

With at least 4 cards in partner's suit and 13 or more points, bid 3 in partner's suit (called a "jump," since you have skipped over the next possible bid of 2 in your partner's suit). Bid 2 No-trump with 13 to 15 high-card points, all unbid suits stopped, and with less than 4 in partner's suit. Jump in a new suit (jump shift) with 18 or more points. With 13 or more points, no support in partner's suit, and lacking the cards for a 2 No-trump bid, then bid another suit and jump on the next round.

RESPONSES TO NO-TRUMP BIDS

If you have no major suit, try to play the hand in No-trump. With less than 8 points, pass; with 8 or 9 points, bid 2 No-trump; with 10 to 14 points, bid 3 No-trump.

If you have 5 cards in a major suit and 10 or more points, you may jump to three in this suit over the No-trump bid. If your partner has three or more in this suit, he will bid four in the major. If he has only 2, he will bid 3 No-trump. With less than 8 points and 5 or more cards in a suit, bid 2 of this suit.

OTHER OPENING BIDS

PRE-EMPT: This is a defensive bid designed to prevent your opponents from arriving at their best contract. The rules for making this bid are complex, but in general you must have a long suit (at least 7), and a weak hand (less than 11 high card points). Bid 3 of the long suit with minimum requirements, 4 or 5 with more length or strength.

TWO OF A SUIT: An opening 2 bid in a suit shows a very strong hand, and both partners should keep bidding at least until game is reached. To open with a 2 bid, you must have 25 points with a 5-card suit; 23 with a 6-card suit; and 21 with a 7-card suit. Your partner must respond to this bid. With 7 or less points, the response should be 2 No-trump. With 8 or more points, make a positive response, i.e., bid your best suit, raise your partner's suit, or bid 3 No-trump.

TWO NO-TRUMP: This bid is made with 22 to 24 high-card points and a balanced hand. It is not forcing to game, but you will often end up at a game bid. Your partner should respond with 4 or more high-card points in their hand.