and strength in the unbid suits. West accepts the invitation.
- 5) Pass. East's raise is invitational, showing 11 or 12 points. With a minimum opening, West doesn't want to get any higher. West should not worry about the clubs; East knows West could have a three-card suit.

Suggested Bidding

When it appears that all of the tables have completed the auction, review how the bidding should have gone.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	5NT
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

“Playing two-over-one game forcing, South starts by responding 2 ♦ to North’s 1 ♠ opening. When North rebids spades, South’s raise to the three level is forcing and leaves room for investigating slam. Having agreed on the trump suit, North is able to show some values in clubs, and it’s now safe for South to use the Blackwood convention to check for the number of aces and kings. When North shows two aces, but no kings, South bids the excellent slam.

“If North–South weren’t playing two-over-one game forcing, South would have a dilemma after North’s 2 ♠ rebid. A raise to 3 ♠ would be invitational and would risk missing a game contract. A jump to 4 ♠ would give up on the possibility of a slam contract. South can’t conveniently show spade support in any other manner, and the partnership might get too high, if South raises to 5 ♠ as a slam try or uses the Blackwood convention.”

When everyone understands the proper bids and the final contract, the students can proceed to play out the cards in a contract of 6 ♠ by North.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let’s review the play and defense.

“East is on lead and might try leading the singleton diamond, hoping for a ruff. This isn’t likely to be an effective lead, since South’s 5NT bid is a grand slam try, presumably showing that North–South have all of the aces. It’s unlikely that East can get a ruff before trumps are drawn. However, it may work if declarer is careless.

“Another choice would be to lead a heart, trying to establish a trick, if West has the ♥K and hoping to get another trick, such as the ♦K. A club lead also could be effective in establishing a trick, if partner holds the ♣Q, but it looks a little more dangerous once North has shown values in clubs.”

Suggested Play

“Declarer has no losers in spades (unless East has all four trumps), no losers in hearts, one loser in diamonds and two losers in clubs. North’s plan should be to draw trumps and then establish the diamond suit. The club losers can be discarded on the extra diamond winners in dummy. There’s no need to take the club finesse.

“If the opening lead is a heart or a club, declarer has no difficulty. After winning the first trick, declarer can draw all of the trumps and try the diamond finesse. Even though the finesse loses to West’s ♦K, the remaining diamonds in dummy are winners and can be used to discard all of North’s losers.

“If East leads a diamond, North should be careful. A successful diamond finesse would result in an overtrick, but if the finesse loses, the defenders may be able to get a diamond ruff. North should play safely by winning the first trick with the ♦A, drawing trumps and then driving out the ♦K.”

Suggested Defense

“The defenders can’t defeat 6♠, if declarer is careful. If East leads the singleton diamond and declarer takes the finesse, West should return a diamond to give East a ruff.

“If South were declarer in 6NT, West could defeat the contract by leading the ♣J. South can’t take 12 tricks in notrump without losing a trick to the ♦K, and then the defenders can take any established club winners.”

Bid and Play – Variation of Deal 1 – Two-Over-One Game Forcing

Introduction

“Let’s construct a variation of this hand.

“From the North hand, take the ♥3, the ♦2, the ♣A and the ♣Q and give them to West.

“From the West hand, take the ♥Q, the ♦K, the ♣J and the ♣10 and give them to North.”

Instructions

“North is still the dealer. Start the auction and let’s see how it goes this time. Stop when you reach a final contract.”

Dealer: North	♠ A Q 10 8 6 5				
Vul: None	♥ Q 7				
	♦ K 10				
	♣ J 10 3				
♠ 2	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ J 9 3
N					
W E					
S					
♥ 10 5 3 2		♥ J 9 8 6 4			
♦ 7 6 5 3 2		♦ 4			
♣ A Q 9		♣ K 8 6 2			
	♠ K 7 4				
	♥ A K				
	♦ A Q J 9 8				
	♣ 7 5 4				

Suggested Bidding

When it appears that all of the tables have completed the auction, review how the bidding should have gone.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

“Again, playing two-over-one game forcing, South starts by responding 2♦ to North’s 1♠ opening. When North rebids spades, South’s raise to the three level is still forcing and leaves room for investigating slam. With no first-round control outside of the trump suit, North might simply sign off in 4♠.

“In an experienced partnership, North might cuebid 4♦, showing a control in the diamond suit, but denying first-round control of clubs. South might

make another slam try by cuebidding 4♥, but North, having nothing further to cuebid, would sign off in 4♠. South now passes, since the partnership doesn't have a first- or second-round control in the club suit. The auction would go like this:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

“Playing two-over-one game forcing allows South to show interest in slam without getting the partnership too high, when there is a critical weakness in one of the suits.”

When everyone understands the proper bids and the final contract, the students can proceed to play out the cards in a contract of 4♠ by North.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let's review the play and defense.

“When the opponents have been bidding strongly, but stop below the slam level, it is usually because there is a weakness in one of the suits. In this auction, neither opponent bid clubs, so East should choose the unbid suit and lead the ♣2.”

Suggested Play

“If East leads a club, declarer can't prevent the defenders from taking the first three tricks. After that, declarer has all of the remaining tricks. If East doesn't lead a club, declarer can take all 13 tricks by discarding the club losers on dummy's extra diamond winners after drawing trumps.”

Suggested Defense

“After listening to the auction, East should lead a club. This allows West to win the ♣A, the ♣Q and then return a third club to East's ♣K. It is unlikely that declarer has any losers outside of the trump suit. Without the ♦K, North wouldn't have enough to open the bidding at the one level. East's best move is to lead the last club and hope that West holds the ♠10. If West can ruff the fourth round of clubs with the ♠10 — an uppercut — East's ♠J will be promoted into a winner.

“North holds the ♠10, so the defenders can't defeat the contract, but congratulations to East if the defender tried for the uppercut. Exchange North's ♠10 and West's ♠2 to see how this could be the winning defense!”

Bid and Play – Deal 2: The Principle of Fast Arrival

Guidelines for Teachers: This deal illustrates another example of two-over-one game forcing with the addition of the principle of fast arrival to avoid getting too high. In the play, declarer must be careful to take a safety play in the trump suit to avoid losing a trick.

Introduction

“Let’s play a deal that uses the principle of fast arrival when responder knows where the contract should be placed.”

Instructions

“East is the dealer. Take your hands and start the bidding. Stop when you have completed the auction.”

(E–Z Deal Cards: #8, Deal 2 — Dealer, East)

Dealer: East	♠ —													
Vul: N–S	♥ Q 9 8 5													
	♦ K 6 5													
	♣ J 9 7 6 4 2													
♠ K 9 4		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S			♠ A Q 10 8 6 5	
	N													
W		E												
	S													
♥ 10 6 2				♥ 7 3										
♦ A Q J 9 8				♦ 10 2										
♣ K 5				♣ A Q 3										
	♠ J 7 3 2													
	♥ A K J 4													
	♦ 7 4 3													
	♣ 10 8													

Suggested Bidding

When it appears that all of the tables have completed the auction, review how the bidding should have gone.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

“After East’s 1 ♠ opening, West makes a two-over-one response to show the diamond suit and create a game-forcing situation. After East makes a minimum rebid in spades, West has nothing extra to suggest the possibility of a slam. West should use the principle of fast arrival and take the partnership directly to 4 ♠. East has no reason to override partner’s decision and bid any higher.

“Notice that East has the same hand as North in Deal 1. The first three bids are identical. The difference comes with responder’s rebid.”

When everyone understands the proper bids, have the students play out the cards in a contract of 4♠ by East.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let’s review the play and defense.

“South is on lead. South would start with the ♥A, top of a broken sequence — or the ♥K, if the partnership leads the king from ace–king.”

Suggested Play

“This appears to be an easy contract, but declarer should always be cautious when things look straightforward. The only apparent losers are two hearts and a potential diamond loser. Declarer may be able to make an overtrick by taking a finesse for the ♦K, after drawing trumps.

“Declarer should be careful, however, of assuming that the four missing trump will divide 2–2 or 3–1. Sometimes, they are 4–0. The presence of the ♠9 in dummy provides the opportunity for a safety play in the trump suit to guard against a 4–0 break. Suppose the defenders start with three rounds of hearts, and declarer ruffs the third round. Declarer should start the trump suit by playing the ♠A or the ♠Q from the East hand. If both defenders follow suit, the suit has broken 2–2 or 3–1, and declarer can finish drawing trumps and try the diamond finesse.

“North shows out on the first round of spades. Having discovered that South holds all four spades, including the ♠J, East can play a low spade toward dummy and finesse with the ♠9. Declarer then plays dummy’s ♠K, comes to the East hand with a club and draws South’s last trump. Now declarer can try the diamond finesse, which loses to North’s ♦K.

“If North had held all four spades, South would discard on the first round of spades. Declarer could play a spade to dummy’s ♠K and then finesse against North’s ♠J. By first leading a high spade from the East hand, declarer can guard against either opponent holding all four trumps.

“If declarer starts by leading a spade to dummy’s ♠K, South will get a trump trick. When the diamond finesse loses, declarer loses four tricks. Unlucky, but it is unavoidable.”

Suggested Defense

“The defenders are entitled to two heart tricks and one diamond trick with North’s ♦K. South will have to wait anxiously to see how declarer handles the spade suit. South might get a trick with the ♠J, if declarer isn’t very careful.”

Bid and Play – Deal 3 – One Notrump Forcing

Guidelines for Teachers: This deal illustrates the use of a forcing 1NT response to show a three-card limit raise of opener’s major. In the play, declarer again must handle the trump suit carefully to avoid an unnecessary loser.

Introduction

“Let’s play a deal that illustrates the use of 1NT forcing.”

Instructions

“South is the dealer. Take your hands and start the bidding. Stop when you have completed the auction.”

(E–Z Deal Cards: #8, Deal 3 — Dealer, South)

Dealer: South	♠ 5										
Vul: E–W	♥ Q J 10 5										
	♦ 8 6 4										
	♣ K 9 4 3 2										
♠ K Q 10 6 3	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 7 2
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ 7 4 2		♥ A 8 3									
♦ K Q 10 5		♦ J 7 3 2									
♣ A		♣ Q 6 5									
	♠ J 9 8 4										
	♥ K 9 6										
	♦ A 9										
	♣ J 10 8 7										

Suggested Bidding

When it appears that all of the tables have completed the auction, review how the bidding should have gone.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

“After South’s pass, West opens the bidding 1♠, and North passes. East has enough strength for a limit raise, but only three-card support. Playing 1NT forcing, East responds 1NT. West makes a natural rebid of 2♦, and now East can make an invitational jump to 3♠. West has enough to accept the invitation.

“East–West must be careful to play in their eight-card major-suit fit, rather than their eight-card minor-suit fit. The partnership can make 4♠, but not 5♦, since they have to lose two heart tricks and one diamond trick.”

When everyone understands the proper bids and the final contract, let the students play out the cards in a contract of 4♠ by West.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let’s review the play and defense.

“North is on lead and should start with the ♥Q. Against suit contracts, it’s safer to lead from a sequence than to lead away from an honor. Since neither clubs nor hearts have been bid by the opponents, choose the safer lead.”

Suggested Play

“Declarer has two heart losers and one diamond loser, but the contract should be secure provided there is no loser in the trump suit. If the missing trumps are divided 3–2, there won’t be a problem. If the trumps are 5–0 or North holds four trumps, there’s not much that can be done. West should concentrate on safeguarding the contract in case South holds four trumps.

“After winning the ♥A, there are no sure entries left in dummy except for the ♠A. If declarer starts the trump suit by playing the ♠A and then a spade to the ♠K or the ♠Q, it will be too late to do anything if South turns up with four spades including the ♠J. West can’t get back to dummy to finesse the spade.

“Instead, after winning the ♥A, South should play a spade to the ♠K or the ♠Q and then a spade to dummy’s ♠A. If the trump divide 3–2, West can draw the remaining trump and drive out the ♦A to make the contract. When it turns out that South has four spades, declarer is in the right hand to lead the third round of spades and take a finesse against the ♠J. The last trump is drawn, and declarer loses only two heart tricks and a diamond trick.”

Suggested Defense

“After an initial heart lead, the defenders are entitled to two heart tricks and one diamond trick. Their only hope for a fourth trick is in the spade suit. If declarer handles the trump suit carefully, the contract can’t be defeated. If declarer is careless, the defenders have a chance.

“Suppose declarer leads the ♠A, after winning the ♥A, and then plays a spade to the ♠K or the ♠Q, getting the bad news. Declarer might try to recover by leading the ♦K, hoping to drive out the ♦A and create an entry to dummy with the ♦J. South must be careful to let declarer win the first diamond trick and then take the second trick with the ♦A. Now declarer can’t get to dummy without giving South a trump trick.”

Bid and Play — Deal 4 — More One Notrump Forcing

Guidelines for Teachers: This deal illustrates the advantage of using the forcing 1NT response to find an appropriate partscore contract. The partscore can be defeated, but only with excellent defense. Discussing the defense to defeat the contract can be omitted, unless the students are quite experienced.

Introduction

“Let’s play a deal where the use of the forcing 1NT response helps the partnership get to the right contract.”

Instructions

“West is the dealer. Take your hands and start the bidding. Stop when you have completed the auction.”

(E–Z Deal Cards: #8, Deal 4 — Dealer, West)

Dealer: West	♠ A K 9 7 2										
Vul: Both	♥ 9 2										
	♦ K 10 5										
	♣ K 8 3										
♠ Q 6	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J 8 5 4
	N										
W		E									
	S										
♥ K 10 4		♥ A 8									
♦ Q 8 6 4 2		♦ J 9 3									
♣ Q 10 7		♣ A J 6 4									
	♠ 10 3										
	♥ Q J 7 6 5 3										
	♦ A 7										
	♣ 9 5 2										

Suggested Bidding

When it appears that all of the tables have completed the auction, review how the bidding should have gone.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

“After West’s pass, North has a standard opening bid of 1 ♠. When East passes, South doesn’t have enough to respond 2 ♥. That would be a two-over-one response committing the partnership to game. Instead, South starts with a 1NT forcing response.

“West passes again — the diamonds are too weak to risk a vulnerable overcall — and North must bid. With a minimum-strength hand and only five spades, North has to bid a three-card suit, 2♣. Now South has an opportunity to show the long heart suit by bidding 2♥. When the auction comes back to the opening bidder, North passes. South’s bidding shows a weak hand with a five-card or longer heart suit. With a hand of invitational strength, South could have jumped to 3♥.

“Neither East nor West has the right type of hand to enter the auction, especially when vulnerable. They may be able to make 3♦, but getting into the auction is not easy. They will generally be better off trying to defeat 2♥.

“Holding a minimum-strength balanced hand, North would probably pass South’s 1NT response if the partnership weren’t playing 1NT forcing. 1NT would prove to be a poor contract after a diamond lead from West. South would likely be defeated two or three tricks.”

When everyone understands the proper bids and the final contract, the students can proceed to play out the cards in a contract of 2♥ by South.

Suggested Opening Lead

“Turn up all of the cards and put each hand dummy style at the edge of the table in front of each player. Let’s review the play and defense.

“West has a difficult choice of leads. Against this type of auction, where North has not shown a fit with South’s hearts, the unbid suit usually works well. West might lead the ♦4, fourth highest.”

Suggested Play

“Declarer has no losers in spades or diamonds, but has three potential losers in clubs if East holds the ♣A. South would like to restrict the trump losers to two in order to make the contract. Missing the ♥A, the ♥K and the ♥10, declarer’s best plan is to lead hearts twice from dummy toward the ♥Q and the ♥J, hoping East holds either the ♥A or the ♥K and that the suit is divided 3–2.

“Declarer should win the first trick with dummy’s ♦K and lead a heart. When East follows with a low heart, declarer should play the ♥J or the ♥Q to drive out West’s high honor. If West leads another diamond, South wins the ♦A, crosses to dummy with a spade and leads another heart. East wins this trick with the ♥A, and the defense is helpless. If East leads a diamond, declarer ruffs low, draws the last trump and can try leading toward the ♣K for an overtrick. If East returns a spade, declarer can win in dummy, ruff a diamond to get back to the South hand and draw the last trump.

“There is some danger on this deal. West might be able to get a trick with the ♥10. Suppose, for example, declarer wins the first trick with the ♦A and leads a spade to dummy. Declarer leads a heart toward the ♥J, and West wins this trick with the ♥K. West might lead another spade. Declarer wins this in dummy and leads another heart toward the ♥Q. East wins this trick with the ♥A and can lead a third round of spades. Now South can’t prevent West from getting a trick with the ♥10. If South ruffs low, West overruffs. If South ruffs with the ♥Q, West gets the ♥10 later. If South tries discarding clubs, West can also discard clubs, and East can eventually lead the ♣A and another club to promote West’s ♥10.

“The same danger exists, if South wins the first trick with the ♦A and crosses to dummy with the ♦K. When the first heart loses to West’s ♥K, West might lead a third round of diamonds. South ruffs, crosses to dummy with a spade and leads another heart. East wins the ♥A and leads another spade. Now declarer can’t get safely back to the South hand without giving the defenders an opportunity to get a trick with the ♥10.

“While the defenders may not see the possibility of promoting West’s ♥10, declarer makes it even more difficult by winning the first diamond in dummy and leading a heart right away.”

Suggested Defense

“Can the defender’s always defeat 2♥? As mentioned above, declarer may give the defenders an opportunity to get a trick with West’s ♥10, if the first trick isn’t won with dummy’s ♦K. Even if declarer does this, however, the defenders can prevail — but it’s not easy.

Suppose declarer wins the first trick with dummy’s ♦K and leads a heart to the ♥J and West’s ♥K. West could now switch to the ♣Q or the ♣10 to trap dummy’s ♣K. Once the defenders have taken three club tricks, East can lead a fourth round to promote West’s ♥10 as a winner. Will East–West find this defense? Probably yes, since declarer is known to hold the ♦A and has a limited point count.”

