

A close-up photograph of a tennis racket with a blue and yellow frame and a white headband. A tennis ball is visible on the left side of the racket. The racket is positioned on a green tennis court. The text "Fit and game in a major" is overlaid in white on the racket's head.

Fit and game in a major

Key concepts



Bridge is a pairs game – you need to work together



Bidding is way of providing information to your partner

Be consistent

Know your system – you don't have to play fancy things! Agree with your partner on what you are going to play



Bidding is conversation

What is partner trying to tell me?

What do I want to tell partner?

♠ A 8 5 3
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ Q 5 4
 ♣ 8 7 4 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	?

Tips - Bidding with a fit when partner opens a major

- 26+ total points (high card points + shortages) = game. Games score more than part scores. If there is a game, you should bid it.
- If you have a fit in a major, always bid it.
- 1♠ says “I’ve got 13+ high card points and 5+ spades”
- When partner bids 1♠ with 3 spades respond:
 - 2♠ with 6 to 9 total points “I don’t have enough for game for game. What do you think?”
 - 3♠ with 10 to 12 total points “We might have enough for game. What do you think?”
 - 4♠ with 13+ total points “We have enough for game. Maybe more! What do you think?”
- The opening bidder decides what to do.

♠ 3
 ♥ Q J 10 9 8
 ♦ A K 6 5
 ♣ Q 9 6
 -

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	?

Tips - partner opens a major and I have the other major

- Partner opens 1♥.
 - Bid 1♠ “I haven’t got 3 hearts, have you got 4 spades to go with mine?”
- Partner opens 1♠.
 - Responding 2♥ shows 5 hearts and 10+ points. “I don’t have 3S, I don’t have 4C or 4D”
 - Responding 2♥ to 1♠ always shows 5 hearts. This means that opener can support hearts with 3.

If partner opens and you change suit:

- partner must bid again as your hand is not limited
- you decide the final contract

♠ A K Q 10 9
 ♥ K J 5 3
 ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	?

Tips – partner opens a minor and I have a major

- Bid the major as partner might have four cards in the suit. Opener's bid of a minor says "I don't have a 5 card major"
- Changing suit forces opener to bid again
- After opener's rebid you can describe your hand further
- You decide the final contract
- South is interested in game and should bid 2♥ "I have 5 spades, do you have 3?" If North has 3 hearts they will support. This is a delayed raise.
- When should South bid 2♠? When they have 6 of the suit!

Summary

- Bidding is a conversation
- Support a major if you can – opener is in control
- When responder changes suit, responder decides the contract
- Changing suit forces opener to bid again
- Bidding 2♥ over 1♠ shows 5 hearts
- Bidding a suit twice shows 6 of a suit (not 5)
- Sometimes wires get crossed – smile and talk about it later!