Bidding

Bidding is a coded, non-verbal conversation with our partner in which we attempt to describe our hand as accurately as possible by communicating the length of our suits and the strength of our hand.

The contract for each hand is determined through the bidding process.

High Card Points — HCP's

Counting our hand

How many points has partner's bidding shown? Where do we belong?

Game? Points generally needed

Major suit - 26

No-Trump — 26 Minor suit - 28

Partial score?

Note: You must take the number of tricks you have promised in bidding to your contract, but it's okay to take more tricks than you bid.

Defending - It's opponents' hand, but listen to their bidding for clues about how to defend.

Opening the bidding

Dealer starts — passes or bids

Player designations — opener, overcaller, responder, advancer

12 High Card Points needed to open at the one level

Note: As we continue, we'll learn about circumstances in which hands can be opened with fewer points, e.g. in 3 rd seat or with particular distributions, but for starters, we'll rely on our partner having at least 12 points if s/he opens the bidding.