



# Adventures in Bridge

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## Is It Forcing? How Forcing Is It?

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### When Are We Forced to Keep Bidding? When Can the Auction End?

One of the most important aspects of partnership agreements is knowing when a bid is forcing and when a bid is non-forcing. If we make what we think is a slam try with a forcing bid and partner passes, this will be a disaster. Agreeing on which bids are forcing and how forcing they are is important!

### Modern Constructive Bidding

*Invitational vs. Game Forcing Rebids by Responder*

- Jump Rebids after Opener shows a Balanced Hand– Invitational
  - Rebid a new suit below first bid suit usually natural and non-forcing
  - Use *New Minor Forcing* to force the auction with a good hand (Invitational+)
  - Responder's Reverse is forcing for 1-round (Invitational+)
  - Jump Shift to a lower ranking suit is usually natural, non-forcing, and invitational
- Jump Rebids in Unbalanced Auctions – Invitational
  - Rebid a new suit below first bid suit, after 1-suited by Opener, non-forcing constructive
  - Use *4<sup>th</sup> Suit Game Forcing* to force the auction with a good hand
  - Responder's Reverse is forcing for 1-round (Invitational+)
  - Jump Shift to a lower ranking suit is usually natural, non-forcing, and invitational

### Competitive Bidding Auctions

First principle of competitive bidding is “Jumps in competitive bidding tend to be weak!”

*Traditional Auctions*

- Positive Free Bids – New suits show values
  - New Suit Forcing
  - How Forcing depends upon the level of the freebid – 1L, 2L, 3L
- Negative Doubles – competitive values, but unlimited
  - I have enough values to take some action, but no other bid looks attractive
  - Looking for a fit or a better fit
  - Usually two places to play



### *Non-Traditional Auctions*

- Strength Showing Doubles (and Redoubles) – “Good Hand”
  - Vs. Notrump – Value-showing doubles, penalty oriented
    - X after 1NT Overcalls
    - X after 1NT Responses
    - X after 2NT Responses
    - X after 1NT Advances
  - Vs. Double – Value-showing redoubles, setting up penalty doubles
    - XX after Takeout Double by Interferer
    - XX after Negative Double by Responder
- “Negative Free Bids” – New suits competitive, non-forcing
  - Responder’s Negative Freebids
  - Advancer’s Negative Freebids
  - Vs. Opponent’s Takeout Doubles – 2L not 1L

### **Other Forcing and Non-Forcing Concepts**

- Fast Arrival Auctions
  - Q=LR+ Auctions – 2L vs. 3L in competition, rebidding suit
  - Jumps to Game in GF Auctions – Jacoby 2NT or Splinters
- Bidding after 1NT Interference.
  - 2-Level is Competitive
  - 3-Level is Game Forcing
  - Simplesohl relay to compete – Non-Forcing
  - Doubles – “Card Showing” at 2L, Negative at 3L
- 2/1 in Competition – “Partnership Style”
  - Does Responder promise a rebid?
  - What bids by Opener are forcing?
  - What rebids by Responder are forcing?
- When are Responder’s Second Bids Forcing?
  - After a Support Double by Opener?
  - After Opener passes competition around to Responder?
  - After Opener rebids 1NT, 2NT?
  - After Opener rebids their suit?
  - After Opener makes a jump rebid?
  - After Opener bids a second suit, non-reverse?
  - After Opener’s reverse?