

FORCING
and
non-forcing
BIDS

Artificial bids are usually forcing

2♣ opening

Stayman

Transfers

Texas Transfers

Cue-bids

Splinter

Partner's TO Double – with rare exception

Partner's Negative Double – with rare exception

Conventional Double (DONT)

Support Double/Redouble

Michaels

Unusual NT

Jacoby 2NT

Jordan

Drury

Flannery

Some bids are forcing because your convention card says they are

Weak 2 – RONF – Raise (of partner's suit) is the Only Non-Forcing bid

New Minor Forcing

4th Suit Forcing

Overcall of opponent's TO double at the 1-level

?? Overcall at the 1-level

2-over-1 Game Force

Forcing 1NT

The system you play can affect which bids are forcing
We'll assume we are playing

Standard American

15-17 NT

Weak 2's

Negative Doubles

Strong jump-shift (19+) by opener

Jump-shift by responder not strong

A passed hand can never make a forcing bid

A NoTrump bid is never forcing

(unless it's conventional)

The only forcing bids after either partner has bid NT are

Strong Jump Shift

or

Reverse

If neither partner has bid NT, a new suit by responder is Forcing

1♣ - 1♥

1♦ - 1♠

2♦ - 2♥

If neither partner has bid NT, a new suit by opener is not forcing unless it is

Strong Jump Shift

Reverse

New suit at the 3-level

1♥ - 2♦

3♣

**If neither partner has bid NT,
a new suit by either partner,
at the 3-level, is Forcing**

1♥ - 2♦

3♣

forcing

1♥ - 1♠

2♥ - 3♣

forcing

1♥ - 1NT

2♦ - 3♣

not forcing

Examples - nf

1♥ - 2♥

1♥ - 3♥

1♥ - 1NT (unless it is conventional)

1♥ - 2NT (unless it is conventional)

1♥ - 1♠

1NT-

1♥ - 2♦

2NT -

Examples - nf

1♦ - 1♠

2♦

1♦ - 1♠

3♦

1♦ - 1♠

2♦ - 2♠

1♦ - 1♠

2♦ - 3♠

1♣ - 1♥

2♥

1♣ - 1♥

3♥

Examples – nf

1♥ - 1NT

2♦

1♥ - 1NT

2♦ - 3♣

1♦ - 1♠

1NT - 2♣

1♥ - 1NT

2NT - 3♥

1♥ - 2♥

3♥

Examples

1♦ - 1♠
2♣

not forcing

1♦ - 1NT
2♣

1♦ - 1♠
2♥

forcing (reverse)

1♦ - 1NT
2♥

Examples - forcing

1♦ - 1♠

2♣ - 2♥

1♣ - 1♦

1♥ - 1♠

1♦ - 1♠

2♥

1♥ - 1♠

3♣

1♦ - 1♠

3♦ - 3♠

Examples - forcing

1♥ - 2♣

2♦

1♥ - 2♦

3♣

1♣ - 1♠

3♣ - 3♦

1♣ - 1♦

1NT - 2♥

Examples – forcing

1♥ - 1♠

2♦ - 3♦

**If your partner makes a forcing bid,
and your RHO interferes,
the bid is no longer forcing**

**If your LHO interferes, and your
partner bids over interference,
if partner's bid was forcing without
the interference, then it still is**

If we overcall

**Forcing/non-forcing is a matter of
partnership agreement**

**There is a place to mark this agreement on your
convention card**

If we double

The only force is a cue-bid

$(1\spadesuit) - X - (P) - 2\spadesuit$ forcing (whether it is game force is “partnership agreement”)

$(1\spadesuit) - X - (P) - 2\clubsuit$

$(P) - 2\spadesuit$ game force

If you double and then bid a new suit, it shows a strong hand, but partner is not forced to bid

They double

1♦ - (X) - 1♠ forcing

1♦ -(X) - 2♣ not forcing

1♥ -(P) - 1♠ - (X)
2♦ not forcing

www.hamiltonbridge.com/Articles/IsItForcing.html

www.larryco.com/bridge-learning-center

Select bidding-nuts-and-bolts-not-conventions

www.math.cornell.edu/~belk/forcing.htm

www.kwbridge.com/force.htm