

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0105:
"Partner Opens 1D, and You Hold (1) 3+ Clubs and
(2) 12+ HCPs: A Plethora of Marty Bergen's
Bidding Scenarios for Responder When You and
Partner Are Playing '2 Over 1'"**

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To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

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As most *intrepid* readers of the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" and the "**Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes**" know, Esther is a GINORMOUS fan of the "**2 Over 1**" Convention.² As noted on the "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" Homepage:

One of the most difficult challenges for new and advancing bridge players involves discriminating (1) when you can (and should) *safely* bid game, versus (2) when you probably *cannot* make a game contract. **Both** are equally important to know... Once Responder makes a "2 Over 1" response bid, **both** Partners know that they will *continue bidding* until they reach a contract at least somewhere between 3NT and 4S, but may (or may not) be able to bid and make 5C or 5D contract,³ and thus "2/1" is not *always* "Game Forcing"!!!

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons", see: "Esther Convention Lesson #1: '2 Over 1'": https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2_over_1.pdf

³ It is possible that Partners *together* hold 26+ HCPs, and have a Club or a Diamond fit, but feel they possibly cannot make a 5C or a 5D contract. Often in such situations a 3NT contract is "*highly*" makeable. But not always, if Partners both lack "stoppers" in some Suit!

Assuming that Opponents PASS at each turn, there are **6** bidding sequences that trigger "**2 Over 1**" showing that a Game contract is very likely:

1. Opener: **1D**, Opponent: PASS, Responder: **2C**,⁴
2. Opener: **1H**, Opponent: PASS, Responder: **2C**,
3. Opener: **1H**, Opponent: PASS, Responder: **2D**,
4. Opener: **1S**, Opponent: PASS, Responder: **2C**,
5. Opener: **1S**, Opponent: PASS, Responder: **2D**, and
6. Opener: **1S**, Opponent: PASS. Responder: **2H**.

Presented here are **10** bidding quandaries when in each instance Partner as Dealer opens **1D**, in each instance your RHO PASSes, and Partners are playing the "**2 Over 1**" convention.⁵

1. What would you bid as Responder if you held:

♠ J 6 5 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A 5 ♣ A K Q T 8 6 (15) ?

2. What would you bid as Responder if you held:

♠ J T 9 7 ♥ K Q 5 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ Q J 8 (13) ?

3. What would you bid as Responder if you held:

♠ J T 9 ♥ K Q J 5 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ J 8 6 (12) ?

4. What would you bid as Responder if you held:

♠ K Q T 9 8 ♥ 8 ♦ A ♣ A K J 9 7 5 (17) ?

5. What would you bid as Responder if you held:

♠ J T 9 8 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A K 9 8 6 ♣ A 5 (12) ?

6. What would you bid as Responder if you held:

♠ Q J T 8 ♥ K 9 3 ♦ A 8 6 ♣ K 7 4 (13) ?

⁴ In *each* of these sequences the Dealer may have been the RHO of the Opener, as long as the RHO of the Opener in each case PASSed at his first turn to bid within the auction.

⁵ Most of the ideas herein and many of the examples are all drawn from Marty Bergen's excellent article, "Improve Your Bidding Judgment—Part 40", in the September, 2024 ACBL Bridge Bulletin (p. 59). However, the examples have been somewhat modified by Esther. Because Esther has modified some of the examples, Bergen may not agree with all of Esther's views. But *please* remember that Esther holds **20+ million** ACBL MasterPoints, while Bergen probably has *only* about 2,000,000 MPs!

7. What would you bid as Responder if you held:
♠ K Q T 8 ♥ K 9 ♦ A Q 8 6 ♣ T 7 3 (14) ?
8. What would you bid as Responder if you held:
♠ 9 8 5 2 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ A K J (16) ?
9. What would you bid as Responder if you held:
♠ A Q ♥ 9 7 6 4 ♦ J 9 7 4 ♣ K Q J (13) ?
10. What would you bid as Responder if you held:
♠ A K 7 ♥ 7 6 4 3 2 ♦ J 9 4 ♣ K Q (13) ?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0105_a1.pdf