



LESSON 5 - TEACHER NOTES

RESPONDER'S UNLIMITED NEW SUIT BIDS & OPENER'S REBIDS

AT THE END OF LESSON 5 STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Identify, that when **Responder** bids a **new suit** after partner has opened with a 1-of-a-suit, he denies a fit with opener and can have 6 - 28 HCP i.e. Responder has an Unlimited hand
- Recognise when **Responder's bid** shows a **limited** or **unlimited** hand.
- Recognise that **Opener's Suit Rebid** shows an **unbalanced hand with 5+ cards** in the first bid suit and 4+ cards in the second.
- Recognise that **Opener's NT Rebids** shows a balanced hand with a defined HCP range.

REVISION

Remind the class of the **HCP needed**:

1. To Open the bidding, 11* - 19 HCP (*Meeting the Rule of 20)
2. For the partnership to Bid to game, need 25+ HCP

Remind class what a **SUIT FIT** is, and that to look for a **suit fit in a bid major** is a priority for the partnership.

Revise **opening leads** against a suit and against NT

RESPONDER'S BIDS – there are **three** choices for Responder,

- 1 Support partner's suit,
- 2 Bid a new suit
- 3 Bid NT.

LESSON CONTENT

- If a limit bid is not possible, Responder changes suit.
- Rules & values for new suit Responses including Rule of 14
- Stress the 'special case' where responder needs 5+ cards in hearts to bid 2 hearts after opener's initial 1 Spade bid.

MAIN POINTS TO EMPHASIZE – KEY POINT - responders new suit is “forcing” and shows any number of points between 6 & 28! **DO THE MATHS!**

a) Responder’s New Suit Bids

- Responder **MUST** have 6+ HCP to bid at all at the one level otherwise **PASS!**
- Keep the bidding as low as possible to give room to find a fit
- Responder’s rules for changing suit are the same as Opener’s rules when making an opening bid*

***Refresher time:** Remind students the rules for Opener’s first bid are;

1. Bid longest suit irrespective of strength,
2. Bid the lower ranking of two 4 card suits ‘*bidding up the line*’ but with 6-9 HCP holding a 4-card major and a 4-card minor suit you may choose to bid the major first.
3. With two 5 card suits **always** open the higher-ranking suit first.
4. With none of the above and 6-9 HCP range, bid 1NT. Note this bid denies a biddable 4 card suit at the one level. Make it clear that a 1NT response is the bid of last resort, or “the dustbin bid” as one bridge guru calls it!
5. Responder needs 10+ HCP to respond at the 2 level
or

Meet the Rule of 14 – What is this?

If the sum of Responder’s HCP added to the number of cards in his longest suit = 14 Responder can bid at the 2 level in this suit. (Emphasis while following the suit rules for responding, don’t jump to 2 if it’s possible to make a 1 level bid within these rules)

6. Remember the special case, to bid 2♥ you must have 10+ points and 5+ cards in the heart suit.

GO THROUGH RESPONDERS NEW SUIT BIDS IN DETAIL – if a limit bid is not possible, responder can rebid a new suit, looking for an alternative fit.

A **major** suit fit is by far the best option – (because statistics show that 10 tricks in a major is easier than 9 tricks in NT with 11 tricks in a minor the least attractive choice. Of course, some hands play better in NT as clearly some will play best in a minor suit, but always look for a fit, that’s 8 cards between the two hands in a major)

This is why you emphasise that bidding suits in the correct order is important.

b) Opener's Rebid Options after a New Suit Response

Examples to elicit the **FOUR** possible Rebid options. These are:

1. Support partner's new suit – shows 4 card support
2. Rebid a new suit – shows 5/4 shape
3. Rebid your opening suit – shows 5+ cards (and may be unable to show his second suit due rules constraints – more next week on this)
4. Rebid NT at the appropriate level

Opener has **3 choices of 'level of rebid'** after a new suit response by partner to show his HCP. Rather than listing specific ranges, the rebids are described in 3 broad categories to show

Minimum,
Invitational or
Game values.

- Opener **must do the maths before making his rebid decision**
- Stress that a rebid of a second suit by opener shows 5+ in the first suit and 4+ in the second suit i.e. an unbalanced hand
- Stress that with a balanced hand and 15+ HCP (i.e. out with the 1NT opening bid) opener cannot rebid a second suit so must rebid NT at the correct level i.e.
- **Opener's Rebid at the lowest level of 1NT = 15 – 17 HCP**
- **If Opener JUMPs to 2NT* = 18 – 19 HCP (forcing)**
- **If Opener JUMPs TO 3NT = 19 HCP**

*Stress if Responder bids at the 2 level, Opener cannot bid 1NT, therefore **here a 2NT rebid by Opener now must cover a wider range of 15-19 HCP e.g.**

Opener's NT Rebid after a suit response

♠ KQ6

♥ KT86

♦ KQT6

♣ K2

You Opener bid 1♥

Responder bids 2♣

You have a **balanced** hand with no fit, 16HCP

Your lowest level NT bid (now) **Opener ReBids 2NT**

Forcing - Do the maths

Opener's Dreaded 4,4,4,1 hand!

There are always exceptions! Bridge is no different!

With a hand of this shape:

What do you open?

And

What is your rebid?

♠ AK43

♥ 7

♦ JT76

♣ AQT6

14 HCP

Only open holding 13+ HCP*

Always open with a minor (with both minors bid diamonds)

***Do not open this shape of hand with only 12 HCP**



SUMMARY

- When opening, you must always have your rebid in mind
- With a fit in Responder's major, support at the appropriate level – this is your 1st priority (**Do the maths! ****)
- With no fit and a **balanced hand 15+ HCP**, rebid NT at the appropriate level
- With no fit and an unbalanced hand:
- rebid your second suit (showing 5:4) at the appropriate level **if you can*** or
- rebid your 5+ card suit at the appropriate level*

**** 25 HCP = Game**

*** Rebidding a second suit carries certain rules – more next week**