

QUESTIONS TO ASK A PARTNER WHEN YOU START PLAYING TOGETHER

1. Do you play “fast arrival” (or not)—in all situations? For example, 2C-P-2D-P-2S-P, would 3S or 4S be the stronger bid? [Fast arrival is standard for most partnerships.]
2. If Responder makes a 2-over-1 call (e.g., 1D-P-2C), can Opener show a second suit WITHOUT showing extra values or would a seeming reverse still promise extras? (1D-P-2C-P-2H for example). [Most people play “reverse” at 2 level does NOT show extras. Many play that a “high level” reverse, e.g., 1S-P-2H-P-3C DOES show at least a King extra.]
3. If the opponents interfere over your partner’s transfer, do you guarantee 3 cards in partner’s major if you go ahead and accept the transfer? (1NT-P-2H-3D-3S for example).
4. Are responder’s secondary jump rebids and preferences forcing or invitational? (e.g., 1D-P-1S-P-1NT-P-3D—forcing or invitational or “drop dead” after NT rebid---weak 4-6?)
5. If you open, opponent doubles (for takeout) and partner redoubles, does partner guarantee another bid? Does a bid by you show extra values or can it just be extra length?
6. If partner overcalls, is a new suit by you forcing?
7. If partner opens 1NT, you bid Stayman or a transfer and the opponents interfere, does a direct bid by partner promise the top of the NT range? (For example, 1NT-P-2C-2S-2NT)?
8. If you play Gambling 3NT, define precisely what the suit is (e.g., solid minor—does that mean AKQJxxx or AKQxxxx, etc. What is semi-solid? Can partner have an outside card—Ace or King in another suit?) What is promised length of minor?
9. If partner opens strong 2C and you make a positive response, define precisely what that means (e.g., 8 or more HCP AND a 5-card or longer suit with 2 of top 3 honors).
10. Discuss and clarify situations in which Gerber would apply and circumstances in which 4NT is quantitative.
11. Discuss whether you want a system to attempt to show voids when partner asks for Key Cards.
12. Discuss in which circumstances you and your partner will SHOW stoppers for NT, when you will ASK FOR stopper(s) and how you can show a ½ stopper.
13. Discuss whether each of you tends to be aggressive or conservative in bidding and play.
14. Be candid about known weak points and strengths with each other.
15. Discuss whether splinters still apply over interference, e.g., 1S-2C-4D or 1S-2C-4C for example.
16. Confirm agreement (or not) on common negative double situations: 1C-1D-* Does this guarantee BOTH majors or only 1 major? The reciprocal situation: 1C-1D-1H (OR 1S) Does this promise ONLY 4 cards or 5 cards?
17. If you agree to play Minorwood, agree on EXACTLY which circumstances will be Minorwood.
18. If you play 2 over 1, what is your “default” bid after you open a major and partner makes a 2 over 1 call. For example, 1S-P-2C. If you have ANY balanced hand do you rebid 2NT—regardless of stoppers? If so, rebidding your major GUARANTEES 6 cards. OR, do you GUARANTEE stoppers in the two unbid suits if you rebid 2NT, and 2 of your major DENIES NT stoppers and does NOT guarantee 6 cards. DEFINE!