

Is it Forcing?

A common area of confusion is whether or not a bid is forcing. Knowing whether a bid is or is not forcing can be most critical. Consider this sequence:

1D 1S

1NT 2H

Is 2 hearts forcing? For most players, it is NOT forcing. It shows a weak 5-5 or 5-4 in the majors. An example is this hand from a recent morning game:

KJ932
Q8653
43
10

You can see that you do not want to be in no trump and you do not want to be at the 3 level since partner's 1NT bid showed a minimum opener. Partner should pass 2H or correct to 2S.

What if you have a better hand?

KQ932
AQ865
43
10

This hand is ideal for the use of a new minor forcing bid of 2C, which shows invitational values or better and asks opener about his major suit holdings. Depending on his response, you should be able to find the right spot.