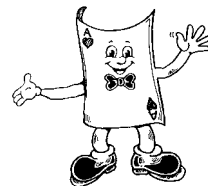


THE DESCRIBER AND THE DECIDER



THE PURPOSE OF BIDDING

Decide on the best trump suit or choose to play in notrump.

Decide how high to bid:

- Partscore with less than 25 combined points
- Game with at least 25 points
- Small slam (six level) with 33 points
- Grand slam (seven level) with 37 points

To accomplish this purpose, one player will eventually become the *describer* and limit his strength to a narrow point range. His partner will become the *decider* and choose the level of the final contract.

MAKE THE BID THAT DESCRIBES YOUR STRENGTH

Be sure to categorize your strength. Always keep in mind how strong you are for the part you are playing. Are you opener or responder? How good is your hand?

	MINIMUM	MEDIUM	MAXIMUM
OPENER	13-15	16-18	19-21
RESPONDER	6-10	11-12	13+
	(Raise to 2)	(Raise to 3)	(Bid game)

DESCRIPTIVE BIDS THAT SHOW STRENGTH AND TELL PARTNER TO DECIDE

- Opening bids in notrump (1NT, 2NT) and notrump rebids.
- Opening preempts (less than opening)
- Bids of old suits
 - Bidding an old suit at the two level shows a minimum hand
 - Bidding an old suit at the three level shows a medium hand
 - Opener's raise of responder's major to game shows a maximum hand
- Opener's jump shift shows a maximum hand and is game-forcing
- Notrump *first responses* (all deny a major suit that could be shown on the one level)
 - A 1NT response shows a minimum responding hand (need not be balanced)
 - A first response of 2NT shows a balanced 11-12 point hand
 - A first response of 3NT shows a balanced 13-16 point hand
- Notrump *rebids* by opener or responder
 - A 1NT rebid shows a minimum hand
 - A 2NT rebid invites game and shows a hand just short of maximum strength

After partner makes a descriptive bid, place the contract if you can. When necessary, make a bid to ask partner to clarify where his strength falls in the range already specified.