

Auckland Bridge Club Improvers Sessions

Transfers Responses to NT Opening Bids

Basic responses

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2♣ | Stayman, asking partner to bid a 4 card major or 2♦ without one. |
| 2♦ | Promises at least five hearts and orders partner to bid 2♥. |
| 2♥ | Promises at least five spades and orders partner to bid 2♠. |
| The use of 2♠ and 2NT | There are several different meanings that players use for 2♠ and 2NT in response to partner's 1NT opening. In Modern Acol the meanings are as follows: |
| 2♠ | Either a raise to 2NT without a 4-card major, usually 11-12 points. Or a strong hand with at least game forcing values, looking for the best game or slam, say 18 or more points. Usually the hand will have no 5-card suit. It asks opener a question. Are you a minimum? If so bid 2NT. Or are you a maximum, in which case bid your lowest 4-card suit. |
| 2NT | Since hands that would have bid 2NT now bid 2♠, we now have a bid without a meaning. So we use it as a transfer to a minor. You need a weak 6-card minor suit (either clubs or diamonds). It tells Opener to bid 3♣ which you pass if clubs is your suit or you bid 3♦ if you have diamonds. Then he will pass. |

Responder's second bid after making a transfer response

| Bid | Auction goes 1NT - 2♥ - 2♠ | Typical hand |
|------|---|---|
| Pass | My 2♥ transfer was a weak take-out in spades. Opener is declarer in 2♠. | ♠ K 9 7 6 4 2 ♥ 10 2 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ 6 3 |
| 2NT | Shows 11-12 points, a 5-card suit and invites partner to: * bid 3♠ with a minimum and 3+card spade support * pass 2NT with a minimum and only two spades * bid 4♠ with a maximum and 3+card spade support * bid 3NT with a maximum and only two spades. | ♠ Q 10 9 8 4 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ K 9 |
| 3NT | Shows a 5-card suit and enough points for game, say 13 or more. It asks Opener to choose between 4♠ and 3NT. | ♠ A 10 9 8 4 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ K 9 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 3♠ | This is highly invitational. It shows 10 or 11 points with a 6-card spade suit inviting Opener to bid 4♠ with a suitable hand. Opener will only need a doubleton spade to bid 4♠. | ♠ Q 10 9 8 4 3 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ K 9 |
| 4♠ | Shows enough points for game with a 6-card suit which Opener should pass. The advantage of transfers is that the Opener is declarer. This can protect any weak holdings in the Responder's hand. | ♠ A 10 9 8 4 3 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A K Q ♣ 9 7 |
| A new suit e.g. 3♦ | Shows at least four cards in the second suit bid. It is forcing to at least 3♠ and invites Opener to bid game. Responder does not have to bid a second suit just because he has one, since a bid of 2NT or a jump to 3NT also offers a choice of games. To bid a second suit suggests an unbalanced hand. | ♠ A 10 9 8 4 ♥ 6 ♦ A 10 7 3 ♣ K 9 4 |
| A new suit e.g. 3♦ | You can also use a new suit bid to show a strong hand which is thinking about the possibilities of a slam. Since 3♦ is forcing you will get another chance. Even if Opener can only bid 3♠ you will bid again. With the strong hand shown you can try 4♦ or even 6♦. | ♠ A K 10 9 8 ♥ 6 ♦ A K 10 7 3 ♣ A 2 |

Other meanings for 2♠ and 2NT.

As above, not everyone plays the same methods. So you may come across things like:

- 2♠ is a transfer to clubs and 2NT is a transfer to diamonds;
- 2♠ shows a balanced hand – exactly 11 points and 2NT shows a balanced hand – exactly 12 points. *NOT recommended, as this is too restrictive;*
- 2NT is a game try hand and 2♠ shows the strong hand only.

Transfers over other NT bids

It is also very common to use transfers after a 1NT overcall (16-18 points, balanced). Also over a 2NT opening (20-22 balanced), and the sequence 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT (23-24 balanced) as well. The advantages are much the same as over 1NT, so:

| Call | Meaning |
|------|---|
| Pass | 0-3 points |
| 3♣ | Stayman, asking about 4 card majors. |
| 3♦ | Promises at least five hearts and tells partner to bid 3♥ |
| 3♥ | Promises at least five spades and tells partner to bid 3♠ |
| 3♠ | Shows a slam interest, usually 10+ points and some shape (not 4333) |
| 3NT | To play in 3NT |

You can also use transfers after the sequence 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT. Of course, you have to modify the points required but the principle is just the same.

Quiz on using transfers

A Partner opens 1NT. What is your response with each of these hands?

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1. ♠ A 9 ♥ 8 7 5 3 2 ♦ 7 2 ♣ K 6 4 3 | 2. ♠ J 10 9 5 4 ♥ K 9 5 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 9 7 2 | 3. ♠ 2 ♥ 9 8 ♦ Q 6 3 2 ♣ K 9 8 7 5 2 | 4. ♠ A 4 ♥ K J 7 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ Q J 9 6 5 |
|---|--|---|---|

B The bidding starts 1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT. What should Opener do next?

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1. ♠ 9 8 7 3 ♥ A 3 ♦ A J 10 2 ♣ K Q 9 | 2. ♠ A 9 2 ♥ K Q J 7 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ J 6 3 | 3. ♠ 9 8 2 ♥ Q 6 3 ♦ A K J 2 ♣ A 9 6 | 4. ♠ 10 9 5 2 ♥ K Q ♦ A 8 7 2 ♣ Q J 6 |
|--|---|---|--|

C Partner opens 1NT. What is your response with each of these hands?

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ♠ A K ♥ K J 5 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A Q J 4 3 | 2. ♠ K J 2 ♥ J 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ A Q ♣ 4 | 3. ♠ 7 4 ♥ A K Q 8 2 ♦ A K 8 ♣ K 6 4 | 4. ♠ A 9 ♥ K J 5 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A J 6 4 3 |
|---|---|---|---|

D Partner opens 2NT. What is your response with each of these hands?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. ♠ J 9 ♥ K J 5 3 ♦ 7 6 2 ♣ 8 7 4 3 | 2. ♠ K J 2 ♥ J 8 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ A Q ♣ 4 | 3. ♠ 9 8 7 5 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ 6 3 2 ♣ 8 7 4 |
|---|---|---|

What about if the auction on 1. and 3. starts 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT? What do you say now?

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| ♠ 5 2 | ♠ K 8 4 | ♠ A J |
| ♥ A K 7 5 4 2 | ♥ Q 10 8 | ♥ J 9 |
| ♦ 9 7 4 | ♦ A Q 10 6 | ♦ K J 8 3 |
| ♣ K 6 | ♣ J 3 2 | ♣ Q 10 8 7 5 |
| | ♠ Q 10 9 7 6 3 | |
| | ♥ 6 3 | |
| | ♦ 5 2 | |
| | ♣ A 9 4 | |

EW 3♥; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; NS 1♠; Par -140

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| ♠ 10 8 | ♠ Q 9 6 2 | ♠ A J 7 3 |
| ♥ J 9 | ♥ Q 7 | ♥ 8 6 5 |
| ♦ Q 9 8 2 | ♦ K 5 4 3 | ♦ A J 7 |
| ♣ Q 8 7 6 5 | ♣ A K 3 | ♣ 10 9 2 |
| | ♠ K 5 4 | |
| | ♥ A K 10 4 3 2 | |
| | ♦ 10 6 | |
| | ♣ J 4 | |

N 4N; NS 4♥; S 3N; N 3♠; S 2♠; NS 1♦; EW 1♣;
Par +630

Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

| | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| ♠ A Q J 10 4 | ♠ 8 7 | ♠ K 9 6 |
| ♥ 7 3 | ♥ K 9 6 4 | ♥ A Q 10 |
| ♦ J 9 8 | ♦ 10 7 6 | ♦ 5 4 3 2 |
| ♣ A J 4 | ♣ 10 9 7 3 | ♣ K Q 8 |
| | ♠ 5 3 2 | |
| | ♥ J 8 5 2 | |
| | ♦ A K Q | |
| | ♣ 6 5 2 | |

EW 4N; EW 4♠; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; EW 1♥;
Par -430

Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| ♠ K J | ♠ 9 8 6 5 3 | ♠ A 7 |
| ♥ A Q 6 5 4 2 | ♥ K | ♥ 10 9 8 7 |
| ♦ K 3 | ♦ J 10 6 2 | ♦ Q 8 7 |
| ♣ 10 9 5 | ♣ J 4 2 | ♣ A K 7 6 |
| | ♠ Q 10 4 2 | |
| | ♥ J 3 | |
| | ♦ A 9 5 4 | |
| | ♣ Q 8 3 | |

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 5♣; Par -660

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| ♠ J 10 7 6 4 2 | ♠ K 5 | ♠ Q 3 |
| ♥ Q | ♥ A 8 6 5 3 | ♥ J 4 2 |
| ♦ Q J 5 2 | ♦ A 4 3 | ♦ K 8 7 |
| ♣ 9 4 | ♣ A 7 2 | ♣ J 10 8 5 3 |
| | ♠ A 9 8 | |
| | ♥ K 10 9 7 | |
| | ♦ 10 9 6 | |
| | ♣ K Q 6 | |

NS 5N; NS 5♥; NS 3♣; NS 2♦; EW 1♠; Par +460

Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|
| ♠ J 8 7 3 | ♠ A 10 2 | ♠ 9 6 4 |
| ♥ A 10 9 2 | ♥ 8 5 3 | ♥ Q J 7 4 |
| ♦ 10 8 7 | ♦ A 2 | ♦ J 9 5 |
| ♣ A 7 | ♣ K J 10 6 5 | ♣ Q 8 4 |
| | ♠ K Q 5 | |
| | ♥ K 6 | |
| | ♦ K Q 6 4 3 | |
| | ♣ 9 3 2 | |

S 3N; S 3♠; S 4♣; N 2N; N 2♠; NS 3♦; N 3♣;
NS 1♥; Par +600

Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| ♠ K 9 4 3 | ♠ Q J 5 2 | ♠ A 6 |
| ♥ K 10 | ♥ 9 7 6 3 | ♥ A Q J 8 5 |
| ♦ A Q 7 | ♦ 5 | ♦ J 10 9 4 |
| ♣ J 7 5 2 | ♣ K 10 9 8 | ♣ A 6 |
| | ♠ 10 8 7 | |
| | ♥ 4 2 | |
| | ♦ K 8 6 3 2 | |
| | ♣ Q 4 3 | |

EW 5N; EW 5♥; EW 5♦; EW 3♠; EW 3♣;
Par -660

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| ♠ K 10 9 2 | ♠ A J | ♠ 6 5 |
| ♥ K 7 4 2 | ♥ Q 9 6 5 | ♥ J 3 |
| ♦ K 5 | ♦ A 10 | ♦ Q 9 8 7 6 4 3 |
| ♣ K 6 4 | ♣ 10 9 8 7 2 | ♣ Q 3 |
| | ♠ Q 8 7 4 3 | |
| | ♥ A 10 8 | |
| | ♦ J 2 | |
| | ♣ A J 5 | |

NS 3N; NS 3♠; NS 3♥; NS 4♣; EW 2♦; Par +300;
EW 4♦×-2