

2021 Index of Zoom Lessons*
(January 10, 2022)

***Videos of each lesson below and the corresponding PDF file for each lesson are available on the Learning Page of the Unit 231 Website: swvabridgeclubs.org. Search under “Archives.”**

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Jan. 11	Opening Leads I	Three Basic Types of Leads: Examples of Forcing, Attacking, and Passive Leads.
Jan. 18	Opening Leads—The Trump Lead	When to lead a trump; when NOT to lead a trump. Examples.
Jan. 25	Opening Leads	Short suit leads, i.e., singletons or doubletons. Examples.
Feb. 1	Opening Leads—When Partner has Bid	What card/suit to lead after your partner has made a bid. Lead Directing Doubles. Examples.
Feb. 8	Opening Leads—Notrump Contracts	How to determine opening lead when leading against NT contracts. Rule of Eleven. Examples.
Feb. 15	The Notrump Contract	Opening leads against a NT contract. Importance of unblocking; Examples. Card Combinations.
Feb. 22	Attitude Signal	How to tell your partner whether you like the suit he led or not; Equal Honor signal; Basic discarding signals. Examples.
Mar. 1	Count Defense Signal	When to give count. Examples. Card Combinations.
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Mar. 22	Second Hand Play	Second hand play; When to split honors; When to cover and when not to cover. Examples.
Mar. 29	Preemptive Bidding—Part I	Definition of and when to open a preempt; Rule of 2/3/4; Artificial 2NT bid. Examples.
Apr. 5	Preemptive Bidding—Part II	Preemptive jump overcall. Examples.
Apr. 12	Smolen Convention	Smolen Convention; Puppet Stayman. Examples.
Apr. 19	Trump Suit Contracts	Basic overview of playing a trump suit contract; identifying losers and how to eliminate them. Examples.
Apr. 26	The Master Hand	How to determine which hand is the Master Hand; How to count winners/losers from viewpoint of Master Hand. Examples.
May 3	Strategies for Eliminating Losers	Basic ways to eliminate losers--pitching, ruffing, finessing. Examples.
May 10	Making a Plan of Action	Planning the play of a suit contract; Importance of timing and entries. Examples.
May 17	The Moysian Trump Fit	How to play the 4-3 trump fit: The controlled strategy and the scrambled strategy. Examples.
May 24	The Endplay	Indicators of a possible endplay. How to implement. Examples.
May 31	Analysis of Hands and Other Information	Series of Challenging hands; Balancing; New Minor Forcing. Examples.
June 7	The Crossruff	How to execute a Crossruff. Examples.

June 14	Dummy Reversal	How to recognize when to utilize dummy reversal to play a hand. Examples.
June 21	Simple Squeezes and Other Declarer Play Techniques.	Recognizing and executing a Simple Squeeze. Safety Plays. Examples.
June 28	Lebensohl Convention—Part I	Basic Intro to the Convention; When and how to use. Examples.
July 5	Lebensohl Convention—Part II	Bids over a natural 2C overcall of partner's opening 1NT; Use of Lebensohl after opponents have opened a weak two and after your partner has made a reverse bid. Examples.
July 12	Notrump Contracts—Part I	Basic shapes of NT hands; planning the play of a NT contract; The Holdup Play. Examples.
July 19	Notrump Contracts—Part II	Who wins the race; Holdup and Ducking plays. Examples.
July 26	Notrump Contracts—Part III	Safety Plays; handling the dangerous opponent; unblocking plays. Examples.
Aug. 2	Penalty Doubles	Review of types of doubles; Emphasis on the Penalty Double. Examples.
Aug. 9	Slam Bidding	Ways to recognize when a slam is possible; checkup bids (Gerber, Keycard Blackwood, Kickback, etc.) Examples.
Aug. 16	The Flannery Convention	Description of the Convention and the basic bids. Opener's rebids. Basics of Reverse Flannery. Examples.
Aug. 23	Defensive Unblocking at Bridge	How to unblock when on defense. Examples.

Aug. 30	Declarer Unblocking at Bridge	Importance of declarer unblocking; playing of high honors from short hand first. Examples.
Sept. 6	Challenging Hands—An Analysis	Hands taken from a book by Julian Pottage entitled <u>A Great Deal of Bridge Problems.</u>
Sept. 13	Competitive Bidding Takeout Doubles—Part I	Takeout Doubles. Examples.
Sept. 20	Competitive Bidding Takeout Doubles—Part II	Takeout Doubles; How to handle intervening bids; Rebids by the opener. Examples.
Sept. 27	Competitive Bidding Negative Doubles—Part I	Negative Doubles. Opener's Responses. Examples.
Oct. 4	Competitive Bidding Negative Doubles—Part II	Opener's Rebids after a Negative Double. Examples.
Oct. 11	Competitive Bidding Types of Doubles	Balancing, Maximal, and Penalty Doubles. Examples of each.
Oct. 18	Competitive Bidding Overcalling	Simple Overcall at the one/two levels; Examples.
Oct. 25	Competitive Bidding Simple Overcall	The Simple Overcall; Law of Total Tricks; Mixed Raises. Examples.
Nov. 1	Competitive Bidding Support Doubles/Redoubles	Support Doubles/Redoubles. Examples.
Nov. 8	Competitive Bidding Responsive Doubles	In-depth look at Responsive Doubles. Examples.
Nov. 15	Competitive Bidding Unusual 2NT/Sandwich NT	Unusual 2NT and Sandwich NT; when to use. Examples.
Nov. 22	Competitive Bidding Michaels Cuebids	List of all Michaels Cuebids, including Leaping Michaels. Examples.

Nov. 29	Competitive Bidding Preemptive Jump Overcall The Five Level Belongs to the Opponents	Using the Preemptive Jump Overcall as a competitive bidding strategy; when and how to use. Examples. Who gets to play the five-level contract.
Dec. 6	The Minor Suits	1C/1D bids and rebids; Inverted Minors; How to handle interference bids; Rodwell game try bids. Examples.
Dec. 13	2C Opening/The Fourth Suit	Overview of strong 2C opening; Fourth Suit bids. Examples.
Dec. 20	Defensive Tips	Defensive strategies which may be helpful; Telling/asking bids. Examples.
Dec. 27	Game Tries and New Minor Forcing	Major suit game tries; New Minor Forcing overview; Telling/asking bids. Examples.
Jan. 3	2/1 Bidding System Jacoby 2NT Convention Puppet Stayman	Basic 2/1 bids; Basic Jacoby 2NT bids; When Puppet Stayman is operative. Examples.
Jan. 10	2021 Index of Zoom Lessons Concluding Remarks	Index of 53 lessons, including date, title, and overview of content. Forcing/Semi-forcing NT. Words of advice and other concluding remarks.

One Notrump Forcing/Semiforcing

One NT Forcing is a cornerstone of the 2/1 bidding system. After partner opens 1H/1S, a response of 1NT shows 6-12 HCP and is a one-round force. Playing 2/1 allows the partnership to include 11-12 point hands that are ineligible for a game forcing 2/1 response. NOTE: A natural 2NT bid is unavailable too. This bid is reserved for the Jacoby 2NT Convention that shows a game forcing raise. Both 2/1 and Jacoby 2NT were covered in the previous lesson (see January 3rd lesson).

The following are examples of hands in which you might make a forcing 1NT response to partner's 1H opening.

The Bidding: 1H 1NT*

***Must announce (not alert) "forcing".**

Example 1. **Qxx**
 xx
 Axxx
 Jxxx

You have a balanced 7 HCP. Bid 1NT in any system.

Example 2. **Kxx**
 Jx
 xxx
 AKxxx

With 11 HCP, this hand is too weak to bid 2C in the 2/1 bidding system. Bid 1NT.

Example 3. **Kxx**
 Axx
 Kx
 J10987

1NT Forcing can also be used to show a 3-card limit raise. With 10-12 HCP, the responder plans to jump-raise hearts at his next opportunity to bid.

Opener's Rebids

One weakness of the 2/1 system occurs when the opener makes his rebid over the “1NT forcing” call by his partner. A 1H/1S opening bid may be made on a wide variety of hands between 11-20 HCP. Thus, the opener may not have a good descriptive rebid available.

After: 1H:1NT

Opener's Rebids

Meaning

2C	May be as short as 2C, e.g., 4-5-2-2 with not enough strength to reverse. This problem is solved by opening the 2D Flannery bid.
2D	May be short as 3 with 4-5-3-2 shape
2H	Shows 6 hearts unless no other bid fits; but he may have a 4-card side suit.
2S	Shows 4 spades and is a reverse showing a minimum of 16 HCP.
2N	Shows a balanced 18-19 HCP. Invites 3NT by partner.

All other bids are natural and/or a matter of conventional agreement between the partners.

After: 1S:1NT

Opener's Rebids

Meaning

2C	May be short as 2/3 clubs—5-3-2-3
2D	May be short as 3 diamonds—5-3-3-2
2H	Shows at least four hearts and 11-15 HCP. Insufficient strength to rebid 3H.
2S	Shows 6 spades unless no other bid fits; but, he may have a four-card side suit.
2N	Balanced 18-19 HCP. Invites 3NT by partner.

All other bids are natural and/or a matter of conventional agreement.

Responder's Rebids

After Opener Rebids 2C:

Responder's Bids

Meaning

Pass	At least four clubs (typically 5), 6-10 HCP; NOTE: Correcting to partner's major with doubleton support is preferable.
Any New Suit	A new suit at the two level shows at least five cards and poor support for partner's major. It is nonforcing.
2M(H/S)	Signoff in partner's major; shows 2-card support or a very bad hand with 3-card support, i.e., 6/7 HCP.
2NT	Balanced 11-12 HCP; invites partner to bid 3NT.
3C	At least 4 clubs and 11-12 HCP. Nonforcing.
3M	A 3-card limit raise.

After Opener Rebids 2D:

The Responder's rebids are similar to the ones given above for the 2C rebid by opener.

After Opener Rebids a Major: **1H:1NT:2H**
 1S:1NT:2H
 1S:1NT:2S

Responder's Bids

Meaning

Any New Suit	At least 6 cards and poor support for partner's majors(s). Nonforcing.
2NT	Balanced 11-12 HCP; invites partner to bid 3NT.
3M	A raise showing 2-card support or 3-card support with 10-11 HCP. Invites partner to make another bid.
4M	Shows a 3-card limit raise.

After Opener Reverses: 1H:1NT:2S (Showing 16+ HCP)

Responder's Bids

Meaning

*2NT (Must ALERT)

Lebensohl; forces opener to rebid 3C. Responder probably has about 5/6 HCP and wants to alert his partner that he had only one bid to make. **NOTE:** If the opener has a huge hand, he can bypass bidding 3C. (See July 5th lesson Lebensohl bid after your partner has made a reverse bid.)

3C/3D

At least 6 cards in the suit bid. Nonforcing.

3M

2-card support or a very bad 3-card support. Nonforcing.

3NT

10-12 HCP; balanced.

After Opener Rebids 2NT: (Showing 18-19 HCP and balanced hand with 5 cards in the bid major.)

1H/1S:1NT:2NT

Responder's Rebids

Meaning

Any New Suit

At least 6 cards in the suit; this bid is not as good as rebidding 3NT, if possible.

3M

Very bad hand with 3-card support. Nonforcing.

3NT

Signoff.

Let's look at a few examples:

Example 1.	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	(NOT playing Flannery)
	K109x	AJx	
	AKJxx	xx	
	Jx	K98x	
	xx	J10xx	

The Bidding:	1H	1NT
	2C	2H*
	P	

*Responder is taking a preference by bidding 2H. A raise to 3C would promise extra strength.

NOTE: The opener cannot rebid 2S because that would be a reverse bid showing about 16 HCP and 4S/5H distribution. Partnerships that play Flannery (an opening 2D = 5H/4S and 11-15 HCP), have the advantage in bidding the above hand. (See August 16th lesson.)

2D* 2H**

*2D must be alerted.

**Signoff

Example 2.	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
	A1098xx	KJ
	AKx	xxx
	Kxx	AQxx
	x	Jxxx

The Bidding:	1S	1NT
	2S	3S*
	4S	

*3S invites game with doubleton spade and 10-11 HCP.

Example 3.	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
	QJ109x	Kx
	AKxx	QJ10x
	Qx	Axxx
	xx	xxx

The Bidding:	1S	1NT
	2H	3H*
	P	

*3H shows 4-card heart support and 10-11 HCP.

Example 4.	<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
	Kxxxx	x
	AKx	QJx
	Qx	AJ10xxx
	Jxx	xxx

The Bidding:	1S	1NT
	2C	2D*
	P	

*2D shows at least a 5-card suit and 6-10 HCP. Nonforcing.

In Competition

If the opener's 1H/1S bid is doubled or overcalled, then 1NT by the responder is natural showing 8-10 HCP. It is nonforcing. Against an opposing takeout double, the responder can redouble to show 10+ HCP and little support for his partner's major suit, i.e., 2 or less. The responder also has available the BROMAD bids and the Jordan 2NT bid discussed in the October 4th lesson on competitive bidding.

If the forcing 1NT bid is doubled, i.e., 1H/1S-(P)-1NT-(X), then the “force” is off. The opener can make a natural rebid or simply pass with an awkward hand pattern—ex. 3-5-3-2. But, the opener can redouble to show extra strength.

One Notrump Semiforcing

Because of opener's potential rebid problem, some partnerships play 1NT as “semiforcing”—meaning that the opener can pass with a minimum, balanced hand. Another popular agreement is to play 1NT as semiforcing by a passed hand.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
AQ543	62
K62	QJ93
Q3	K952
J108	K52

The Bidding: 1S:1NT:PASS

Concluding Hand

I would like to finish today by looking in detail at one last hand. You are South and the Dealer:

Your Hand: AJ10632
 Q2
 A102
 Q10

What do you open?

You have 13 HCP and open 1S. East/West pass throughout the auction. North bids 2H.

What is your next bid?

Your partner has made a 2/1 bid. You are in a game forcing auction. You do not have 3-card support for your partner's heart suit. You have only a partial stopper, at best, in the club suit. The best rebid you can make is that of 2S. North bids 3C.

What is your next bid?

3NT. Your partner has 5+hearts and 4+clubs and 12+ HCP. North places the final contract by bidding 6NT.

West's Hand: Q54
 10642
 K7
 9874

If you held West's hand, what would you lead with this hand? Why?

A spade lead would not be wise for several reasons. You hold the queen third. If you lead a spade, you are possibly handing the entire spade suit to the declarer who probably has 6+ spades from the bidding. North may not have any spades; thus, you would be doing for the declarer that which he could not do for himself.

In light of North's 2H (2/1) bid, you know that a minimum of 5 hearts is coming down in the dummy. So, hearts does not look like a good lead.

The last thing you would want to lead in this hand is the diamond suit. You hold the Kx. You do not know who has the ace; but, you do know that South holds key card(s) in that suit when he bid 3NT over his partner's 3C bid.

By the process of elimination, you decide to make the **PASSIVE** lead of the 9 of clubs. It is probably the least damaging of all the leads you could make.

The North hand (dummy) is tabled:

You are the declarer. How do you plan to play this hand?

North

K

AK873

QJ8

AKJ5

Contract: 6NT

Opening Lead: 9 of clubs

South

AJ10632

Q5

A102

Q10

Recall that when you are in a NT contract, you need to begin by counting your sure winners.

Sure Tricks:

Spades = 2

Hearts = 3

Diamonds = 1

Clubs = 4

Total # of Sure Tricks = 10

Next, you look for ways to establish the two additional tricks you need to make your contract.

Potential Additional Tricks:

Spades:	Possible	4
Hearts:	Possible	2
Diamonds:	Possible	2
Clubs:	Possible	0

You need two extra tricks to make your contract of 6NT. What are your options for getting those two extra tricks? Which one is the best?

In spades, you need a 3-3 or 4-2 split or a singleton queen. In hearts, you need the suit to break 3-3. In diamonds, you need a successful finesse.

Obviously, spades is your best bet; but, you want to play so as to combine your chances.

Play of the hand:

- Win the 9 of clubs in your hand—a declarer **unblocking** play.
- Lead a small spade to dummy's king—a declarer **unblocking** play.
- Play a small heart to your queen—a declarer **unblocking** play.
- Play the ace of spades. If both opponents follow, the spades are splitting. You simply lead your jack of spades to knock out the queen. Your remaining spades are now good, ready to cash.

Let's say the spades do not split, an unfortunate 5-1 break!
Which option do you try next?

- Test the hearts by leading your 5 of hearts to dummy's ace. Cash the king. If the hearts are 3-3, then the 8 and 7 are now good, providing you with the two extra tricks you need.

Let's say the hearts split 4-2 (which is most likely when there are 6 outstanding cards). Now what?

- Take the diamond finesse. Your last hope is that the diamond king is with the East hand.

Do you see how important it is to test the hearts before trying the diamond finesse? If you try the diamond finesse first and it loses, you will lose the lead. West might be holding the queen of spades and would now be able to cash it for the setting trick.

Below is the complete hand:

North

K
AK873
QJ8
AKJ5

West

Q54
10642
K7
9874

East

987
J9
96543
632

South

AJ10632
Q5
A102
Q10

NOTE: In playing any contract, always give yourself as many chances as possible to make the hand.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

First, let me thank all of you for the privilege of teaching you via Zoom these past 53 weeks. You have worked hard to improve your understanding of this wonderful game—**BRIDGE**. The “Teach” is mighty proud of all of you. **You are the dream class I've waited all my life to teach!**

I would like to leave you with the following words of advice:

- Continue to study and work hard.
- Be nice to your partner, as well as the opponents.
- Learn all you can from the bad hands; and, then move on.

Whenever I teach a class, I always preach not to underlead an ace on the opening lead in a suit contract (unless your partner has bid the suit).

But, most important of all, is to remember to have FUN!
Ecstasy always follows the agony!! I promise.

Carole Spencer