





2 Level Bidding

If you open at the 2 level, you are describing your hand as follows:

2  This bid is reserved for **strong** hands ie. Lots of High Card Points - around 23+ (Next week's lesson)

2 , 2  or 2  These bids are for 'weak' hands ie not many High Card Points but with length in the bid suit.

Requirement for opening a Weak Two bid:

- A 6+ card suit and 5-10 high card points.
- The Weak Two suit should contain at least two honours
- It won't meet the Rule of 20

These 2 level bids are called 'pre-emptive' bid. Why make a pre-emptive bid? The theory is that if you have a weak hand, and your partner has either not bid or hasn't had the chance to bid, then there is a good chance that your opponents have the values for game. The purpose of the pre-emptive bid is to get in the way of your opponents.


The classic weak two weak bid looks something like this:

 AQJTxx
 x
 xxx
 xxx

By opening 2  you make it harder for the opponents to find a fit in one of the other suits.

Examples:

 KQJxxx
 x
 xxx
 xxx

A minimum in terms of points, but a good-quality spade suit. Open 2 

 Jxxxxx
 xx
 KQx
 xx

A minimum in terms of points, but a very poor quality spade suit. PASS

 KQJxxx
 xx
 KJxx
 x

Maximum in terms of points, but too strong – can open on the Rule of 20. Open 1 

Responses to a Weak Two

Response	Meaning
A simple raise	Named " Raise Only Non Forcing ", this shows 3 or 4-card support and approximately 6-13 points (insufficient values for a game contract). It is preemptive and completely non-forcing.
A jump raise	Usually shows a weak, preemptive hand (with at least 4-card support). It is also common to make a 4 ♥/♠ jump raise with 5-card support regardless of strength. However, a major suit jump raise may also be made by a strong hand that believes the game contract will succeed.
A new suit	Natural and forcing for one round, typically showing at least a 5-card suit and denying support for partner's suit. However, this is up to partnership agreement; some pairs prefer to play a new suit as a non-force.
2NT	Strong, artificial forcing bid. It is most frequently used when responder has 3+ card support. Opener is asked to show a feature in a side suit, i.e. an ace or king, by bidding that suit at the three level. Examples: 2 ♥ : 2NT 3 ♣ 3 ♣ shows the ace or king of clubs. 2 ♠ : 2NT 3 ♠ 3 ♠ shows a minimum hand with no side suit features.