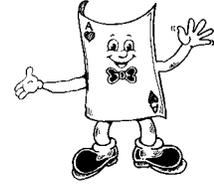


CLOSEOUT BIDS



Some game bids are closeout bids that should end the auction. Other game bids are descriptive bids that give partner permission to bid higher with a good hand. It's important to recognize the difference. If partner's game bid is a closeout bid, you don't want to get excited and go past game for fear of going down. If partner's game bid is not a closeout bid, you need to know whether you should consider the possibility of slam. It would be disappointing to think partner was signing off when you could easily make six or seven.

GAME BIDS THAT ARE CLOSEOUT BIDS

When you bid a game after partner has limited his hand to a narrow point range, your game bid is a closeout bid. Partner does not have the right to go on to slam. Here are some examples of closeout bids:

- A raise of partner's preempt to game
- The "weak" freak raise of partner's major suit opening bid to game
- A game bid after partner has opened 1NT, 2NT, or 3NT
- A game bid after partner opens 2♣ and rebids 2NT or 3NT
- A game bid after opener's first rebid of 1NT or 2NT

The above bids all have something in common. Partner's previous bidding made partner the describer, the player who narrowed his strength down within a few points. When partner is the describer, you are the decider. Game bids by the decider are closeout bids.

The following auctions make opener the decider because responder's raise of opener's suit showed a specific strength. Opener's game bid is a closeout bid.

Auction 1		Auction 2	
Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
1♥	2♥	1♠	3♠
4♥		4♠	

In the following auctions, opener has described his hand, making responder the decider. Opener's raise of responder's suit has described a specific strength hand and it's up to responder to decide how high to go. Responder's game bids in these auctions are closeout bids.

Auction 3		Auction 4	
Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠	1♣	1♥
2♠	4♠	3♥	4♥

GAME BIDS THAT ARE NOT CLOSEOUT

A game bid is NOT a closeout bid unless partner has previously made a descriptive bid. The following game bids are descriptive bids themselves. Partner has not yet made a strength-specific bid. With a good hand, partner can move toward slam.

Auction 5		Auction 6	
Opener	Responder	Opener	Responder
1♦	3NT	1♣	1♥
		4♥	

We can't show all possible auctions. To determine whether partner's game bid is closeout or not, just ask yourself if partner's game bid is a description where your hand has not been limited yet or if it's a decision made after you already described your strength accurately. Decisions are closeout bids. Descriptions are not closeout bids.