

Competitive Bidding

- when we open the bidding

Lesson Content

This lesson includes competitive bidding when we open 1-suit and opponents' overcall – either a suit, jump overcall, 1NT or double. It provides all the different responses that can be made after each particular overcall.

We have kept the more natural bidding options that are used in the Improver Lessons. The teacher could mention that there are other methods which learners may use when they gain more experience.

Main Points to Emphasise

When opponents overcall a suit at the 1 or 2-level

- Pass shows 0-5 (**or may be a trap pass waiting for a reopening double**)
- Raises are natural
- New suits are forcing
- Double is negative
- NT's shows a stopper
- Cue bid asks for a stopper

When opponents jump overcall

- Bids are basically the same as for a natural overcall

When opponents overcall 1NT

****Bids are different****

- Double is penalties
- Suit bids are natural, non-forcing, with fewer than 9HCP (a new suit must be alerted)

When opponents double

- Raises, new suits or NT bids are natural (mention that after a double, raises can be "shaded" with good distribution – check the vulnerability)
- **Redouble is looking for penalties with a balanced hand and no fit for opener (all further doubles are penalties)**

Lesson Progression

- Discuss all the responses
- Go through the examples – explain the negative double
- Example 1a - need to discuss opener's rebid choices when forced to bid (not forced in this case, as south raises the overcall)
- Explain a trap pass- this may be a new concept when wanting to penalise opponents
- Emphasise that the bidding changes after a 1NT overcall
- Explain the alerting procedure
- Play the hands