



# Tactical Bidding

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# Bidding

- ♣ Who are you competing with when you play Duplicate Bridge at our Club?
  1. The opposition at the table; or X
  2. other pairs who have played or will play the same hands against others? ✓
- ♦ If you bid and play in the same contract as other pairs, your goal is to either:
  1. Score more positive points than other pairs who make a contract; or
  2. score less negative points than other pairs who do not make a contract.
- ♠ As in all bridge forms, ideally you want to bid high enough to play a contract you can win
- ♥ ...but not bid to a higher level than other pairs who make their contract while you do not make yours.
- ♣ In summary, bid realistically and make as many tricks as you can, whether you are in contract or defending.

NB If you are playing in a X-IMP or a Teams tournament, the scoring is different – more like an accumulation of points

# Tactical Bidding

- ♣ Tactical bidding brings a new dimension to competing.
- ♦ The purpose of tactical bidding is to bid over an opposition's contract bid if:
  1. You expect the opposition to win their contract; and
  2. you can bid higher to play in a contract, expecting the opposition to score less points through you losing a contract than they would have scored by winning their contract.
- ♠ You would usually only do this if the opposition have bid to the level of a game contract.
- ♥ The best time to do this is when the opposition are vulnerable and you are not.
- ♣ You should expect to be doubled (for penalty) by the opposition.

**Before giving examples, let's cover the most relevant scores to consider:**

**1. Points for opposition making a game contract**

| <b>Contract</b>       | <b>Non-vulnerable</b> | <b>Vulnerable</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>4 ♠ s or 4 ♥ s</b> | <b>420</b>            | <b>620</b>        |
| <b>3 NT</b>           | <b>400</b>            | <b>600</b>        |
| <b>5 ♦ s or 5 ♣ s</b> | <b>400</b>            | <b>600</b>        |

or more if they win additional tricks

## 2. Points for opposition when you do not make a contract

| Tricks down | Not doubled    |            | Doubled        |            |
|-------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|             | Not vulnerable | Vulnerable | Not vulnerable | Vulnerable |
| 1           | 50             | 100        | 100            | 200        |
| 2           | 100            | 200        | 300            | 500        |
| 3           | 150            | 300        | 500            | 800        |
| 4           | 200            | 400        | 800            | 1100       |
| 5           | 250            | 500        | 1100           | 1400       |

# Compare the scores for opposition making a game contract when they are vulnerable and you losing a contract when you are not vulnerable:

| Opposition winning game contract when vulnerable | Opposition score through you not making your doubled contract |       | Advantage to you |
|--|---|-------|------------------|
|  | No. of tricks down  | Score |                  |
| 600 – 620  | 1   | 100   | 500 - 520        |
| 600 – 620  | 2   | 300   | 300 - 320        |
| 600 – 620  | 3   | 500   | 100 - 120        |
| 600 – 620  | 4   | 800   | 180 - 200        |
| 600 – 620  | 5   | 1100  | 480 - 500        |

Example: You gain a better score by going 3 tricks off in a 5 ♣ s contract, rather than letting opposition win a game contract, i.e. by winning only 8 tricks.

# Example 1

Dir: West  
Vul: E/W

♠Q  
♥QJ642  
♦852  
♣K1085

♠K108654  
♥10  
♦J4  
♣A764

West  
North  
16  
South  
East

♠AJ72  
♥A8  
♦Q9763  
♣Q2

♠93  
♥K9753  
♦AK10  
♣J93

## Bidding:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| ?    |       |      |       |
|      |       |      |       |
|      |       |      |       |
|      |       |      |       |

# Example 2

Dir: South  
Vul: None

♠AJ765  
♥4  
♦J10  
♣KQ763

♠932  
♥K65  
♦Q8632  
♣95

|      |       |      |
|------|-------|------|
|      | North |      |
| West | 11    | East |
|      | South |      |

♠--  
♥AQJ9873  
♦94  
♣A842

♠KQ1084  
♥102  
♦AK75  
♣J10

## Bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| ?     |      |       |      |
|       |      |       |      |
|       |      |       |      |
|       |      |       |      |



# Example 3

Dir: West  
Vul: None

♠106  
♥J102  
♦AJ9653  
♣95

♠AKQJ73  
♥4  
♦Q42  
♣1087

|   |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| W | North | E |
| e | 8     | a |
| s | South | s |
| t |       | t |

♠852  
♥95  
♦K107  
♣AKQJ2

♠94  
♥AKQ8763  
♦8  
♣643

## Bidding:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| ?    |       |      |       |
|      |       |      |       |
|      |       |      |       |
|      |       |      |       |