

JUMPS SHIFTS: WHAT SHOULD THEY MEAN?

By Maritha

In classic 2/1, jump shifts are WEAK:

1. Can only be of majors over a minor (e.g., 1C-P-2H).
2. Show 0-5 (or 2-6) HCP, a 6-card suit
3. Most of your points in your suit. No more than one honor outside your suit.
4. Suit length is exact—always six, not five and not seven.
5. No 4-card holding in other major.
6. Jump shifts in minors over majors are Bergen Raises, Mini Splinters, or Flower Bids.

Examples: A10xxxx xx xxx Jx // Q98xxx xxx Qx xx // xx Q10xxxx Kx xxx

Mini-Splinters

1. Jump to 3 of a minor over a major shows a singleton or void.
2. 8-10 HCP (Some play 10-12 HCP).
3. Some people play mini-splinters in majors over minors (can be a warning of weakness when you are considering 3NT). Again, must agree on HCP.

Examples over 1S: KQXx x Axxxx xxx (8-10 HCP) or Kxxx AQx x Kxxx (10-12 HCP)

Flower Bids or Fit-Showing Jumps

Partnership Agreement: many people play these bids ONLY in competition. You can play them at any time if you choose, but discuss it!. Jump shifts shows 3-card support for partner's major (or 5 for clubs and 4 for diamonds), Limit Raise values (10+ to 12 HCP) and 5-cards in the suit in which you are jumping. So, after 1S, the following hands could make flower bids:

xxx Kxx AQJxx Jx // Kxx xx Kxx AJ10xxx // Kxx AKJ10x Jxx xx

My personal experience is that Weak Jump Shifts rarely come up. Consequently, most people misuse the convention and make a WJS when they actually have another bid, e.g., hands with 6 HCP can make a simple one level response or bid a forcing NT and bid the long suit later. I play Flower Bids with some of my partners. I play Mini Splinters with one partner. None of these bids occurs very often at the table. I have more flower bids than any of the others.

There is also the option of keeping all of your jump shifts strong. That will be covered on another handout.