

TIP OF THE WEEK: UNDERSTANDING FORCING AND NON-FORCING BIDS

It's important to recognize whether you partner's bid is forcing or non-forcing.

- **Forcing bids** ask partner to keep describing their hand.
- **Non-forcing bids** limit the strength of a player's hand.
A **non-forcing bid doesn't** mean that partner **can't bid**. They can bid 'on' if they hold a suitable hand.

Below, are several slides from an excellent lecture by Polly Siegel.

What's forcing in an uncontested auction?

- General rules:
 - a new suit by an unpassed responder is forcing
 - once a game force is established, keep bidding until you reach game
- What specific types of bids are forcing?
 - A reverse by opener is a one-round force
 - A new suit after a suit has been agreed upon is forcing one round
 - Any bid after opener has jumped is forcing to game
 - A strong 2C opener is forcing to 2NT or 3M after double negative
 - A jump shift by opener is game forcing
 - Any bid after a game force has been established is game forcing
 - Conventional bids are forcing, and some also establish a game force

Rebids by opener after 1-level response

W	N	E	S
	1♦	P	1♠
P	?		
♠ Qxx			
♥ Kxx			
♦ KQxx			
♣ Jxx			

Forcing. Bid 1NT. You cannot pass; partner (responder) is unlimited.

Consider your rebid before you open – if you would be tempted to pass partner's response, then you probably shouldn't open

Rebids by opener after 1-level response

W	N	E	S
	1♣	P	1NT
P	?		
♠ QJxx			
♥ Axxx			
♦ Kx			
♣ KJx			

Not forcing. Partner has limited his hand to less than 10 points, depending on your ranges. You aren't going to miss game. Pass.

Rebids by opener after 1-level response

W	N	E	S
	P	P	1♠
P	1NT	P	?
♠ AKJxx			
♥ Axx			
♦ Kxxx			
♣ x			

Not forcing. Partner is a passed hand, so you can pass. But.. You should take another bid. Your hand is great, and partner could have as much as 11 HCP if playing 2-over-1.

2-level rebids by opener

W	N	E	S
	1♣	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	?

Not forcing. Partner has limited his hand to about 15 HCP by not jumping.

2-level rebids by responder

W	N	E	S
	1♣	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	2♠
P	?		

Forcing or not?

Not forcing.

This bid shows 6 spades, and less than invitational values.

To force (as responder), bid a new suit instead of repeating your suit

3-level rebids by responder

W	N	E	S
	1♣	P	1♠
P	2♣	P	3♠
P	?		

Not forcing. This shows an invitational hand with six or more spades.

3-level responses by responder

W	N	E	S
	1♣	P	1♠
P	3♣	P	3♠
P	?		

Forcing. Responder, by bidding after the jump, has forced you to game. *Any bid by responder after opener jumps is forcing to game.*

Forcing or not?

(Conversely, the only call responder can make to not create a game force after the jump is PASS.)

If you'd like to view additional examples, please type the following in your search engine.

Polly Siegel forcing and nonforcing bids lecture

Then select: Forcing(Bids(Palo Alto Bridge

Non-Forcing Bids

- . Responders can pass 1-level Opening bids with 0 - 5 HCPs
- . Jump Rebids in the same suit and bids that raise a suit
 - 1C - 1H 1D - 1S
 - 3C 2S
- . Notrump Rebids
 - 1C - 1D 1D - 1S
 - 1NT 2C - 2NT
- . Bids at the 3-level in a previously mentioned suit
 - 1S - 2S
 - 3S
- . A new suit by Opener that is lower than the first suit (Responder passes or corrects)
- . Jump Shifts in NT and all NT rebids

Click the link below, to read Robert Todd's article, "Is it Forcing by Advancer.?"

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5127d3d2e4b0b304f0b6db24/t/62c9ab8d3bf5d870f5edf592/1657383821885/2+%28429%29+Is+It+Forcing+by+Advancer.pdf>

IF YOU'D RATHER LISTEN TO A VIDEO, TUNE INTO PETER HOLLANDS



<https://youtu.be/ugEMF1TG9Y8>

TIME TO PRACTICE WITH ROB BARRINGTON



<https://youtu.be/Q3s8xIIS-Zw>