



Lesson 14 Teacher's Notes

Transfers over 1NT

Aims

To revise bidding after a 1NT opener

To introduce the Transfer principle

Content

- 1 Revise the basics of bidding after a 1NT opener.
When partner opens 1NT what do you know about his hand?
It is **balanced** (4333, 4432, 5332 - no singletons or voids) and it has **12-14** high card points
It is a **Limit Bid**: responder knows immediately whether to stop in a part-score or to look for game
With 0-10 HCP stop in part-score: pass

With 11-12HCP invite game: bid 2NT with a balanced hand
or 2♣ (Stayman) when we have a 4-card major, to be followed by 2NT with no fit, or a single raise if partner bids our 4-card Major

With 13+HCP bid to game: 3NT with a balanced hand
4♥/♠ with a 6-card major
3♣/♦/♥/♠ with a good 6-card suit in an unbalanced hand (or a very strong one)
2♣ (Stayman) when we have a 4-card major, to be followed by 3NT with no fit, or raise to game if partner bids our 4-card Major
- 2 What do we do with a five-card or longer major?
We do not use Stayman with a five-card major - Stayman **asks**, with a 5-card major we **tell**.
We use **TRANSFER** bids to look for the 5-3 major suit fit
Like Stayman, **transfers** allocate a conventional meaning to responses at the 2-level.
Over 1NT 2♦ and 2♥ are **conventional** bids. They say nothing about the suit actually bid.
They **instruct** partner to bid the **next suit, whether he has length in it or not**.
1NT 2♦ says "I have a 5+-card heart suit. Please bid 2♥"
2♥ says "I have a 5+-card spade suit. Please bid 2♠"
NB: We use Transfers only when the opening bid is 1NT. Not over opening bids of one-of-a-suit
- 3 We use Transfers with a 5+-card major as the first step in describing invitational and game-going hands.
This means partner will play the hand. There are two advantages:
During the play the opening hand is hidden, the defenders do not know its strengths and weaknesses
More usefully, they are a way of saving bidding space - you get **two bids for the price of one**.
When partner has **completed the transfer** you can make a second bid to describe your hand further.
- 4 **We can also use a transfer as a weak takeout to hearts or spades**
When we want to make a weak takeout into a major we **transfer, then pass partner's response**.
This has the advantage that you get to the **best contract** played by the **stronger hand**.
- 5 We can also transfer into the minor suits but that is for a later lesson

(You are bound to forget transfers a few times when you first take them up. Everybody does.
Do not worry - you never really **know** a convention till you have forgotten it at least once)