



Lesson 41 Teacher's Notes

Opener's Rebid The Reverse

Aims

- To revise the aims of bidding.
"The exchange of as much information *as we need* to reach the *best final contract* at the *right level*."
- To introduce opener's reverse and other strong rebids

Content

- Remind the class of the twin aims of bidding: to limit our strength and show our distribution. We need to know our combined values to decide whether to play in part-score, game or slam, and we need to know about distribution to decide whether to play in no-trump or a suit. If we open the bidding 1NT (or 2NT) partner knows we have: 12-14 (20-22) points and a balanced hand. He can tell immediately whether game is a possibility or not. An opening bid of one of a suit has a much wider range, 12 - 19 points, and it can be balanced or unbalanced. With this information partner has little idea what the best final contract may be. Opener's second bid – his *rebid* is therefore very important. There are two types of auction:
 - partner has made a *limited response*, weak or invitational. This is *not forcing*, opener may pass.
Revise bidding after limit raises – pass, invite game or bid game and the 1NT response – pass, remove to a second, lower-ranking suit, or rebid a 6-card suit
 - partner has made an *unlimited response*, a 1-over-1 or a 2-over-1, or a jump shift in a new suit. Such a response can be very strong, up to 27 points. Therefore it is *forcing*, opener cannot pass.
- Revise bidding after a response in a new suit. Opener tries to describe his hand accurately:

He can raise partner's suit with 4-card support ("Whenever raising partner is an option – raise him")

He can rebid in no-trump to show a balanced hand with the wrong point range for a 1NT opener.
(“Balanced hands bid NT”)

He can bid a new suit of his own. This promises 4+ cards in the second suit, and normally at least 5 in the first suit bid

He can rebid the suit he opened with 6+cards and no other suit to show
- Introduce the *Reverse*: when opener bids a second suit *at the 2-level* that is *higher-ranking* than his original suit. Point out that reversing is an uneconomical way of bidding. If partner does not like the second suit he must return to the first suit at the 3-level. And it is quite likely that partner does not like the second suit: *he had the chance to bid it at the 1-level, and did not do so*
A reverse bid is a bid in a suit that partner has bypassed with his initial response.

| | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Eg | <i>West</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>West</i> | <i>East</i> |
| | 1♣ | 1♥ | 1♥ | 2♣ |
| | 2♦ | | 2♠ | |

East responded 1♥ rather than 1♦. East cuts out the spade suit by bidding 2♣. He is unlikely to have four diamonds. This makes West's 2♠ a **reverse** bid. So 2♦ is a **reverse**, likely to take the partnership to the 3-level. This time East responded with a 2over1, promising 10 HCP, Since the reverse bid raises the level it is a strong bid, promising at least 16HCP after a 1over1, at least 15 after a 2over1. It is sometimes referred to as a “barrier” bid because it forces partner to give preference beyond the “barrier” of two of your original suit. The suit opened has at least 5 good cards, the second suit is shorter, but at least 4 cards.