

### Strong Two Clubs Opening Mini-Lesson

	♠ A K J 9											
	♥ Q J 2											
	♦ A K Q 4											
	♣ K 10											
♠ —	<table border="1" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; width: 60px; height: 60px; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ —	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ —		♥ —										
♦ —		♦ —										
♣ —		♣ —										
	♠ 6 5 4											
	♥ 9 6 4											
	♦ 8 7 3 2											
	♣ J 4 2											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦									
Pass	2 NT	All pass										

North opens 2C with 23 high card points. South has a lousy hand (1 high card point, 4-3-3-3 distribution). **But they don't pass!!** They bid 2D (weak/waiting). The 2C opening bid is forcing to game (in almost all circumstances - but see below).

With a balanced hand, North responds 2 NT (22 - 24 high card points). With a minimum (0 - 1 point), South can pass this bid. This is one of the few "off-ramps" - in almost all other cases, South must keep bidding until game (3 NT, 4H, 4S) is reached.

### Strong Two Clubs Opening Mini-Lesson

	♠ K Q J 7											
	♥ A K J 10 6 3											
	♦ A Q J											
	♣ —											
♠ —	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <table style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 60px; height: 60px;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		N		W		E		S		♠ —	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ —		♥ —										
♦ —		♦ —										
♣ —		♣ —										
	♠ 8 3 2											
	♥ 8 4 2											
	♦ K 3 2											
	♣ J 5 3 2											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦									
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥									
All pass												

North opens 2C with 21 high card points but with a long heart suit and a great spade side suit. Note that North has probably three losers (ten winners) in hand without any support from South at all. They may lose the ace of spades, queen of hearts, and K of diamonds.

South, though weak, is actually pretty good opposite a 22+ hand. With South's 4 high card points (including a lovely king of diamonds), the team has 26+ points. Now all they need to do is find the right contract. So, South bids 2D (weak/waiting).

North now shows their heart suit with a 2H bid. Sure, they could jump to 4H immediately, but **they know their partner can't pass**. In case South actually has a better hand, they'll proceed slowly to game. The standard phrase is "Slow shows; fast denies", which means that the slower you move to a game in a forcing auction, the better your hand. The logic: by bidding lower, you allow more bidding space to find the best contract or slam.

Same idea for South: they have a weak hand and are ok with hearts, so they immediately go to 4H (game bid). If they had a better hand, they'd bid 3H. Seems backwards, but it works!

### Strong Two Clubs Opening Mini-Lesson

♠ K Q 7  
 ♥ A Q J 7 2  
 ♦ A K 5  
 ♣ K 2

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —

♠ A J 10 3 2  
 ♥ 8 3  
 ♦ Q 3 2  
 ♣ Q 4 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

North opens 2C with barely 22 high card points. They have perhaps two losers in spades, a loser in hearts, and one or two losers in clubs. Even though this adds to only 8 sure tricks, I'd still open 2C rather than 2 NT (takes up more bidding space).

South has a pretty good hand: 9 high card points and a good 5-card spade suit. With 8+ high card points and a good 5-card suit, you can bid that suit - so they do: 2S.

North's hand is now better - a lot of strength in the spade suit. They confirm that they have spade support by bidding 3S, rather than bidding their weakish heart suit. They know South promises 5 hearts, so they have their 8-card fit. North bids 3S rather than 4S to allow for the possibility that South has a really good hand. If so, they'll have more bidding room to explore the chance for a slam bid (6S).

In this hand, they stop at 4S, but there is actually a 50% chance of making 6H (finesse in hearts).

### Strong Two Clubs Opening Mini-Lesson

	♠ A K J		
	♥ K Q J 10 5		
	♦ A K 9		
	♣ A 2		
♠ —	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;">             N W     E S           </div>	♠ —	
♥ —		♥ —	
♦ —		♦ —	
♣ —		♣ —	
	♠ Q 7 4		
	♥ 9 8		
	♦ Q J 3 2		
	♣ K 10 7 3		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT
Pass	6 NT	All pass	

North opens 2C with 25 high card points. Some players would bid 3 NT directly with this hand, but the 2C bid is more flexible. 2C allows the contract to move toward a heart contract, a NT contract, or perhaps another suit contract.

South has a good supporting hand in No Trump: 8 high card points and balanced distribution. They bid 2 NT to show that structure. Note: Most experienced players would bid 2 NT with this hand (mostly queens and jacks), but would bid 2D if they had more aces and kings instead. The aces and kings are much more valuable than "quacks".

In this case, 2 NT was all North had to hear. With their 25 high card points and South's 8+, they know they have at least twelve tricks. They'll lose only the ace of hearts and take the rest.