

FORCING, NON-FORCING and INVITATIONAL BIDS

- A. A bid is **non-forcing**, if it is optional for partner to pass or to bid
- B. **Certain bids qualify as non-forcing, because:**
1. They specify a maximum point-count, which allows partner to judge the chances for a game, e.g.,
 - a) Opening bids in a suit at the one level
 - b) Re-bids by opener in a new suit (but not a jump-shift or a reverse)
 2. They limit the values of the hand, making partner the captain, e.g.,
 - a) Bids that raise or repeat a suit
 - b) Bids in no-trump
- C. A bid is **forcing**, if it does not permit partner to pass. It is forcing for one round, when it applies only at partner's next turn to bid. It is forcing to game, when partner must continue bidding at least until a game is reached.
- D. **Certain bids qualify as forcing for one round, because:**
1. The upper limit of their points is not clearly stated, e.g.,
 - a) new suits bid by the Responder
 - b) Strong two-bids by the opener in a suit (also forcing to game)
 2. They are defined that way, e.g.,
 - a) Artificial bids, such as Stayman and takeout doubles
 - b) New suits after one has been agreed-to
 - c) Reverses by Opener
- E. **Certain bids qualify as forcing to game, because:**
1. The points they promise, opposite partner's known points, add up to the value of a game, e.g.,
 - a) Jump-shifts by the opener
 - b) New suits at the three-Level before one has been agreed-to
 2. They are defined that way, e.g.,
 - a) Immediate jump responses to 2NT
 - b) 4th Suit forcing
 - c) Reverses by Responder
- F. **Invitational bids**
1. Definition: an invitational bid is one that suggests a game but denies the necessary strength to insist upon it.
 2. In general, invitational bids carry the auction to the threshold of game, announcing enough points to play safely there and leaving the final decision up to the invited partner. They usually appear in one of two forms:
 - a) bids at the three level in a previously mentioned suit, or
 - b) bids of 2NT
 3. Invitational bids by their very nature must be non-forcing.