



EXERCISES Improving Level
FORCING, NON-FORCING, GAME-FORCING

Are the bids in red below NON-FORCING, FORCING OR GAME-FORCING?

HAND 1

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1H	♠ 92
1NT		♥ QJ63
		♦ A104
		♣ 7654

NF, F or GF?

HAND 2

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1H	♠ 932
2C		♥ QJ63
		♦ QJ8
		♣ 765

NF, F or GF?

HAND 3

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1H	♠ 9
2C		♥ 98732
		♦ AK10
		♣ A765

NF, F or GF?

HAND 4

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1H	1NT	♠ Q82
2D		♥ 32
		♦ Q942
		♣ Q542

NF, F or GF?

HAND 5

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1H	1NT	♠ 9
2D		♥ K2
		♦ A1098765
		♣ 765

NF, F or GF?

HAND 6

OPENER

1C

2H

RESPONDER

1S

RESPONDER'S HAND

♠ 6532

♥ 87

♦ AKQ

♣ 7654

NF, F or GF?

HAND 7

OPENER

1H

2S

RESPONDER

2C

RESPONDER'S HAND

♠ K75

♥ 7

♦ AKQ

♣ 986543

NF, F or GF?

HAND 8

OPENER

1S

2H

RESPONDER

PASS

2C

RESPONDER'S HAND

♠ K75

♥ 7

♦ AKQ

♣ 986543

NF, F or GF?

HAND 9

OPENER

1H

2D

RESPONDER

1S

2NT

NF, F or GF?

HAND 10

OPENER

1C

2NT

RESPONDER

1S

RESPONDER'S HAND

♠ K754

♥ 7

♦ A786

♣ 9865

NF, F or GF?

HAND 11

OPENER

1D

2C

RESPONDER

1S

2D

NF, F or GF?

HAND 12

OPENER

1H

3H

RESPONDER

1S

RESPONDER'S HAND

♠ K7543

♥ 76

♦ A7832

♣ 3

NF, F or GF?

HAND 13

OPENER

1C

2C

RESPONDER

1H

2H

NF, F or GF?

HAND 14

OPENER

1C

2C

RESPONDER

1D

2H

NF, F or GF?

HAND 15

OPENER

1C

RESPONDER

2H

NF, F or GF?

HAND 16

OPENER

1D

2C

RESPONDER

1H

2S

NF, F or GF?

HAND 17

OPENER

1D

1NT

RESPONDER

1S

3H

NF, F or GF?

ANSWERS

HAND 1

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1H	♠ 92
1NT		♥ QJ63
		♦ A104
		♣ 7654

NF. 1NT is a Limit Bid showing 12-15. Responder is not forced to bid again.

HAND 2

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1H	♠ 932
2C		♥ QJ63
		♦ QJ8
		♣ 765

NF. Opener has not *Broken Their Barrier*. Responder is not obliged to bid again.

HAND 3

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1H	♠ 9
2C		♥ 98732
		♦ AK10
		♣ A765

NF. As per HAND 2 but Responder might like to give a courtesy raise of 3C. Perhaps partner has a little extra and no other bid.

HAND 4

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1H	1NT	♠ Q82
2D		♥ 32
		♦ Q942
		♣ Q542

NF. Opener has not *Broken Their Barrier*. After Responder's 1NT this sequence is called "Simple Preference." Opener is asking Responder to choose one of the two suits shown. Responder can choose Hearts by bidding 2H or choose Diamonds by simply passing.

HAND 5

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1H	1NT	♠ 9
2D		♥ K2
		♦ A1098765
		♣ 765

NF. Although not forced to rebid, Responder might like to give Opener a courtesy raise of 3D with this hand.

HAND 6

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1S	♠ 6532
2H		♥ 87
		♦ AKQ
		♣ 7654

F. Opener has *Broken Their Barrier*. Opener's REVERSE is Forcing (rebid a new suit of higher ranking than their first). Responder must bid again.

HAND 7

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1H	2C	♠ K75
2S		♥ 7
		♦ AKQ
		♣ 986543

F. Opener has *Broken Their Barrier*. REVERSE is F. Responder must bid again.

HAND 8

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
	PASS	♠ K75
1S	2C	♥ 7
2H		♦ AKQ
		♣ 986543

NF No Barrier broken and Responder is a Passed Hand.

HAND 9

OPENER	RESPONDER
1H	1S
2D	2NT

NF Bidding NT's at any stage is NF.

HAND 10

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1C	1S	♠ K754
2NT		♥ 7
		♦ A786
		♣ 9865

NF. Opener is showing 18-19 HCP and a balanced hand. This is a Limit Bid – has an upper and lower values within a reasonably narrow range. It would be unusual for Responder to pass and definitely not on this hand.

Opener's jump rebid of 2NT is a very handy rebid. If your partnership opens 1NT with 15-17 balanced and 2NT with 20-22 balanced, it makes sense to have a bid that shows what is in between – 18-19 balanced.

HAND 11

OPENER	RESPONDER
1D	1S
2C	2D

NF Responder is merely choosing Diamonds over Clubs.

HAND 12

OPENER	RESPONDER	RESPONDER'S HAND
1H	1S	♠ K7543
3H		♥ 76
		♦ A7832
		♣ 3

NF. Although repeating a suit is technically not forcing, a jump in the same suit is highly compelling. Responder should consider things carefully before passing too quickly.

HAND 13

OPENER	RESPONDER
1C	1H
2C	2H

NF Repeating a suit already mentioned in the bidding is NF.

HAND 14

OPENER	RESPONDER
1C	1D
2C	2H

GF Responder's REVERSE is Game Forcing. Responder has rebid a new suit of higher ranking than their original suit.

HAND 15

OPENER	RESPONDER
1C	2H

NF. Responder's immediate Jump Response is Weak. Almost a century ago this was strong. Anyone still playing this as strong should make the opposition aware of this.

HAND 16

OPENER	RESPONDER
1D	1H
2C	2S

GF. Responder's rebid is a REVERSE. A new suit of a higher ranking than their own bid. Responder's REVERSE is always GF.

HAND 17

OPENER	RESPONDER
1D	1S
1NT	3H

GF. Responder's rebid is a JUMP SHIFT – a new suit at a level higher than is necessary. Responder does not just want to say 2H and risk Opener passing.

GENERALLY

NON-FORCING

Repeat a suit already bid in the auction by your side

Bid NT's at any stage

Passed Hand

FORCING AND GAME-FORCING

REVERSE – by Opener is F, by Responder is GF.

JUMP-SHIFT – always GF

ARTIFICIAL BIDS that can get passed out – is usually F

DOUBLE FOR TAKE-OUT that could get passed out – is usually F

OTHER – if your partnership uses certain Conventions such as

- 4th suit F or 4th suit GF – depending on your agreement
- Two-Over-One Game Force
- 2NT Jacoby raise of a Major – most agreements are GF
- New Minor Forcing or New Minor Game-Forcing
- Two-Way Checkback 2D is commonly agreed to be GF
- Short Club Opening that Forces partner to bid something with no Clubs

Think about whether you need to force partner to keep bidding.

Think about if you might be accidentally forcing partner to keep bidding.

Think about what your rebid promises partner – you do not want to promise a MEDIUM+ hand if you only have a BASIC hand.

BARRIER PRINCIPLE

Do not freely *Break Your Barrier* unless you have a better than basic hand.

Your barrier is the two-level of your first bid one-level suit.

1C Then Barrier is 2C

1D Then Barrier is 3D

1H Then Barrier is 2H

1S Then Barrier is 2S

Sometimes it is hard to find a rebid that does not break your Barrier.

With a basic hand, it is important to find something.