

## Agreements & Conventions

The game of bridge has changed significantly over the years. The following table contains some of the more common agreements and conventions that are used in the modern bridge world.

Convention	Description
No Trump Openings	1 No Trump: 15-17 points 2 No Trump: 20-21 points 3 No Trump: 25-27 points
Major Suit Openings	Major suits are opened when you have 5 cards in a major. With 4 cards you would bid Clubs, Diamonds or No Trump. Hands of 12 points or more are commonly bid.
Minor Suit Openings	Minor suits can be opened with as few as 3 cards. This is referred to as opening with a short Club or short Diamond. Hands of 12 points or more are commonly bid.
Stayman	This convention is used by responder when partner opens No Trump; it asks if opener has a 4-card major. Stayman can be bid over any No Trump opener.
Jacoby Transfer	This convention is used by responder when partner opens No Trump; it requires opener to bid the next suit higher than the one the responder has bid.
Strong 2 Clubs & Weak Two bids	Opener opens 2 Clubs if his hand contains 21 plus points. Initially responders will bid 2 Diamonds as waiting. Some players use Steps or Controls to describe their hands. Opener pre-empts at the 2-level with 6 cards in diamonds, hearts or spades and 5-11 points. This convention replaces strong 2 bids and, in some cases, jump-shift bids.
Gerber	Gerber allows a player to ask how many aces and kings his partner has. This bid is used over No Trump.
Blackwood	Blackwood allows a player to ask for the number of aces and kings his partner has. This bid is used over suit bids.
Limit Raises	If responder has 4 of his partner's trump and 10-12 points, he will 'jump' his partner's suit one level. For example, if partner opens 1 Heart and responder bids 3 Hearts.
Doubles	Takeout: Partner doubles opponent's opening bid asking partner to bid one of the unbid suits. Negative: Responder doubles opponent's overcall bid telling partner he has the other suits covered. Responsive: Responder doubles opponent's responder's bid after partner has made a takeout double. Penalty: Double is for penalty, i.e. bidder believes the contract can be set. Lead-Directing: Double of an artificial bid asks partner to lead that suit.

Other conventions that are used by some players include:

- Michaels
- Roman Keycard Blackwood, aka "1430" or "3014"
- Splinter

- Unusual No Trump

Note that there are many other conventions used in the bridge world; these are ones commonly used by new players.