



Bidding Basics

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Responder's rebid after partner opened with a preempt

Our partner preempted and we responded. What about our second call?

If we raised the preempt, partner won't bid again. If we later double (the opponents have entered our auction), it is purely for penalty; partner is not to pull the double. For example, suppose we raise 2♥ to 4♥, and the opponents bid 4♠. We double with:

♠A Q 10 8 3 ♥A 2 ♦A 8 7 ♣K 10 3.

Partner should not pull (and you should not drool or snap your double on the table).

If we bid a new suit after partner's preempt, it is forcing (in "Standard"). No matter what partner does, we are now in control. We know partner has a limited hand, so we can stop below game, bid game, look for slam, use Blackwood, etc. For example, after 2♥-2♠; 3♠, we can pass with:

♠A Q J 7 6 5 ♥2 ♦A 6 4 ♣Q 6 2,

go to game with:

♠A 10 9 7 6 5 3 ♥2 ♦A K 2 ♣A 5,

or look for slam with:

♠A K Q 8 7 6 ♥Q 2 ♦A K 2 ♣A 2.

If we have responded 3NT to partner's preempt (to play), he is not invited to the dance. We are in control of the auction (and all doubles are penalty).

Lastly, what if we have responded 2NT to partner's weak two-bid? Let's assume we are using "Feature" as discussed in the January 2020 issue. Let's break it down into these two parts:

Opener has rebid his suit (a minimum)

So the auction has gone something like 2♥-2NT; 3♥. Opener has shown a minimum. After that:

Pass = to play; a minimum is not what responder was hoping for.

New suit = A control bid with slam interest. (This is rare and not worth worrying about.)

3NT = Choice of games. Something like:

♠A Q J ♥8 7 ♦A Q J 10 2 ♣K Q 3.

Opener should go back to his major if he has a shapely hand (something like:

♠— ♥K Q 10 9 6 5 ♦8 6 5 ♣7 6 5 2),

but should choose to play in 3NT with a balanced hand (such as:

♠7 5 2 ♥A Q 10 6 5 3 ♦9 3 ♣10 2).

4 of the major = to play.

4NT = Blackwood (Roman key card Blackwood if the partnership uses it).

Opener has shown a feature (not a minimum)

So the auction has gone something like 2♠-2NT; 3♣. Opener has a non-minimum and a high card in clubs.

After that:

New suit = cards/values; looking for the right contract.

3 of the major = invitational.

3NT = choice of games. To play but opener can pull with a shapely hand.

4 of the major = to play.

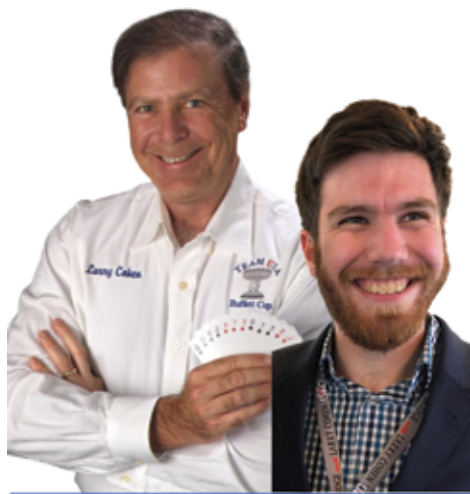
4NT = Blackwood (or RKCB).

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BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

What is our second bid after 2♥ – 2♠; 3♥ with:

1. ♠A Q 6 5 4 2 ♥6 ♦A 3 2 ♣A J 2
2. ♠A 10 8 7 6 5 2 ♥A 2 ♣A Q J 2 ♣–

What is our second bid after 3♦ – 3♠; 4♠ with:

3. ♠A K J 8 7 6 5 ♥A K ♦K Q 2 ♣2

What is our second bid after 2♥ – 2NT; 3♥ with:

4. ♠A 3 2 ♥Q 7 6 ♦A K J 7 6 ♣3 2
5. ♠K Q 10 ♥K 2 ♦K Q 2 ♣A Q 7 6 5
6. ♠A Q ♥3 ♦K J 2 ♣A K Q 10 6 5 4

What is our second bid after 2♠ – 2NT; 3♦ with:

7. ♠Q 4 2 ♥A 2 ♦A Q 7 6 5 ♣K 3 2
8. ♠Q ♥K Q 2 ♦J 3 2 ♣A K Q J 7 6

Answers

1. Pass. With no fit, facing a minimum, this is high enough.
2. 4♥. This hand is too good to stop short of game.
3. 4NT. Facing one ace, we will drive to slam (with RKCB, maybe we have sophisticated enough methods to ask for and find the ♠Q).
4. Pass. Facing a minimum, it would be too ambitious to bid game.
5. 3NT. With 19 good points, you drive to game, offering partner a choice between this or 4♥.
6. This is a trick question with no answer. You should have responded 3NT (to play) the first time. If you bid 3NT now, it is offering partner a chance to go back to hearts, which you don't want.
7. 4♠. Partner has a decent hand and likely the ♦K – perfect for 4♠.
8. 3NT. Facing a decent hand with a diamond card, this looks like a good contract to attempt.