

INTERMEDIATE LESSON 12: TEACHER NOTES

Weak 2-suiter Openers (Major and a minor)

Lesson Content

This lesson is about the 2♥ and 2♠ openers, responses and rebids. These opening bids show a 5-card major and a 4+ minor NV, or a 5+ minor Vulnerable, 6-10 HCP.

The responses include some non-forcing bids, pass or correct bids and a forcing 2NT. Opener's rebids are also explained. If responder forces with 2NT, artificial bids are used to show a maximum weak two.

Main Points to Emphasise

- The 2♥ and 2♠ openers **must be alerted** as must 2NT and all responses up to 3♠. In particular, the pass or correct club bids should be explained clearly.
- The rebids to show a maximum hand **must also be alerted** (3♥ to show clubs and 3♠ to show diamonds for both 2-major openers)
Note: the rebids linking clubs to hearts and diamonds to spades may be a new concept for learners.
- The anchor suit should have honours
- Once responder knows opener's second suit they should re-evaluate their hand. A double fit usually increases the number of tricks you can make.
- After a 2NT response and a maximum rebid, you are in a Game Forcing auction.
- With a weak hand opposite a weak 2-major opener, try to pre-empt with a good 9+ fit. Be wary if you are vulnerable or have a misfit.

Lesson Progression

- Discuss the type of hands for a weak major opener – give examples of hands to open 2♥/♠, ones to pass, and hands where you should open at the 1-level (a good 5/5 with 10 HCP where the rule of 20 applies)
- Then review the responses with examples for each different response
- Discuss opener's rebids. Spend time on the 3♥/3♠ rebid to show a maximum hand as these are artificial bids – *new concept*
- The responses and rebids for the 2♠ opener are basically the same as for 2♥ – a **raise** to the 3-level is always pre-emptive and only a **jump bid to 3 of the other major** is invitational to game ie 2♥- 3♠. NB: 2♠ - 3♥ is natural and to play.

Play the hands.