

INTERMEDIATE LESSON 2: STUDENT NOTES

Checkback Stayman

Checkback is used when the opener rebids 1NT (15-17 HCP) or 2NT (18-19 HCP). Checkback is a form of Stayman where you discover partner's major holdings.

A benefit of Checkback is that we can now show if opener's hand is balanced or unbalanced.

(eg) 1♣ - 1♥ - the rebid of 1NT shows a balanced 15-17 HCP and **does not deny 4♠**
1NT - ?

1♣ - 1♥ - therefore this bidding shows an unbalanced hand with C and S.
1♠ - ? The unbalanced hand will be 5♣ and 4♠, or 4144 shape.

With this new approach in mind, Checkback 2♣ or 3♣ is used to find a 4-4 major fit or a 5-3 major fit.

Checkback

- Checkback bids are **always** 2♣ and 3♣ - irrespective of whether partner opened 1♣ and **must be alerted**
- 2♣ Checkback is at least invitational values - 8+ HCP
- 3♣ Checkback is always GAME FORCE - 6+ HCP
- Opener always puts the accent on the major suit(s) with their responses
- 2♦ & 3♦ rebids after a minor opening shows BOTH - 3+ support of partner's major and 4 cards in the unbid major
- 2♦ & 3♦ rebids after 1♥ opening 1♠ Response, shows BOTH - 5♥ and 3♠

Example 1

1♣ - 1♥ (4+♥)
1NT - 2♣ (Checkback)

Opener's subsequent bid:

2♦ shows 3♥ and also 4♠

2♥ shows 3♥ only and NOT 4♠

2♠ shows 4♠ only and NOT 3♥

2NT does NOT have 4♠ nor 3♥ Minimum

3NT does NOT have 4♠ nor 3♥ Maximum

NB: All these bids must be alerted

Example 2 1♦ - 1♠ (4+♠)
 1NT - 2♣ (Checkback)
 Opener's subsequent bid:

2♦ shows 3♠ and also 4♥

2♥ shows 4♥ and NOT 3♠

2♠ shows 3♠ only and NOT 4♥

2NT does NOT have 3♠ nor 4♥ Minimum

3NT does NOT have 3♠ nor 4♥ Maximum

NB: All these bids must be alerted

Example 3 1♣ - 1♦ (4+♦)
 1NT - 2♣ (Checkback)
 Opener's subsequent bid:

2♦ shows 4♠ and also 4♥ (very unlikely)

2♥ shows 4♥ and NOT 4♠

2♠ shows 4♠ only and NOT 4♥

2NT does NOT have 4♠ nor 4♥ Minimum

3NT does NOT have 4♠ nor 4♥ Maximum

NB: All these bids must be alerted

Example 4 1♥ - 1♠ (4+♠)
 1NT - 2♣ (Checkback)
 Opener's subsequent bid:

2♦ shows BOTH 5♥ and 3♠

2♥ shows 5♥ and NOT 3♠

2♠ shows 3♠ only and NOT 5♥

2NT does NOT have 5♥ or 3♠ Minimum

3NT does NOT have 5♥ or 3♠ Maximum

NB: All these bids must be alerted

Full Bidding examples

a) 1♣ - 1♥

1NT - 2♣

2♥ - 3NT

Responder has 4-4 Majors 10+ HCP

b) 1♣ - 1♠

1NT - 2♣

2♦ - 3♥

Responder has 5-4 Majors inviting

c) 1♦ - 1♥

1NT - 2♣

2♥ - 4♥

Responder has 5 hearts 9+ HCP

Example 5

1♦ - 1♥ (4+♥)
2NT - 3♣ (Checkback)

Opener's subsequent bid is the same as over 2♣ but one level higher

3♦ shows 3♥ and also 4♠

3♥ shows 3♥ only and NOT 4♠

3♠ shows 4♠ only and NOT 3♥

3NT does NOT have 4♠ nor 3♥

NB: All these bids must be alerted

Non Checkback Examples

Responder's rebids over 1NT other than Checkback 2♣

- If responder rebids their suit or bids a second suit at the 2-level, it is natural and non-forcing. (5 of their first suit and 4+ of the second suit). **This must be alerted**

Using the same example we started with previously:

1♣ - 1♥ (4+♥)
1NT - ?

Responder's second bid other than Checkback:

*2♦ Weak hand, 5-7 HCP, with 5♥ and 4 or 5♦

2♥ Weak hand, 5-7 HCP, with 5+♥

2NT Invitational, 8-9 HCP, with only 4♥ and denies 4♠

3♣ Invitational, 8-9 HCP and a good club fit

3♥ Invitational, 8-9 HCP and a 6+♥

3NT Game 10+ HCP

4♥ Game

*** This bid must be alerted because it is non-forcing**

A similar sequence would apply after

1♣ - 1♠ (4+♠)
1NT - ?

2♦ or 2♥ Weak hand, 5-7 HCP, with 5♠ and 4+♦ or 4+♥