

Jump Shifts and Jump Raises

Strong Jump Shifts

A strong jump shift by **opener** shows 19+ points. The lengths of the two bid suits should be *at least* 5-4. Always bid the longer suit first. If the suits are the same length, bid the higher suit first. Examples of strong jump shift bids are 1♣ - Pass - 1♦ - Pass - 2♥; 1♣ - Pass - 1♥ - Pass - 2♠; 1♠ - Pass - 1NT - Pass - 3♣.

A strong jump shift by **responder** can show either 17-19 HCPs with a good 5+-card suit headed by at least 2 of the top 3 honors or 13-16 HCPs with a solid suit and good outside controls. Strong jump shifts by responder include 1♣ - Pass - 2♥; 1♠ - Pass - 3♣; 1♥ - Pass - 2♠. The bid is forcing to game.

Opener's possible rebids after a strong jump shift by partner are:

- raise partner's suit with 3-card support
- rebid her own suit with a 6-card suit
- bid a new 4-card suit
- bid 2NT with a balanced 12-14
- bid 3NT with a balanced 15-17 (or 12-14 after a 3-level jump shift)

Weak Jump Shifts

In modern duplicate, however, most people play that **all** jump shifts by **responder** are weak, both when the opponents are bidding (*in competition*) and when they are not.

Note: Weak jump shifts by responder when the opponents haven't bid are alertable. Weak jump shifts *in competition* are considered standard and are not alertable.

Weak jump shifts are generally preferred over strong jump shifts because

- those hands occur more frequently than 17-19-point hands - especially when the opponents are bidding too.
- strong jump shifts use too much bidding room when exploring for slam.
- responder can show a strong hand using other bidding sequences.
- weak jump shifts also have preemptive value.

Weak jump shifts by responder at the 2-level (1♣ - Pass - 2♥; 1♣ - 1♦ - 2♠; 1♣ - X - 2♦) typically show 2-5 HCPs and a 6-card suit. At the 3-level (1♥ - Pass - 3♣; 1♠ - X - 3♦; 1♠ - 1NT - 3♣), they typically show 2-7 HCPs and a 7-card suit. At all levels, they promise shortness in opener's suit. Opener should pass unless he holds a very strong hand and/or very good support for partner's suit.

Opener's possible rebids after a weak jump shift by partner are:

- pass with a misfit and/or no reasonable chance of making game.
- raise partner's suit with a good fit and a good hand. This bid is **not** invitational; responder is not expected to bid again.
- rebid a strong 6+-card suit of his own.
- bid a new 5+-card suit with a very good hand.
- bid 2NT with a very strong hand and at least 2 cards in partner's suit.

Note: When deciding whether or what to bid after responder's weak jump shift, keep in mind partner's presumed HCP count.

Responder is not expected to bid again, except:

- if opener bids a new suit, responder should take a preference at the lowest possible level.
- if opener bids 2NT, responder should rebid her suit. With a minimum, she should rebid at the lowest possible level. With a maximum, she should raise to game.

Note: If opener raises responder's suit to any level, it is to play. Responder should pass.

Jump Raises

The meaning of jump raises is determined by whether or not the opponents are bidding.

For example, in the auction, 1♥ - Pass - 3♥ (no competition), responder shows a limit raise (10-12 points) with 4-card heart support.

But what if RHO opponent bids?

If the auction goes 1♥ - X - ?

- 2♥ shows 5-9 points and at least 3-card heart support
- 3♥ shows fewer than 10 points and at least 4-card support
- XX (redouble) shows 10+ points without 3-card support
- 2NT (Jordan convention) shows 10+ points with at least 3-card support

If the auction goes, 1♥ - 1♠ or 1♥ - 2♣/2♦ - ?

- 2♥ shows 5-9 points and at least 3-card heart support
- 3♥ shows fewer than 10 points and at least 4-card heart support.
- a cue-bid of the opponent's suit shows a limit raise or better in partner's suit

In any auction, 1♥ - ? - 4♥ or 1♠ - ? - 4♠ shows at least 5 trump, 7-10 HCPs, and ideally a singleton or void.

Quick Quiz

Partner opens 1♥. What do you bid with:

♠ KJ9872 ♥ 6 ♦ 985 ♣ 632

♠ 67 ♥ ♦ 98732 ♣ A97654

♠ 9 ♥ K10763 ♦ KQ92 ♣ 872

Partner opens 1♥. RHO bids 2♣. What do you bid with:

♠ K76 ♥ AQ74 ♦ Q532 ♣ 109

♠ KJ76 ♥ 6 ♦ KQJ98 ♣ 532

♠ K1072 ♥ A109 ♦ 98752 ♣ 10

Partner opens 1♥. RHO doubles. What do you bid with:

♠ 842 ♥ A76 ♦ J85 ♣ K974

♠ K764 ♥ 76 ♦ Q9 ♣ AJ872

♠ 76 ♥ K742 ♦ 109 ♣ AK742

You open 1♠. Partner responds 1NT. What do you bid with:

♠ AQJ104 ♥ AK4 ♦ 3 ♣ KQ102

You open 1♦. Partner responds 1♥. What do you bid with:

♠ K2 ♥ ♦ AKQ932 ♣ AK1098

You open 1♣. Partner responds 1♦. What do you bid with:

♠ AJ10 ♥ AQJ2 ♦ 3 ♣ AK1098

Jump Shifts and Raises Answer Sheet

Partner opens 1♥. What do you bid with:

1. 2♠
2. 3♣
3. 4♥

Partner opens 1♥. RHO bids 2♣. What do you bid with:

4. 3♣
5. X
6. 2♥

Partner opens 1♥. RHO doubles. What do you bid with:

7. 2♥
8. XX
9. 2NT

10. 3♣

11. 3♣

12. 2♥