

Mini-Lesson 3: Showing values in Competitive Auctions - Cuebids

1. The last 2 weeks we've discussed competitive auctions where you can bid more with a 9c fit, and may bid more with an 8c fit (or less!) to prevent the Opp's from playing at the 2 level.

2. But how does partner know if you are just competing? or you have a hand with values where game may be a possibility?

(1H) 1S (2H) ? what does 2S show here? 6-9 points and 3+ support.
what would 3S show here? 10+ points and 3+ support

What to do you bid with this hand? 1. **T976 5 K987 Q876?** 8 support points. 2S?

What about 2. **Q54 54 AT92 QJ54?** 10 support points. 2S? 3S?
3. **Q9765 5 K87 K874?** 11 support points. 3S? 4S?
4. **JT8764 - KQT4 876?** 11 support points. 4S?
5. **Q987 5 AQ92 AQ54?** 17 support points. 3S? 4S?

3. *How can partner tell the difference if we use the same bid to cover such different hands?* Modern bridge uses the Opp's interference in the auction to help distinguish between different hands. Their bidding gives us more bids to use!

4. *What is a cuebid raise?* making a cuebid - bidding their suit -- is used to show all hands with support for P's suit and 10+ points.

Which means you don't need a jump to 3 of P's suit to show that hand. Jump raises can be preemptive (using the Law of Total Tricks, discussed last week).

5. So: Hand 1: you would bid 3S (preemptive)

Hand 2: you could bid 2S or 3H. Your 10 points is on the cusp, so this is a matter of style.

Usually, to show 10+ points, it should be a great 10.

Hand 3: you would bid 3H. If P has 15+ (or a great 14) he will bid game.

Hand 4: you could bid 3H, but 4S directly is probably a better tactical bid.

Hand 5: you would bid 3H. Cuebidding their suit shows limit values or better. If P signs off in 3S, you would bid 4S.

Why not bid 4S right away? It helps P judge what to do later knowing whether you have a preemptive hand (like #4) or a hand with values (like #5). If the opponents decide to bid 5H, P has a better idea whether to double or bid 5S.

6. What do you give up if you use a cuebid this way? Standard bridge used a cuebid of the opponent's suit to show a very big hand interested in slam. But that hand comes up very rarely in a competitive auction. Essentially, we exchange a seldom used bid for one that comes up all the time.

7. *What about when Partner opens the bidding instead of overcalls?*

1S (2C) ? **KT87 5 AQ952 QJ5** too many values for 2S or 3S, and 4S
could be a preemptive hand.

The answer? The cuebid raise! 3C to show limit values or better and 3+ support.