

INTERMEDIATE LESSON 6: STUDENT NOTES

Competitive Bidding

- when we open the bidding

When we open the bidding and opponents intervene, we need to show whether we want to compete in the auction. We have various ways to show suits and strength, depending on what they have bid.

1. We open 1-suit and opponents overcall a suit at the 1 or 2-level

- Pass = 0-5 or a "trap" pass waiting for a reopening double
- Raise = 4+ support, 6-9 HCP
- Jump raise = 4+ support, 10-12 HCP at the 3-level
- 1-new suit = 4+ suit, 6+ HCP – natural and forcing
- 2-new suit = 4+ minor or 5+ major, 10+ HCP – natural/ forcing
- Double = Negative (unbid suits) – 6+ HCP at 1-level, 8+ at 2-level
- NT's = Stopper, 1NT = 7-9(10), 2NT = 11-12, 3NT = 13-15
- Cue bid = asks for a stopper for NT's, 11+ HCP

1a)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ A6	♠ 873	West	North	East	South
	♥ KQ874	♥ 92	1♥	1♠	X	2♠
	♦ QJ97	♦ AK83	3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♣ K6	♣ Q752				
East's double shows 6+ HCP and ideally the unbid suits (in this case 4-4 in the minors). With 15 HCP, West is strong enough to compete to the 3 level. If stronger they could cue bid spades or double. Therefore the 3♦ bid is competitive and not forcing.						
1b)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ J75	♠ 962	West	North	East	South
	♥ A98	♥ KQ762	1♦	1♠	2♥	Pass
	♦ AJ9873	♦ K6	3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♣ K	♣ QJ5				
East's 2♥ bid shows 10+ HCP and 5+ hearts. It is forcing for one round. West raises to 3♥ with a 3-card heart suit and a minimum hand. East is minimum for their initial bid so passes their partner's game invitation.						
1c)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ AKQ84	♠ J6	West	North	East	South
	♥ 94	♥ AK6	1♠	2♦	3♦	Pass
	♦ A984	♦ K6	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♣ 87	♣ 653				
East's 3♦ bid asks their partner to bid 3NT if they have a hold in diamonds or to make a suitable bid if they do not. West has a good holding in diamonds and so bids 3NT.						

2. We open 1-suit and opponents jump overcall at the 2 or 3-level

- Pass = 0-7 or a “trap” pass waiting for a reopening double
- Raise = 4+ support, 8-11 HCP at the 3-level, game is to play
- 2/3-new suit = 5+ suit, 10+ HCP – natural and forcing
- Double = Negative, 8+ at 2-level, 10+ at 3-level, 12+ if higher
- NT’s = Stopper, as above
- Cue bid = asks for a stopper, GF at the 3-level, 4-level (Lesson 12)

2a)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ AQ76	♠ 83	West	North	East	South
	♥ 73	♥ AK6	1♣	2♠	3♦	Pass
	♦ J9	♦ KQT752	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♣ AJ865	♣ K4				

When East bids 3♦, they should realise it is very unlikely that their partnership will stop short of the game and therefore should have at least an 11 HCP hand. In theory, if West were to bid 4♣ or 4♦, then East could pass. In practice, West had a good spade hold and can bid 3NT with their hand

2b)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ KQ87	♠ 963	West	North	East	South
	♥ AQ954	♥ J6	1♥	3♣*	Pass	Pass
	♦ A85	♦ KQ6	X	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♣ 6	♣ KQ875	* weak jump overcall (6-10 HCP and 6-7 clubs).			

If East had doubled 3♣, it would be a negative style double asking their partner to bid. Indeed, West would bid 3♠ with their hand. East wants to defend 3♣x and the way they can make that happen is to do a “trap” pass and hope West has the hand to make a reopening double. Since West has a shortage in clubs the normal action is to re-open with a double. This time, East converts the double to penalties by passing.

NB: East knows West will be short in clubs as they know North has at least 6 clubs and they have 5. Therefore, there is no big risk in passing to wait for their partner to re-enter the bidding and hopefully that is with a double.

3. We open 1-suit and opponents bid 1NT

- Pass = 0-8 (no fit or long suit)
- Raise = 4+ support, 6-8(9) HCP
- 2-new suit = 5+ suit, 6-8(9) HCP (**must be alerted** - non forcing)
- Double = Penalties, (9)10+ HCP

3a)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ JT3	♠ Q75	West	North	East	South
	♥ AQ754	♥ 83	1♥	1NT	X	Pass
	♦ AJT6	♦ KQ9	Pass	Pass		
	♣ 5	♣ KJ764				

North’s 1NT overcall shows 16-18 HCP with a hold in hearts. With 9+ HCP, East should make a penalty double with any subsequent doubles by East-West being for penalties. As South passes, so should West since their side has the balance of HCPs. With a very weak dummy, North should struggle for tricks giving East-West a good score for defending 1NT X as East-West cannot make game

3b)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ KQ984	♠ J5	West	North	East	South
	♥ A2	♥ Q63	1♠	1NT	2♦	Pass
	♦ Q3	♦ KJT986	Pass	Pass		
	♣ JT65	♣ 98				
<p>After North's 16-18 HCP 1NT call, East is too weak to double but would like to compete in their own suit (you need 9+ HCP to double). Therefore they bid 2♦ which is not forcing after the 1NT overcall. 2♦ must be alerted because it is weak. It very unlikely the opening partnership has the values to make a game so West is very happy to pass their partner's bid, with their minimum opener.</p>						

4. We open 1-suit and opponents double

- Pass = 0-5(6)
- Raise = 4+ support, 6-9
- Jump raise = 4+ support, 10-12
- 1-new suit = 4+ suit, 6+ HCP – natural and forcing
- 2-new suit = 4+ minor or 5+ major, 10+ HCP – natural and forcing
- Redouble = 10+ HCP, no fit for opener's suit, further X's = Penalty
- NT's = 1NT = 7-9(10), 2NT = (10)11-12, 3NT = 13-15

4a)	West	East	Bidding			
	♠ KQ984	♠ T2	West	North	East	South
	♥ A2	♥ KQ65	1♠	X	XX	2♦
	♦ Q3	♦ AJT2	Pass	Pass	X	Pass
	♣ QT65	♣ J43	Pass	Pass		
<p>East's redouble shows at least 10 HCP with no particular interest in their partner's spade suit and relatively balanced. All further doubles are penalties. South must bid their longest suit no matter how weak they are. West's pass is forcing as East has promised another bid by their redouble. In the above case, holding diamonds, East doubles, leaving South as declarer with bad trumps and very few HCP. Unless West is very distributional (say a 6 and a 5-card suit or a 7+ card spade suit), they should pass. If West held a diamond suit, they too could have doubled for penalties. The end result should be a lucrative penalty score for East-West.</p>						

NB: Your partnership needs to have an agreement on how high to play takeout doubles. It is good practice to play them up to and including the opponents' 4♥ openings, overcalls and direct raises.