

COMMONSENSE BRIDGE

Asking yourself the right questions during the bidding

The purpose of bidding is to answer two questions--**HOW HIGH?** and **WHERE?**

HOW HIGH?--Can we reach game? To answer this question you must be able to add your points to partner's points and remember the **Magic Numbers**:

26 points = Game in No Trump (3NT) or a Major Suit (4H or 4S)

29 points = Game in a Minor Suit is rarely bid (5C or 5D)

33 points = Small Slam (6 of anything)

37 points = Grand Slam (7 of anything)

WHERE?--Do you play the hand in a suit contract or in No Trump?

Game Hands--98% of game hands are played in 3 No Trump or 4 Hearts or 4 Spades. The best game is 4 of a Major if you have a fit.

Part Score Hands--may be played in any suit or in No Trump. Play in the safest contract!

The Key Factor in deciding whether to play in a suit or No Trump is whether you have a **Fit**. A Fit is 8 or more cards in a suit in any combination (5-3, 6-2, 4-4, etc.)

There are three ways to win tricks: (1) High Cards, (2) Long Cards, and (3) Short Suits. Points may be counted for each way.

Always count for High Cards and Long Cards:

High Cards	Long Cards	Short Suits*	Suit Rank
Ace.....4	You may give yourself	Void.....3	NoTrump
King.....3	1 point for the fifth and	Singleton.....2	Spades
Queen...2	each additional card in	Doubleton.....1	Hearts
Jack.....1	any suit.		Diamonds
			Clubs

*Use only when a **FIT** is found.