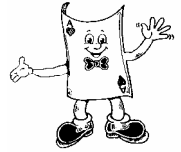


## CATEGORIZE YOUR STRENGTH!

The ideal bid describes both your strength and your distribution. In order to give the best description of your hand, you should categorize your strength according to the following chart. When you know partner's strength, you are often able to determine the level of the final contract.



CATEGORIES OF STRENGTH			
	MINIMUM	MEDIUM	MAXIMUM
OPENER	13-15	16-18	19-21
RESPONDER	6-10	11-12	13+
With a fit	(Raise to 2)	(Raise to 3)	(Get to game)

### RULES TO HELP YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STRENGTH

These bids guarantee **MINIMUM** strength after a suit opening bid:

- An old suit at the two level
- 1NT by responder
- 1NT rebid by opener
- Responder cannot afford to bid with fewer than 6 points – a sub-minimum hand.

These bids show **MEDIUM** strength after a suit opening bid:

- An old suit at the three level
- 2NT by responder (*AFTER* the very first response)

These bids guarantee **MAXIMUM** strength after a suit opening bid:

- 2NT on responder's first bid
- A jump shift into a new suit by opener (opener's 2NT jump rebid shows only 18-19)

**EXERCISE 1:** Recognizing your strength and your partner's strength can help you determine the level of the final contract. How high should the following pairs bid?

- A minimum opener opposite a minimum responder?
- A maximum opener opposite a minimum responder?
- A minimum opener opposite a maximum responder?
- A maximum opener opposite a maximum responder?
- A medium opener opposite a medium responder?
- A medium opener opposite a minimum responder?

*Two minimum hands should stop below 2NT.*

*A maximum hand is responsible for reaching game once partner bids.*

*Two maximum hands are very likely to have a slam.*