



The 2-Over-1 Bidding System

What is 2-Over-1?

2-Over-1 is a small change to one aspect of Standard American bidding.

Standard American is the bidding system that players learn at the beginning of their studies.

A 2-level first response to Partner's Opening bid is now 12+ points instead of 10+ points.

This small change in Responder's first bid is now **Game Forcing** instead of Invitational and allows the partnership the luxury of exploring Game and Slam without the fear of being passed in a Part-Score (*a partial game contract*).

This change has a ripple effect.

Responder's first response bid on the 2-level also now changes the 1NT Junk Drawer Response into the **1NT Forcing** convention discussed in the last 3 classes of this series.

Who is ready for 2-Over-1?

Players should have a good grasp of the basics: Opening and Responding.

Players also need a clear understanding of the concept of forcing: which Opening bids are forcing for Responder and which Responding bids are forcing for the Opener.

Players with at least 2-3 years of experience who are ready to add a new concept to their partnership agreements might be interested in learning 2-Over-1.

Why Learn 2 over 1?

2-Over-1 has the advantage of keeping the auction lower on the Bidding Ladder.

This system allows the partnership to show a good hand without the need for jumping in the auction.

This system has roughly the same difficulty level as grasping the equivalent bids in Standard American.

Why Don't You Teach 2-Over-1 From The Beginning?

We find that teaching 2-Over-1 from the beginning is just too difficult for new players to grasp.

The concept of Game Forcing is difficult for players who are initially learning about Game Contracts.

So, we start with the more accessible Standard American system.

However, over time, students may need to understand both methods to play with different Partners and understand different Opponents.

Players usually spend a few years playing Standard American Bridge before they decide whether to take on the 2-Over-1 system.