



## Weekly Bridge Quiz #30

Canada's responses plus a few comments - 2025



**Q1:** Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- K Q 5 4 3    H- A 8    D- K 6    C- K 10 8 7**

As dealer, what call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** 1NT would not be a sin, but we prefer to bid our suits when we think it likely that we can. Open 1S.

**Chat GPTs Response:** 1♠ - The expert consensus leans toward opening 1♠. Why? Experts value bidding their suits early, especially majors. The hand is not quite balanced enough for 1NT — the 5-2-2-4 shape is often treated as unbalanced, especially when the 5-card suit is strong. With the spade suit headed by KQ, it has decent playing strength. 1♠ keeps the bidding flexible and allows you to find your best fit. While 1NT is technically legal and not wrong, experts generally favor the natural major-suit opening.

Question 1

Bid	Totals	1S	1NT
#	121	83	38
%	100%	69%	31%

### Comments:

- 1♠ - Only because I have a 5422 hand. With an understanding partner, I prefer to make bids that describe my hand in one rather than two or more, i.e. 1NT, this bid protects the Kings that don't have honors with them. BTW - ChatGPT can't count, it's a full 15 count hand.
- 1NT - I prefer to make bids that describe my hand in one rather than two or more, and this bid
- protects my Kings that don't have honours with them.
- 1♠ - This looks like the normal bid. One could consider opening 1NT instead, but with only 15♥ CP and a normal rebid of 2♣, should partner respond with 1NT, there is no reason to go that route.
- 1♠ - Natural, to be followed by 2♣ if partner responds with a forcing 1NT.
- 1NT - I could bid 1♠ with the intention of rebidding 2♣. But with 15 HCPs and stoppers in all suits, I prefer 1NT with the lead coming to me.

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**Q2:** North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- Q    H- K J 6 5 3 2    D- 8 7 5    C- K Q 10**

As dealer, what call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** Were the queen of spades a low spade, we would all open 2H. Does the singleton queen make this hand into a 1H bid? We don't think so. Bid **2H**.

**ChatGPT's Response:** 2♥ - You have six cards in hearts, which is the standard requirement. You have 10 HCP, which is the upper end of a weak two (though some experts cap it at 9, they allow exceptions). Your side suit values in clubs (K-Q-10) make the hand playable. Your singleton queen is of little defensive value, but that makes the hand offensive in character — well-suited to a preempt. Even with only ♥K-J-6-5-3-2, the expert panel still favors 2♥, acknowledging it's not perfect but within acceptable bounds for a preempt.

Comment: Notwithstanding Chat GTPs opinion on opening 2♥, I asked Chat specifically how three noted bridge players would assess this hand and what they would likely bid. Below is what I got. So, for those of us who chose 1♥, should we consider ourselves real Pros? :-)

David Becker

- Becker tends to be a slightly aggressive opener but respects vulnerability.
- He would note: "The hand has 11 HCP plus a good 6-card heart suit. That's enough for a vulnerable first-seat opening."
- Likely bid: 1♥ — clear and natural.

Mike Lawrence

- Lawrence focuses on "sound openings," especially vulnerable.
- He'd count: 11 HCP + 2 for the extra heart. He would caution that the ♦ holding is weak, but the honors are well-placed (♣ KQ10, ♥ KJ).
- Likely bid: 1♥ — Lawrence routinely opens this type of 11–12 point hand with a 6-card major.

Larry Cohen

- Cohen is very HCP-aware but also values good suits.
- He would see: "11 HCP, but I love the 6-card heart suit. Vulnerable, but still an opener."
- Likely bid: 1♥ — Cohen virtually always opens a decent 6-card major in first seat.

Question 2				
Bid	Totals	1H	2H	PASS
#	121	60	53	8
%	100%	50%	44%	7%

#### Comments:

- 1♥ - This one is close. I prefer a slight overbid at the 1-level rather than an underbid at the 2-level.
- 1♥ - Just enough to open 1h and rebid 2h.
- 2♥ - Taking the first shot with a weak two bid, and suggesting the suit to be led should LHO become declarer.
- 1♥ - 11 HCP and a six card suit. I have a rebid.
- 1♥ - I think this hand is worth opening with the intention of rebidding 2♥. The stiff Q of Spades and holding no Aces however, makes me a bit hesitant.

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**Q3:** East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- A Q 9 8 5 3    H- 10 8 7 5    D- Q 6    C- A**

**WEST    NORTH    EAST    SOUTH**

**1H    Pass    1S    ?**

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** 2S would be natural here, not for take-out. Pass is certainly reasonable, but we would bid **2S**.

### **ChatGPT's Response: 2♠**

**Expert Thinking:** Experts generally favor competing when they have a long, strong suit and some shape. The ♠ suit is robust enough (A-Q-sixth) to justify bidding at the 2-level. The ♣A gives a useful side entry. Vulnerability is a factor, but not prohibitive. You also don't have the right shape for a takeout double (no shortness in spades or strength to bid hearts or diamonds). Thus, 2♠ is a tactical, obstructive, and constructive bid that aims to: Show your spades, possibly compete for the part-score, push the opponents higher when they have the stronger hand, or give partner a helpful lead direction if opponents win the auction.

### **Why Bid 2♠ Even Though RHO Bid 1♠?**

**It's Not a Cue-Bid — It's Competitive/Natural.** When East bids 1♠, their hand is limited — typically 6–10 HCP and often just a 4-card spade suit. You're not showing support for East — you're competing with your own good 6-card spade suit and some playing strength.

**Your Spades Are Much Better.** You hold ♠A Q 9 8 5 3, clearly a better suit than East is likely to have. In fact, East's spade holding might be only ♠J-x-x-x — and with your length and strength, you may outgun them in spades. You're Not Vulnerable, They Are. Vulnerability favors taking a constructive risk. Even if partner is weak, you might push them too high or even make 2♠.

**Experts Often Compete Aggressively With 6-Card Suits,** especially at low levels, with shape, a singleton, and a working ♣A, experts compete to push the opponents or win the contract. It's Not a Cue-Bid, and Not Confusing to Partner. A bid of 2♠ in this position is understood in expert circles as natural, not a support or artificial bid. It tells partner, "I have long spades, I'm not shy."

**Why You Wouldn't Pass:** Passing leaves the opponents free to find their fit without interference. You risk missing a playable 2♠ contract or a good lead-directing bid. You signal weakness when you have a hand with potential — shape + 2 aces + a suit that can run. **Summary:** Yes — bidding 2♠ is absolutely standard and expert-approved, even though RHO bid 1♠. You're not agreeing with them — you're challenging them, saying "My spades are better."

### Question 3

Bid	Totals	PASS	2S	X
#	121	112	8	1
%	100%	93%	7%	1%

#### Comments:

- P - Why would I bid when my opponents have bid both of my suits?
- P - What else can I do but pass? 2♠ would be the alternative bid, but is pretty risky when both opponents are essentially unlimited. But if the bidding peters out at a low level I may yet come in with a 2♠ bid.
- 2♠ - Natural, not forcing. When the opponents have bid two suits, bidding one of them is natural and not a cue bid.
- P - With the vulnerable opponents bidding both my suits I'll stay out of this auction.
- P - Holding length in the opponents' suits gives me nothing to say.

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**Q4:** Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- K Q J 7 6 5    H- 7    D- A J 10 6    C- 9 4**

**EAST    SOUTH    WEST    NORTH**

**1H       1S       1NT       Pass**

**2H       ?**

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** Both opponents are limited, meaning partner has a little something, and we think this hand is worth one more bid. Bid **2S**.

**ChatGPT's Response: 2♠**

Hand Evaluation: HCP: 11 (♠K Q J = 7, ♦A J = 5, total = 12, but ♥7 and ♣9 4 are worthless); Distribution: 6-1-4-2 — extremely shapely; You opened 1♠ over 1♥ with a solid 6-card suit and outside values; Now you're in the balancing seat, facing opponents who've limited themselves.

What Does the Auction Tell You? West's 1NT shows about 8–10 HCP with a heart stopper. East's 2♥ is to play, not a game try — so they are likely in the 18–22 combined range. That leaves about 18–22 HCP unaccounted for, which means partner has 4–7 points, maybe with a doubleton or three-card spade fit. This auction is ripe for competing.

Options:

- (1) Pass - The safe action — you've described your hand. But lets them play at 2♥ — and you might be missing your own fit or better spot.
- (2) 2♠ (Competitive) - Shows a 6-card suit and playing strength. Tells partner you're not done — "I have more shape than HCP." Could win the part-score, especially if partner has short hearts and some spade support.

Expert Perspective: Vulnerable? Yes — but both sides are. This is a classic "shape over strength" hand: 6♠ and 4♦, singleton heart. The opponents are limited, meaning partner must have something — at least a couple of points and a shape that didn't fit a NT bid. Experts love to compete with distribution, particularly in the balancing seat: It disrupts opponents' comfort zone. You may push them too high or find your own playable part-score. Conclusion:

Expert Bid: 2♠. Even vulnerable, experts would compete. Your shape, reasonable strength, and the inference that partner has some values all point toward bidding once more.

#### Question 4

Bid	Totals	2S	PASS	X	3D	4S
#	121	100	18	1	1	1
%	100%	83%	15%	1%	1%	1%

#### Comments:

- 2♠ - I have a good suit and a 6-loser hand; also, no freebies for my opponents.
- 2♠ - I would have liked to introduce my second suit, but not when it forces me to bid at the 3-level. So, 2♠ it is, showing a good 6-card with extras.
- P - The 1N response says that LHO has stoppers and 8 to 11 HCP. If you bid 2♠ and LHO doubles, the result may be down at least one against a part score.
- 2♠ - I've got a good suit and a nicely shaped hand.
- 2♠ - Tough one. I'd like to show my Diamonds but that would suggest a stronger hand than I have. Bidding 2♠ vulnerable is also risky given West has suggested a spade stopper. But I really prefer not to pass given 2♥ is likely to make. Pard hasn't got much but I think pushing the opp's off the 2 level is better than a pass. So, gulp, 2♠ it is!

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**Q5:** North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- A 10 9    H- K 3 2    D- A J 10 7 5    C- 8 4**

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
<b>1D</b>	1H	X*	2H
<b>Pass</b>	Pass	X	Pass
<b>?</b>			

\* Negative

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** Partner still has the same take-out hand he had for his first double, he just has more values. Bid **3D**.

### **ChatGPT's Response: 3♦**

What's Going On Here? You opened 1♦ with a nice 5-card suit and 11 HCP. West overcalled 1♥, and partner doubled negatively, promising spades and likely clubs. East raised to 2♥, passed back to North. North then doubled again, and the pros label this as "responsive" or "card-showing", not for penalties. This second double says: "Partner, I still have my takeout shape."; "I have extra values (maybe 10+ points)."; "Please don't pass —pick a spot."

What Are the Options? Pass: Not really an option — North's double is not for penalty. You're expected to bid something. 2♠ or 3♣: 2♠ shows 3-card support (you have it), but your spade spots are weak. 3♣ would be a stretch with only two low ones and weak distribution. 3♦: Describes your hand best: Decent 5-card suit. Minimum opening values. Now showing a willingness to compete. Partner may have 4 diamonds or support another suit later.

Expert Logic: North is urging you to choose a strain — not to sit for a penalty. You've already shown opening values — now you can raise the level, especially at equal vulnerability. Your best call is to repeat your known suit, since nothing else is more descriptive.

Conclusion: Expert Bid: 3♦; It's safe, descriptive, and cooperative — exactly what partner's responsive double is asking for.

### Question 5

Bid	Totals	2S	2NT	3D	PASS	3S
#	121	81	19	10	9	2
%	100%	67%	16%	8%	7%	2%

### Comments:

- 3♦ - His bid is still a negative double, and my Hearts are not strong enough to bid No Trump.
- 2♠ - What is the significance of partner's second double? I'm guessing she has something like 5/5 in spades and clubs. In any case, it can hardly be for penalty, so let's hope for the best.
- 2♠ - Natural, not forcing, but obviously on a three-card spade suit. If partner does not like a contract in a 4-3 fit, then partner can return to 3♣ or 3♦.
- 2♠ - Pards DBL showed 4 or 5 Spades. I would have DBL'd the 2♥ raise ... to show 3 Cards in Spades ... whereas my Pass shows 2 or less Spades. So this is an IM-POSSIBLE Hand and Auction for us.
- 2♠ - I could bid 2NT as pard suggests Clubs with the Negative Double. But 2♠ sounds like a safer contract, albeit on a Moysian fit.

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**Q6:** East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**S- K J 5 3    H- K 4 2    D- 6 5    C- K 7 5 4**

**NORTH    EAST    SOUTH    WEST**

1C            X            **XX**        1H

Pass        2H            ?

What call would you make?

**Pros' Answer:** Partner has no more than 3 spades or 2 hearts. He almost certainly has 5 clubs. Bid **3C**.

**Chat GPT's Response:** 3♣

What's Going On? This is a competitive auction with redouble — always a minefield if misread. Let's break it down: North's 1♣: Natural or possibly short (depending on system). East's double: Takeout — values, asking for support in unbid suits. South's redouble (XX): Conventionally shows 10+ HCP, often denying a fit with opener's suit. West's 1♥: Natural, showing at least 5 hearts. East's 2♥: Competitive raise (likely 3 hearts and 8–10 HCP). Now it's back to you (South) to make a descriptive call.

What Do You Know About Partner (North)? They opened 1♣ in first seat, so they have at least 12 HCP, and longer clubs — likely 5+ based on the auction flow. They passed over 2♥, so they don't have a good enough hand to bid again — but they've already spoken. Importantly: they did not raise your redouble, nor did they bid a new suit. So, they do not have support for spades or hearts. Therefore, partner likely holds long clubs and short majors.

Expert Logic: The redouble promised values, not a trump fit. Your hand isn't defensive enough to sit for 2♥. You've now inferred that partner likely has 5+ clubs, and you have 4, so that's an 8+ card fit. This is a classic redouble then bid a suit sequence — showing strength and now revealing your best strain.

Conclusion: Expert Bid: 3♣

Question 6							
Bid	Totals	3C	PASS	X	2S	2NT	4S
#	121	52	27	22	15	4	1
%	100%	43%	22%	18%	12%	3%	1%

**Comments:**

- 2♠ - A double now should show 4 cards in Hearts. I can now show my 4-card suit, since with 5, I would have bid 1♠.
- X - Let's give partner some input here. I'm sitting behind my RHO's presumed spade and club suits and the vulnerability suggests that down one for -200 will be a good score. But partner is free to pull it if she prefers.

- P - I have shown 10+ points, so have nothing more to show. Partner still has a bid to make. However, I would not have redoubled, but responded with a natural and forcing 1♠.
- 3♣ - not sure about this - the other option is to double 2H and she might pass.
- 3♣ - Pard presumably does not hold 4 Spades, or he would have bid them. He also does not have many Hearts so his Club suit must be at least 4 in length. I have shown my 10 points and yet pard was silent, suggesting a minimum. So, it looks like we don't have enough for game. I could pass and hope for a set, or possibly bid 2NT with major-suit values. But I'll bid 3♣ which presumably should make for 110 versus 100 if we do set them 1 at 2♥ should I pass.

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