

## LESSON 5: TEACHER NOTES

# Responder's Limited Bids and Opener's Rebids

### What is in this Lesson

Things get a little more complicated in this lesson, but again there are few important concepts to emphasise:

- the idea of a limited (limit) bid by responder
- supporting partner's major suit opening if at all possible
- the value of shortage when supporting partner's major suit opening
- the idea of a limited rebid by opener
- why opener's rebid of the major suit opened promises 6+ cards after a notrump response.

If you would like to re-visit teaching about bridge etiquette, this is a good opportunity to point out that when puzzling over what to bid/rebid a player may not say things out loud e.g. "I don't know what to do here ..."

### Preparation

- You may wish to prepare hands to illustrate Limit Bids. Have the opening bid say 1H. Prepare a Responder hand with a fit & 6-10 HCP. Go through the appropriate limit bid. Then change the hand to have 11 HCP and show the bidding change. You could show opener's rebids with a minimum hand and then show opener's responses with 16+ HCP.
- This lesson teaches that responder only needs 3 card support for an invitational major limit raise.

### Teacher Options

- *Student Notes show bid of 1 major and response of 4 major as a weak bid. You may wish to teach this as a strong bid*
- *If you are teaching 2/1 the ranges are in red*

### Teacher Tips

- Elicit answers from class rather than telling them what the next bid/play is. Eg "Who can tell me what this bid shows about the length of the first bid suit?", "What strength is shown by a jump rebid in your suit?", "What should we bid next with this hand?"
- Try getting the players to describe what their partner's bids mean – this provides a way to revise and discuss bidding. The whole table will get involved!
- When you see someone make a doozy of an error, maybe ask them gently, "Can you tell me why you passed?" Do not offer them any advice at all until you're confident that you understand what happened for them. They'll often be nervous at that time – the teacher is looming! So say to them why I'm speaking with them: **"I'm curious to see this through your eyes"**.

## Introduction / Revision

- Need 12+ to open. Look to open 1NT first, then a major and finally a minor
- The idea that minor suit openings do not guarantee length in the suit
- Responder needs 6+ HCP to bid
- Need 25+ HCP to make game in NT or a major, more for a minor game
- Responder – when to pass, support opener’s suit, or make some other bid
- Introduction to Limit Raises
- Teacher could read out some questions from [FLASH QUIZ](#) if that’s their style

## Lesson Terminology

- Shortage Points / Total Points
- Limit Bid
- Limit Raise
- Invitational bid
- Forcing bid
- Limited Rebid

## At End of Lesson Be Able To

- Know when and how to add shortage points
- When to pass, support opener’s suit, or make some other bid
- Recognise when **Responder’s bid** shows a **limited** or **unlimited** hand.
- Recognise when **Opener’s Suit Rebid** shows **a minimum opening hand 12-15 HCP** & shape i.e. 5+ cards in the first bid suit & 4+ cards in the second.
- Recognise **Opener’s NT Rebids** in terms of HCP range and shape.

## Main Points to Emphasise

- Strength necessary to respond – 6-10 HCP, (10)11-12 HCP, 13+ HCP
- Concept of inviting game & going to game if maximum
- Limit Bids – bidding the same suit or NT tells partner how many points you hold
- Opener’s rebid after a limit raise or bid
- Opener repeating a suit shows 6+ cards
- Bid of a new suit is forcing meaning partner must bid again (next week). Limit bids are not forcing

## Explain

- Support partner’s suit – a raise to the 2-, 3- or 4-level (limited)
- Bid some number of NT – these bids deny 3+ support for opener’s major suit (limited)
- Bid a new suit – these bids always promise 4+ cards (or 5+ in some auctions) and are forcing for one further round of bidding (unlimited)

### Shortage Points (or use Board 9)

If a fit with partner is found:

- add 1 point for a doubleton
- 3 for a singleton
- 5 for a void

*Advanced: If only 3 card fit count  
1/2/3 sp*

**Total Points = HCP + shortage Points**

You are Responder & partner opens 1♠

♠J743

♥6                      3 shortage points

♦K8                     1 shortage point

♣KQ6432

**9 HCP + 4 shortage points = 13 TP (bid 4S)**

**Responders Limit Raise** - 6-10 TP, invite (10) 11-12 TP

- 1 major 4 major - either up to 12 TP 5+ support, or  
*13+HCP & 3+ support (Teacher to decide)*

**Openers Rebid after Limit Raise:**

- 1 major 2 major - Pass 12-15, Invite 16-17, Game 18-19
- 1 major 3 major - Pass 12-13, Game 14+

**<< Play Boards 1, 2 >>**

**Responders Limit NT Bids** - 6-10, 11-12, 13-15. *2/1 6-12 for 1NT*

- No support for partner
- Cannot bid a suit at the 1 level
- Cannot bid own suit at the 2 level (need 10+ HCP *or 2/1 13+ HCP*)

**Openers Rebid after NT Limit Raise:**

1 major 1NT - 12-15 Pass, rebid major (showing 6+) or bid new suit

*14 2/1 - try to bid again*

1 major 2NT - 12-13 Pass or rebid major (showing 6+)

14+ New suit, 3NT or 4 major (showing 6+)

**Do the Maths:**

The limited nature of these responses allows Opener to do the maths.

Opener has 3 choices as the responder did:

- No chance of game - pass (minimum)
- Close to game - invite (invitational)
- Values for game - bid it (game)

Tell the students not to worry too much about the point ranges in the notes. They will get used to doing the maths and know what to do with the 3 choices above.

## &lt;&lt; Play Boards 3, 4 &gt;&gt;

**How Does Responder Bid Game if a fit & strong** (*Teacher option*)

1 major, 1 or 2 new suit then Responder bids game next bid

Opener	Responder	
1♥	2♦	(3+ ♥s, 4+ ♦s & 13+pts)
2♥	4♥	

## &lt;&lt; Either go through Quiz below &amp;/or ask students to construct hands that would satisfy the bidding below – use cards from Board 4 &gt;&gt;

Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
1♥	2♥	1♥	<b>INT</b>	1♥	2♣ (or 4♥ <i>teacher option</i> )
<b>All Pass</b>		2♥	<b>All Pass</b>	2♥	3♥ <b>All Pass</b>

**Summary**

- Strength necessary to respond – ranges are 6–10HCP, (10)11–12HCP, 13+HCP
- Need 25 HCP for game in a major or NT
- Limit Bids – bidding the same suit or NT tells partner how many points you hold
- 3 types of hands if Responder has a fit – minimum, invitational and game
- Opener can just about calculate how many points the partnership holds if Responder makes a limit bid.
- Concept of inviting to game and bidding game if maximum
- Opener repeating a suit shows 6+ cards

## LESSON 5: Responder's Limited Bids & Opener's Rebids

### 1. Partner opens 1♥ - what do you respond with these hands?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ A52	♠ A2	♠ K62	♠ AJ532	♠ A85
♥ AK6	♥ J96	♥ 52	♥ K6	♥ Q764
♦ J82	♦ 952	♦ QJT	♦ KT5	♦ 9842
♣ AT82	♣ KQJ76	♣ AKQ53	♣ QJT	♣ Q9

### 2. You open 1♠ & partner responds 2♠ - what is your rebid?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ K5432	♠ QJ854	♠ AQJ52	♠ AKQ765	♠ AKQ432
♥ KJ6	♥ A862	♥ K87	♥ K6	♥ 76
♦ QT8	♦ AJ	♦ A98	♦ 3	♦ JT8
♣ A2	♣ AK	♣ K6	♣ KQJ5	♣ A9

### 3. You open 1♠ & partner responds 1NT - what is your rebid?

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
♠ AJ852	♠ QJ7652	♠ AK52	♠ KQJT32	♠ AK865
♥ K62	♥ 2	♥ K62	♥ 62	♥ 7
♦ A85	♦ AK2	♦ AJT	♦ A2	♦ AQ853
♣ Q7	♣ A98	♣ A97	♣ Q97	♣ 97

## FLASH QUIZ

<p><b>Q1</b> What is meant by Responder making a limit bid?</p>	<p>Shows a fit &amp; HCP count within a narrow range. e.g.  Opener Responder  1♥ 2♥  (6-10 HCPs + 3+ card support in ♥s)  1♥ 1NT (6-10 HCPs, 2 or less ♥s)</p>
<p><b>Q2</b> What do you need in order to open 1♥?</p>	<p>5+ cards in the Heart suit and 12 – 19 HCP's</p>
<p><b>Q3</b> With 5♦s &amp; 4♠s - what do you open?</p>	<p>Diamonds – bid your longest suit first.</p>
<p><b>Q4</b> With 4♣s &amp; 4♦s - what do you open?</p>	<p>Bid the ♦s first</p>
<p><b>Q5</b> With 4♣s &amp; 4♥ - what do you open?</p>	<p>1♣</p>
<p><b>Q6</b> With 5♠s &amp; 5♥s - what do you open?</p>	<p>1♠. Bid with the higher ranking suit first.</p>
<p><b>Q7</b> You open 1♠ and Responder bids 2♣. What does that mean?</p>	<p>Responder has 3+ cards in the Spades suit. His point range is 6 – 10 HCP.</p>
<p><b>Q8</b> You open 1♠ and Responder bids 3♠. What does that mean?</p>	<p>Partner has 3+ cards in Spades and (10)11 – 12 HCP.</p>
<p><b>Q8</b> You open 1♥ and Responder bids 1NT. What does that mean?</p>	<p>Partner has no support for hearts, 3 or less cards in Spades &amp; 6-10 HCP. <b>(2/1 6-12 HCP)</b></p>
<p><b>Q9</b> Define the term “support for partner’s suit”</p>	<p>You can support your partner’s bid suit when the partnership has 8+ cards in the suit.</p>