

New series of 10 topics – Thursdays at 9:30am or 4:15pm

Jun 25: Preemptive bids

Jul 2: Bergen raises

Jul 9: Bids after Opponents 1NT opening bid

Jul 16: Unusual 2NT and Michaels

Jul 23: Doubles – take out, negative and support

Jul 30: Inverted minors

Aug 6: Jacoby 2NT

Aug 13: Blackwood and Gerber

Aug 20: Drury

Aug 27: New minor forcing and 4th suit forcing

Why Preempts exist

Preempts are designed to:

- Consume bidding space
- Make opponents guess
- Disrupt communication
- Force mistakes

Mirriam-Webster

pre·emp·tive definition of a bid in bridge:

“Higher than necessary and intended to shut out bids by the opponents”

Weak 2s

Requirements:

1. Exactly 6 cards in the bid suit (not 5, not 7)
2. 5-10 HCP
3. Vulnerability matters
4. No outside 4-card major
5. Ideally most of the points in the bid suit – “2 of the top 3 honors or 3 of the top 5”

Golden Rules of Weak 2s

1. Open a weak 2 when you'd be happy if partner passed it out. If the hand is too strong, open at the one level. If it's too weak or the suit isn't robust enough, pass
2. The weak 2 bid is a calculated gamble, not a random shot in the dark. When used correctly, it's one of the most effective tools in your bidding convention toolkit.

Good preempting 2s

1. Steals bidding space
2. Creates guessing problems
3. Produces immediate match point gains
4. Open in **1st seat** – you can limit your hand and direct the lead and **be a little aggressive at favorable or equal vulnerability** and flexible with suit quality
5. Be **conservative in 2nd seat** and stick to the standard weak 2 requirements
6. In **3rd seat**, after 2 passes – be **even more aggressive**

1st Seat - dealer

Open in **1st seat** – you can limit your hand and direct the lead and **be a little aggressive at favorable or equal vulnerability** and flexible with suit quality.

Say you have 7 points, leaving 33 for the other 3 players, assuming 11 each, so the opponents have 22 and you and your partner has 18.

So, the hand is likely to belong to the opponents.

2nd Seat after dealer passes

Be **conservative in 2nd seat** and stick to the standard weak 2 requirements

Say you have 7 points and the dealer passed with 7, leaving 26 for the other 2 players.

Your partner may have $\frac{1}{2}$ the remainder, 13 points, so you and your partner have 20 and the opponents have 20.

Each partnership has 20 points

3rd Seat after 2 passes

In 3rd seat, after 2 passes – be even more aggressive

Say, you have 7 points, your partner passed with 7 and your RHO passed also with 7, leaving 19 for your LHO.

You and your partner have 14 and the opponents have 26, it's their game!

4th seat after 3 passes

**There are no weak/preemptive bids
in 4th seat.**

**If you open 2 or 3 of a suit, you
should have close to 13 HCP.**

Common weak 2 bid mistakes

1. Opening with a 5-card suit. Exactly 6 cards is the standard.
2. Opening with a terrible suit: 876432 is not a weak two – your suit needs texture and honor strength.
3. Hiding a 4-card major: if you hold 4♥ and 6♦ diamonds, opening 2♦ may cause you to miss a ♥ fit.
4. Upgrading too much when vulnerable. Going down 800 is not winning bridge.

Responding to a weak 2 bid

1. Pass with a weak hand and no fit; let the preempt do its job
2. Raise to 3 or 4 with a fit and playing strength
3. 2NT asks for a feature – an outside A or K. Apply the rule of 17 – your HCP + the number of cards in partner's bid
4. Responder is Captain of the Auction

Weak 3s

Requirements:

1. Exactly 7 cards in the bid suit (not 6)
 - with 8 open a weak 4
2. 5-10 HCP
3. Vulnerability matters
4. No outside 4-card major
5. Ideally most of the points in the bid suit

Good preempting 3s

1. Steals bidding space
2. Creates guessing problems
3. Produces immediate match point gains
4. Open in **1st seat** – you can limit your hand and direct the lead and **be a little aggressive** and flexible with suit quality
5. Be **conservative in 2nd seat** and stick to the standard weak 3 requirements
6. In **3rd seat**, after 2 passes – be **even more aggressive**

Common weak 3 bid mistakes

1. Opening with a 6-card suit. Exactly 7 cards is the standard.
2. Opening with a terrible suit: 8765432 is not a weak 3 bid – your suit needs texture and honor strength
3. Hiding a 4-card major: if you hold 4♥ and 7♦, opening 3♦ may cause you to miss a ♥ fit.
4. Upgrading too much when vulnerable.
Going down 800 is not winning bridge

Responding to a weak 3 bid

1. Pass with a weak hand

2. Raise to 4 with a fit and playing strength

3. Responder is Captain of the Auction

What would you bid? 1st seat

VULNERABLE

1. ♠AQJT98	♥QT98	♦2	♣32
2. ♠AQJT98	♥T9	♦987	♣T9
3. ♠AQJT987	♥T9	♦98	♣T9
4. ♠AQJT987	♥A987	♦9	♣T9
5. ♠AQJT9	♥AQJT9	♦9	♣T9
6. ♠QJ9876	♥QJ98	♦9	♣T9
7. ♠QJ9876	♥QJT	♦98	♣T9
8. ♠QJT9876	♥QJT	♦9	♣T9

What would you bid? 2nd seat VULNERABLE

1. ♠ QT9876	♥ QJT	♦ QJT	♣ A
2. ♠ QT9876	♥ T32	♦ AT9	♣ 2
3. ♠ QJT987	♥ AKQT	♦ T9	♣ 2
4. ♠ AKQT987	♥ T9	♦ T9	♣ T9
5. ♠ AKQT987	♥ -	♦ AT98	♣ T9
6. ♠ 987	♥ AKJT98	♦ Q32	♣ T
7. ♠ 9876	♥ AKQJT9	♦ Q32	♣ -
8. ♠ 987	♥ AKQJT98	♦ Q32	♣ -

Your partner in 1st seat VULNERABLE opens 2♠, RHO X, what do you bid?

- | | | | |
|----------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1. ♠T98 | ♥AK32 | ♦AQ32 | ♣KQ |
| 2. ♠T987 | ♥AK32 | ♦T987 | ♣2 |
| 3. ♠432 | ♥A432 | ♦T987 | ♣32 |
| 4. ♠432 | ♥JT987 | ♦JT98 | ♣J |

Your partner in 2nd seat VULNERABLE opens 2♠, RHO X, what do you bid?

- | | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. ♠T9 | ♥AK32 | ♦AQJ32 | ♣32 |
| 2. ♠T | ♥A432 | ♦Q432 | ♣Q432 |
| 3. ♠T98765 | ♥AK432 | ♦2 | ♣2 |
| 4. ♠- | ♥AK432 | ♦AK432 | ♣432 |

To summarize...

- Consume bidding space
- Make opponents guess
- Disrupt opponents' communication
- Most of the points in the bid suit
- Vulnerability matters

Next Thursday, July 2

Bergen Raises