

Lesson 10: Practise Strong Opening Bids (2NT, 2♣)

Print off and fold down the middle.

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1	West	North	East	South								
				?								
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2	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>3</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	3	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ AQJ ♥ AQ2 ♦ AKQJ2 ♣ 92</p>	<p>2♣</p> <p>23 HCP. 2♣ is an artificial bid that says nothing about clubs. It shows 23 HCP (or a tad less with great shape). It is 100% forcing. Partner must respond. With a balanced hand too strong you open 2NT you are prepared to rebid 3NT, which will show 23-24 HCP and a balanced shape.</p>
3	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>4</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	4	West	North	East	South					?	<p>♠ 2 ♥ AKQ9652 ♦ KQ7 ♣ AK</p>	<p>2♣</p> <p>Only 21 HCP but the terrific heart suit is surely worth more than 9 HCP. You can see ten tricks in your hand alone. You plan to play in at least game regardless of partner's response.</p>
4	West	North	East	South								
				?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>5</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	5	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ 2 ♥ Q109642 ♦ Q98 ♣ 972</p>	<p>4♥</p> <p>You have a spade fit and with 4 points you have (virtually the values for game). In any case there is no weak takeout over 2NT – 3♥ would be game forcing asking partner to choose between 3NT and 4♥.</p> <p>(Note that if your partnership plays transfers (Lesson 12) then you would bid 3♦, asking partner to bid 3♥.)</p>
5	West	North	East	South								
		2NT	Pass	?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>6</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	6	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ 63 ♥ J103 ♦ K765 ♣ J953</p>	<p>3NT</p> <p>You have 5 HCP. The partnership has at least 25 HCP.</p>
6	West	North	East	South								
		2NT	Pass	?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>7</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	7	West	North	East	South			2NT	Pass	?	<p>♠ J32 ♥ 982 ♦ Q75 ♣ 9832</p>	<p>Pass</p> <p>You have 3 HCP. Although on a good day partner will have 22 HCP and you will have (just) the values for game, but the odds are against it. The percentage play is to pass.</p>
7	West	North	East	South								
		2NT	Pass	?								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>8</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	8	West	North	East	South			2♣	Pass	?	<p>♠ J32 ♥ Q7543 ♦ K75 ♣ 98</p>	<p>2♦</p> <p>This is an artificial bid that shows any hand with 0-7 HCP. It is called the 'negative' 2♦ bid because it lets partner know that there are not the combined values for slam (~31 HCP in a suit contract) unless partner has 'extras' over and above the 23 HCP that the 2♣ bid promises.</p>
8	West	North	East	South								
		2♣	Pass	?								

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9	West	North	East	South														
		2♣	Pass	?														
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>10</th> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	10	West	North	East	South					2♣		Pass	2♦	Pass	?		<p>♠ AKQ ♥ AQJ84 ♦ AQ5 ♣ K3</p>	<p>3NT 25 HCP! With a balanced 23-24 HCP you would rebid 2NT. With this 25 HCP hand you rebid 3NT, because you can't risk a very weak partner passing.</p>
10	West	North	East	South														
				2♣														
	Pass	2♦	Pass	?														
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11	West	North	East	South														
				2♣														
	Pass	2♦	Pass	?														