

## Bridge 19 - Intervening Bids

- **Background**

What should you do if the opponents have already opening the bidding, and you have a hand:

- With at least "normal opening" points (ie with 12 - 13+ points), or
- With just less than "normal opening" points and with a good biddable suit (ie good 5+ card suit).

Consider making a bid (known as an **intervening bid** or an **overcall**) with the multiple objectives :

- To try and "steal" the contract away from the opposition, and or
- To remove "bidding space" from the opposition, thus making it more difficult (or even impossible) for them to find the correct contract, and or
- Even if the opposition manage to gain the contract, to signal to partner a suitable suit to lead.

- **Intervening bids after an opening suit bid** (see later for what to do with a stronger hand)

Intervening hand points	Intervening hand "shape"	Intervening hand bid	Purpose or intent
8 - 10 points	Good quality 5+ card suit	Bid suit at 1-level	To hope to gain a contract
11 - 15 points	5+ card suit	Bid suit at lowest level	To hope to gain a contract, and OK to bid at the 2-level if necessary
11 - 15 points	Good quality 6+ card suit	Jump bid suit	To hope to gain a contract

- **Intervening bids after an opening weak 1 No Trump bid** (see later for what to do with a stronger hand)

Intervening hand points	Intervening hand "shape"	Intervening hand bid	Purpose or intent
11 - 15 points	5+ card suit	Bid 2 of suit	To hope to gain a contract

- **Responding to an intervening bid at the one-level**

Responding hand points	Responding hand "shape"	Responding hand bid	Purpose or intent
0 - 5 points		No Bid	
6 - 9 points	3+ card support	Raise 1 level in partners suit	
10 - 15 points	3+ card support	Jump raise in partners suit	
16+ points	3+ card support	Raise to game in partners suit	
10 - 15 points	No 3+ card support, but with 5+ card suit	Bid own suit at lowest level	Such a bid is not considered as forcing
16+ points	No 3+ card support, but with 5+ card suit	Jump bid own suit	This is forcing for one round
9 - 12 points	Balanced, no 3+ card support, and a "stop" in opponents suit	Bid 1 No Trump	
13 - 14 points	Balanced, no 3+ card support, and a "stop" in opponents suit	Bid 2 No Trumps	
15+ points	Balanced, no 3+ card support, and a "stop" in opponents suit	Bid 3 No Trumps	

- **Responding to an intervening bid at the two-level**

- Respond as if partner hand made a normal opening bid (but 1 bid higher than normal)