

February 11th - What to do when they open with a Weak 2

A weak 2 is an opening bid of 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ (2♣ is, of course, a strong bid showing 23+ points or eight quick tricks). A weak 2 has a six card suit and 5-9 points. It is primarily an obstructive bid to disrupt the opposition's bidding. The suit should be sound with two honours.

The major important point is not to be put off - the opposition may be trying to steal a contract that is rightly yours. So even though your first bid will be at the two or even three level you should still consider it. If you enter the auction it may make the opposition bid again to a level they cannot make.

Do check the vulnerability. If you are not vulnerable then one off is -50 and two off is -100. Only against 2♦ (which scores 90) will two off (undoubled) be worse than the opposition making the contract. If you are vulnerable then one off (-100) will have the same effect.

The standard approach by the defence is one of these bids:

Bid	Shows
Pass	Fewer than ten points or a hand unable to overcall, double or bid 2NT
Overcall	Five cards in the suit that you bid. Ten points or more.
Double	An opening hand or better, shortage in the suit bid by the opponents and tolerance for the other three suits. It is for take out. If doubling hearts it shows four spades. If doubling spades it shows four hearts.
2NT	16-19 points and a stop (or preferably two) in the suit bid by the opponents

You may want to adjust your approach in two situations:

1. When you bid immediately after the weak 2 and partner has already passed before the weak 2

For instance:

North	East	South	West
Pass	2♠	?	

Your partner does not have an opening hand. Unless you have 15+ points game is unlikely. It is still worth competing for the part score.

2. When there have been two passes after the weak 2

For instance:

North	East	South	West
?	2♠	Pass	Pass

West does not think game is likely. Your partner may have a suit but not points or points but no 5+ suit and no spade stop. Your partner is probably hoping that you can bid.