

Responder's Second Bid Quiz

20/5/15

Question 1

West	East	♠ K J 8 5 3 2
1♥	1♠	♥ 8 2
1NT	?	♦ J 5
		♣ Q T 9

Sign off in 2♠. Opener will pass.

Question 2

West	East	♠ K T 9 8 4
1♦	1♠	♥ A 9 3
2♠	?	♦ 7 3
		♣ K T 2

You are worth an invitation to game. Raise to 3♠. If your clubs were A Q 2 (giving you 13 pts) you would be worth a bid of 4♠.

Question 3

West	East	♠ K T 9 4 2
1♥	1♠	♥ K Q 7
1NT	?	♦ Q J 4
		♣ 9 4

Here the natural bid is 3NT, but it is possible the opposition could cash a lot of clubs against you when 4♥ would make. How do you find out if partner has 4 or 5 hearts?

East, on his second turn, bids 3♥ (forcing). This must show 3 hearts, as he would have raised opener's heart suit immediately with 4-card support. Opener can now bid game in the 8-card trump fit.

Question 4

West	East	♠ J T 9 5 2
1♦	1♠	♥ A 8 4
2♠	?	♦ 9 3
		♣ K T 7

No problem here. Partner has shown a limited hand with his single raise of your suit, and with this hand you have no reason to proceed. Pass.

Question 5

West	East	♠ K J T 4
1♥	1♠	♥ 7 5
2♦	?	♦ J T
		♣ Q T 9 7 3

You must give preference to partner's first suit by bidding 2♥. It would be a mistake to pass his 2♦ bid because you have a high card there. Always remember that partner should have more hearts than diamonds, so this should be your preferred trump suit. Partner has no reason to place you with "support" for hearts. Preference is not the same as enthusiasm!

Question 6

West	East	♠ 9 7
1♦	1♥	♥ A J T 7 5
1♠	?	♦ J 5
		♣ K Q 8 3

You have enough to invite game, and the most descriptive bid is 2NT. This shows about 11-12 points (the same as a response of 2NT to an opening bid) and here will also show a secure stop in the unbid suit (clubs). Partner may pass, or bid one of his suits again if he does not wish to go on to game. Note that if partner now bids 3♥ (showing 3-card support for your suit) it is forcing.

Question 7

West	East	♠ K T 9 7 6
1♦	1♠	♥ 8 5 4
2♦	?	♦ K
		♣ J T 9 3

Not quite so easy. You do not really like diamonds, and opener may have some tolerance for spades. However, your spades are not good enough to insist that they will be a better trump suit than partner's diamonds. If you bid again you may make things better, but you are just as likely to make things worse. Pass.

Question 8

West	East	♠ A T 5 4
1♥	1♠	♥ K 7
2♦	?	♦ J 9 7 5
		♣ K T 9

With a weaker hand you could pass as you have genuine support for opener's second suit, and you would prefer diamonds to be trumps rather than hearts. However, you are rather stronger, and game is not out of the question. With about 10 or 11 points, you raise to 3♦ (a limit bid), and partner may bid on if he is not minimum.

Question 9

West	East	♠ K J T 7 5
1♣	1♠	♥ A Q 9 3
2♣	?	♦ 7 4
		♣ 9 8

Here you have a fair hand, and game is not impossible. Partner may even have a 4-card heart suit himself if he lacks the strength for a reverse. Bid 2♥. This is non-forcing, but with a suitable hand partner is invited to proceed. Note that, as you would have responded 1♥ with 4-4 in the majors, this sequence (i.e. responding in spades, then bidding hearts) promises at least 5 spades.

Question 10

West	East	♠ K Q T 9 4 2
1♦	1♠	♥ J 5
2♦	?	♦ T 9 4
		♣ A 7

You are not quite strong enough to insist on being in game, but you certainly want to invite partner to go on if he has a suitable hand. Jump to 3♠, non-forcing but showing a good 6-card suit and decent values just short of an opening bid.