

Responder's Forcing Bids

Non-forcing Bids and Rebids after a Suit Opening

First, let's review which bids and rebids by Responder are not forcing (NF):

- 1NT or 2NT¹
- Jump Raise
- Jump Rebids
- Jump to game, e.g. 1♠ - 4♠ or 1any - 3NT

Jump to a suit game should be treated as a "close out" and may be based on distribution. Jump to 3NT is well-defined (13-15 balanced) and may be advanced with sufficient values.

Forcing Bids and Rebids after a Suit Opening

The following bids are forcing for one round (F) or forcing to game (GF) after a suit opening:

- New Suits (F)
- Cue Bid Raise (F)
- Jump Shift (GF)

New Suits

When Responder bids a new suit, Opener must continue bidding for one round at a minimum. This treatment is applicable with or without competition. If the new suit is the fourth suit, then the auction is forced to the level of 3NT. After a new suit, Opener further describes her hand by supporting one of Responder's suits (particularly a major), showing extra strength or length, showing a minimum by bidding NT (with stopper(s) in opponent's suit) or repeating Opener's original suit lacking any of the preceding options.

Cue Bid Raise

Responder's cue bid of a direct overcall is a limit raise of Opener's suit. If Responder is unpassed, it shows 10+ support points (SP) for Opener's suit; otherwise, it is limited to 10-12 SP. In either case, it guarantees 3+ trump for a major, 4+ for ♦s or 5+ for ♣s. It is forcing for one round. Opener rebids her suit at the lowest level to show a minimum and no interest in game. Responder can then rebid a new suit as a further game try with extras and at least 12 SP. If Opener's suit is a minor and (a) has a stopper in Overcaller's suit; (b) is on the upper-end of a minimum hand (13+-14 HCP); and, (c) has a balanced hand, Opener can invite by

¹ 2NT after a major opening by partner will be made conventional in a future lesson. For now, treat it as 11-12 balanced with the other suits stopped.

bidding 2NT. A new suit by Opener shows interest in NT but without a stopper in the opponent's suit.

Jump Shift (No competition)

Responder's Jump Shift is a forcing (GF) to game, contains 17+ points, is slam invitational and shows a solid 6+ card suit that is suitable for trumps with two small from Opener. This treatment is not universal but is standard and as such does not require an Alert. If Responder's jump shift suit is a major, a new suit by Opener agrees to Responder's suit as trump and invites slam by showing first or second round control in the new suit. If Responder's suit is a minor, a new suit by Opener is a try for 3NT, is often made on a minimum opening and typically denies 3+ card support. However, a continuation above 3NT by Opener changes the understanding of the new suit bid to a control and agreement to Responder's suit.

Examples:

Non-Forcing	1-Round Force	Game Force
1♥ - P - 1NT - P	1♥ - P - 1♠ - P	1♥ - P - 2♠ - P
1♣ - P - 2NT - P	1♦ - 1♥ - 2♣ - P	1♠ - P - 3♦ - P
1♦ - 1♥ - 2♦ - P	1♦ - 1♥ - X - P	
1♠ - P - 3♠ - P	1♦ - 1♥ - 2♥ - P	
1♣ - P - 1♦ - P 1♥ - P - 3♦ - P	1♠ - 3♦ - 3♥ - P	
1♣ - P - 1♥ - P 2NT - P - 3♥ - P	1♣ - P - 1♦ - P 1♥ - P - 1♠ - P	
1♣ - P - 1♦ - P 1♥ - P - 2NT - P	1♣ - P - 1♠ - P 1NT - P - 2♦ - P	
	1♦ - P - 1♥ - P 2NT - P - 3♣ - P	

Quiz 18

Your partner is the dealer and has made an opening bid (shown); Fill in the blank with your bid and indicate if it is non-forcing (NF), forcing for 1-round (F) or game forcing (GF):

	Bidding	Your Hand		Bidding	Your Hand
1.	1♦ - 1♥ - ____	♠ K8 ♥ 76 ♦ AK632 ♣ AKJ3	2.	1♥ - 1♠ - ____	♠ 43 ♥ KT74 ♦ T2 ♣ AQJT2
3.	1♠ - P - ____	♠ 94 ♥ AKT4 ♦ 9654 ♣ KJT	4.	1♥ - P - 1♠ - P 1NT - P - ____	♠ KQ983 ♥ T7 ♦ K83 ♣ A74
5.	1♠ - 2♦ - X - P 2♠ - P - ____	♠ Q ♥ AQJ7 ♦ A64 ♣ KQ965	6.	1♦ - P - ____	♠ K842 ♥ 8 ♦ AKQ752 ♣ A7