

Good bidding is the result of clear partnership agreements and bidding according to your agreements. Trust your partner and listen to them.

THE BONES OF BIDDING

What can you do with 6 to 9 points?

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS ON A QUEST TO FIND A MAJOR SUIT FIT.

1. Here is something you CANNOT do. You CANNOT pass.
You MUST RESPOND with 6 points, even if you don't feel good!!
Of course YOUR hand won't look very good. But what about partner? She may have a great hand!! She may have 20 points! Or, she could win the auction and score a partscore. Besides, if you don't bid, you deny points, so your partner will think that declarer has extra points; she may make a bad decision based on wrong information. Bid to keep your partner properly informed.
2. There are two kinds of points. Your high cards are called High Card Points (HCP), but WHEN YOU HAVE A FIT with partner you also add your distribution points. You have a fit if you have 3 or more trumps.

responder's void	add 5 points
responder's singleton	add 3 points
responder's doubleton	add 1 point

J763 ----- 109642 8743 if partner opens 1 heart, you have a 1 point hand.
But if partner opens 1 spade, you have a 6 point hand.

3. With 6 to 9 points you can raise partner's opening MAJOR suit bid to 2.
Partner bids 1 heart, you bid 2. She bids 1 spade, you bid 2. Do not delay. Do not tell her about your other suits. Just raise to 2.
Partner opens 1 heart and you hold
KQJ63 987 109 743
Respond 2 hearts. You have found a fit. The fit is hearts, so bid 2 hearts. Your spades will be useful to partner for developing tricks, but you only get 1 bid with a minimum hand, and that bid is 2 hearts.

The raise from 1 of a major to 2 shows exactly 6 to 9 points. Never more. With more than 9 points you will have to find some other bid.

4. With 6 to 9 HCP, bid a major suit when partner opens 1 of a minor.

Bid your 4 card majors UP THE LINE. That means that with both hearts and spades, you bid hearts, even if your spades are stronger.

Partner opens 1 club. You have:

KJ65 8742 Q32 82

Bid 1 heart.

K6 8742 KJ987 82

Bid 1 heart. Bypass a longer diamond suit.

K6 8742 98 KJ987

Bid 1 heart. You are on a quest to find a major suit fit.

With 5 of one major and 4 of the other, bid your 5 card major.

Partner opens 1 club. You have:

KJ652 8742 Q3 82

Bid 1 spade.

KQJ6 87642 62 82

Bid 1 heart.

With two 5-card majors, bid spades first.

Partner opens 1 club. You have:

KJ652 87432 Q3 8

Bid 1 spade.

87432 KJ652 Q3 8

Bid 1 spade.

All of the bids we just reviewed can be made with 6 to 9 points, but they do not SHOW 6 to 9. They SHOW 6 or MORE. Bidding a major suit over a minor suit opening is the correct bid with nearly any responding hand.

Partner opens 1 club. You have:

AK42 8743 AK4 AK

Bid 1 heart.

5. With 6 to 9 HCP, bid a four card spade suit when partner opens 1 heart and you don't have a fit.

Partner opens 1 heart. You have:

KJ65 74 QJ3 8432

Bid 1 spade.

Again, the bid of 1 spade over an opening bid of 1 heart can be made with 6 HCP, but there is no upper limit.

6. With 6 to 9 HCP and no other bid available, bid 1NT.

Partner opens 1 heart. You have:

KJ6 74 QJ63 8432

Bid 1 NT.

Partner opens 1 club. You have:

KJ6 742 QJ63 842

Bid 1 NT.

The response of 1NT has an upper limit of 9 points, or possibly 10. If you have more points than that, do not bid 1 NT. Find some other bid.

7. With 6 to 9 HCP, you CAN bid 1 diamond if you have an unbalanced hand and no 4 card major

Partner opens 1 club. You have:

KJ6 7 QJ9643 843 Bid 1 diamond.

Regard this bid as unusual. You will usually have a four card major, or failing that, you may still have a balanced hand and bid 1NT.

8. With 6 to 9 HCP, you CAN raise an opening MINOR suit bid to 2 if you are unbalanced. To raise 1 club to 2 clubs, you need 5 clubs. The raise of a minor suit also tends to be unusual.

Partner opens 1 club. You have:

K64 7 843 QJ8432 Bid 2 clubs.

Partner opens 1 diamond. You have:

K64 7 QJ84 98432 Bid 2 diamonds.

Summary

With 6 to 9 points you can only respond at the 1 level. The exception is that you can raise your partner's suit to 2 of that suit.

If partner opens 1 of a MAJOR, you always raise if you can. If you can't, then you generally will bid 1 NT. (If partner opens 1 heart, and you have 4 spades, then bid 1 spade instead of 1NT).

If partner opens 1 of a MINOR, you will ALWAYS bid a major if you have a 4-card or longer major suit. Did I say ALWAYS? I meant to say ALWAYS. By which I meant ALWAYS. (Ok, so someday I'll teach you an exception).

If partner opens 1 of a MINOR and you do NOT have a 4-card major or longer, then you will prefer to bid 1NT. You will raise partner's minor only if you are unbalanced. You can also bid 1 diamond over 1 club if you don't have a four card major and you are unbalanced with diamonds.

A one-over-one bid shows a minimum of 6 HCP, but no upper limit.

You must respond with 6 points, even if you don't feel good.