

IDENTIFYING the DANGER SUITS for NOTRUMP

When we are exploring for 3 NT, we would want to have at least one stop in the suit(s) we expect the opponents to lead. I call these the Danger Suits. Danger suits are either a suit bid by an opponent, particularly a major, or (when the opponents have not bid), a suit not bid by us, particularly if we have bid the other three suits. The fourth suit sticks out like a sore thumb and cries out to be led. It would be reckless to bid notrump without having a stopper in the only unbid suit.

QUIZ:

In each of the example auctions, identify the Danger Suit(s) for no trump. Remember, a danger suit is a suit we expect the defenders to lead at notrump.

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|----|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | You
1 Spade
2 Spades | Opp.
2 Clubs
Pass | Partner
2 Diamonds
??? | Opp.
Pass |
| 2. | 1 Spade
2 Hearts | Pass
Pass | 2 Clubs
??? | Pass |
| 3. | 1 Club
??? | Pass | 3 Clubs | Pass |
| 4. | 1 Club
??? | 2 Clubs | 3 Clubs | Pass |

ANSWERS:

1. Clubs, the suit they have bid
2. Diamonds, The one unbid suit
3. Hearts and spades, the suits the opponents know partner doesn't have length in. We expect them to lead a major.
4. Hearts and spades, Your left-hand opponent has shown the majors. We expect them to lead one.

- No. 1 The opponents have bid a suit. The opponents' suit is the danger suit. If you don't have a stopper in the danger suit, you can ask partner if she has one by bidding the opponent's suit. If you have a stopper, bid NT.
- No. 2 The unbid suit is the danger suit. If you have diamonds stopped, bid NT. If you don't have diamonds stopped, 3 diamonds by you asks partner to bid NT if they have diamonds stopped.
- No. 3 Danger suits are hearts and spades. If you bid 3 hearts, it shows a heart stopper for NT, and denies a spade stopper, asking partner to bid NT with a spade stopper. If you have both majors stopped, bid NT. If you bid three spades, it shows a spade stopper and denies a heart stopper, asking partner to bid NT with a heart stopper.
- No. 4 Opponent bid Michaels, showing both majors, you bid the same as above. Bid the major you have topped, asking partner to bid NT with the other major suit stopped. If you have both stopped, bid NT.

NOTE: Partner opens 1 club, opponent bids 2 clubs Michaels, if you bid 2 spades or 2 hearts, You're telling partner you have that suit stopped, with a good hand and an interest in NT.

HEADS UP: I'm going on vacation and will not be at Zoom class the next 2 Mondays. I won't be here Monday, February 19th or Monday, February 26th. We're going to Portugal with our son and his family.

I will see you, Monday, March 4th. I'll miss you and our class.