Help-Suit Game Try

The Basic Idea

- Bridge players have always known that hands that fit together will take more tricks than the high-card points they hold might suggest.
- Hands that don't fit together, take fewer tricks than their high-card points might suggest.
- Help-suit game try is a convention to find out if the hands are fitting well together.

Consider This Hand

♠ K Q J 8 6 4   You   Partner

♥ K Q 2   1♠   2 ♠

♦ A 8 3

♣ 5

Your side clearly does not have 26 hcps, but if partner has the right cards, you might still have game.

The Help-Suit Game Try

- With this convention, declarers can ask their partners if they have help in a specific suit.
  - If their answer is yes, they bid game.
  - If their answer is no, they return to the agreed trump suit at the 3 level.
- The convention occurs only after a single raise of a major suit.
- And only when the opener has values that might produce game.

The Help-Suit Game Try

- <u>After a major suit agreement</u>, the help-suit game try is initiated, by the opener, with:

  - A 2-level new suit.

  - Any 3-level new suit below the agreed major suit.

- The opener is asking the question: "Partner, do you have help in the suit I bid?"

Consider These Bidding Sequences

- Sequence 1:   Opener   Responder

  1 ♥   2 ♥

  2 ♠

- Sequence 2:   Opener   Responder

  1 ♠   2 ♠

  3 ♣

- If the partnership is playing help-suit game try, opener is asking for help in her second suit.

What Constitutes Help in a Suit?

- K x
- Q x
- Q J x
- Q 10 x
- Q x x x
- A x
- X with 4 trump.
- Void with 4 trump.

With What Sort of Suits Will Opener Ask for Help?

- Opener must always have some values in the suit for which he asks help.

- Do not ask partner for help in a suit in which you have no honor cards.

Opener Might Ask for Help With

- Q 10 4 3
- K 10 9
- A 7 5
- A J 3
- K J 7 2

Example Hand 1

♠ K Q J 8 6 4   Opener   Responder

♥ K Q 2   1♠   2♠

♦ A 8 3   3♦ *   3♠**

♣ 5

♠ 10 9 7 3   *do you have help in

♥ A 7 3 2   diamonds?

♦ 6 4 2   **sorry no help in

♣ K Q   diamonds

Example Hand 2

♠ K Q J 8 6 4   Opener   Responder

♥ K Q 2   1♠   2♠

♦ A 8 3   3♦ *   4♠ **

♣ 5

♠ 10 9 7 3   *do you have help in

♥ A 7 3 2   diamonds?

♦ K Q   **Yes I have help in

♣ 6 4 2   diamonds

Example Hand 3

♠ A J 10 6 3   Opener   Responder

♥ A Q 8 6   1♠   2 ♠

♦ 7   3 ♥ *   4 ♠ **

♣ A 9 6

♠ K Q 8   *do you have help in

♥ K 10 7 3   hearts?

♦ J 8 5   **Yes I have help in

♣ 5 3 2   hearts.

Example Hand 4

♠ A J 10 6 3 2   Opener   Responder
♥ 8 6   1♠   2 ♠
♦ K 10 3   3 ♦ *   4 ♠ **
♣ A K

♠ 9 7 5 3   *do you have help in
♥ A K 3   diamonds?
♦ 5   **Yes I have help in
♣ J 9 6 4 2   diamonds

Example Hand 5

	Opener	Responder
♠ K J 4 2		
♥ A Q 9 7 4	1 ♥	2 ♥
♦ 7 4	2♠ *	4 ♥ **
♣ A K		

♠ Q 10 3

♥ K 6 3

♦ Q 7 4 3

♣ Q 7 6

*do you have help in spades?

**Yes I have help in spades.

A Special Case of Help-Suit Game Try

- If you play help-suit game try, there is no longer a need for the bidding sequence:

  1(M) … 2 (M)…3(M)

  This is a rare case, but you can use that sequence as a special request for help in the trump suit.

  Must be discussed with partner

Example Hand 6

	Opener	Responder
♠ A K 6		
♥ J 9 8 7 4	1 ♥	2 ♥
♦ 3	3 ♥ *	pass **
♣ A K J 3		

♠ J 5 3   *My hearts are lousy.

♥ 10 7 4   Do you have help?

♦ K Q 7   **Sorry, mine are lousy

♣ Q 6 5 4   too.

Example Hand 7

♠ A K 6   Opener   Responder

♥ J 9 8 7 4   1 ♥   2 ♥

♦ 3   3 ♥ *   4 ♥ **

♣ A K J 3

♠ J 5 3   *My hearts are lousy.

♥ K Q 4   Do you have help?

♦ 8 7 6   **Yes I have help in

♣ Q 6 5 4   Hearts.

A Rare Use of Help-Suit Game Try

- This situation comes up rarely, but it is an imaginative use of the help-suit game try.
- Using the game try for slam exploration.

Imagine You Have Been Dealt this Powerhouse Hand

East Hand

♠ A

♥ A Q 10 8 6 4

♦ A 5 2

♣ A K 2

You open 1 ♥
Partner says 2 ♥
You know you are going to game.
But is a slam possible?

One More Slam Try Example

East Hand

♠ K Q J 8 6 4

♥ 8

♦ A K J

♣ A 5 4

You open 1 ♠
Partner says 2 ♠
You know you are going to game. But is a slam possible?