

Jump Shifts

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Last Revised November 19, 2020

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/JumpShifts.pdf>

Jump Shift by the Opener

A jump shift shows 18 or more HCP and is forcing to game. The shape is usually five-four or better. Some do not jump shift into a four-card major. This is too restrictive, and partner must not be surprised by less than five cards. Sometimes it is even needed to jump shift into a short minor. It is best to lie about length, not strength, and to lie about the length of a minor not the length of a major.

Holding

♠K32 ♥AKQ432 ♦AQ ♣32

The player opens 1♥ in first seat. If partner responds 1♠ or 1NT, the opener cannot make a jump rebid because that is invitational with 16 or 17. He cannot jump to 4♥. It may be the wrong spot, and it makes finding a slam difficult and playing 3NT impossible and 4♠ unlikely.

Raising a response of 1♠ to 4♠ cannot be correct for similar reasons as a jump to 4♥.

2NT is the wrong rebid with a six-card major even if there were a club stopper.

This hand makes a game-forcing jump shift of 3♦. Some use the club suit as a patsy suit, but after a jump shift into 3♣, the responder can rightfully expect a club stopper from partner.

After a game forcing 3♦ bid, the responder can then bid 3♠ to show five without fear of being passed below game.

Jump Shifts by the Responder

Standard American Meaning

The Standard meaning of a jump shift is a slam warning showing 18+ HCP.

Popular Meaning

The popular method is a weak jump shift, but this is quite the abused bid. A weak jump shift does not show a hand that would make a preempt in first seat. It is a **jump to the two-level** showing a six-card suit and 0-4 HCPs. It denies an Ace in the hand and King-Jack in the six-card suit. It is a narrowly defined bid because a player should not like preempting a partner who may have something more to say.

We do not preempt a preempt.

Consider the following hand.

♠2 ♥765 ♦32 ♣AQJ10987

In first, second and third seats, it is a 3♣ opening following only passes. However, it is not a preempt if partner bids or anybody preempts.

If partner preempts in spades, it is a warning to stay out of the bidding. However, if partner preempts in hearts, it is certainly worth a forcing call in clubs. A club lead is wanted and a retreat to hearts can be made. If there is a double fit, a sacrifice even at equal vulnerability may be profitable.

If partner opens one of a suit, the hand is also not a preempt. A **jump shift to the three-level** is invitational denying support for partner with 10 to a bad 12. The following bidding shows a weak hand with clubs.

W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	1NT

P 2♥ P 3♣
all pass

Jump Shifts in Two Over One Auction

W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	2♣
P	3♦		

North shows diamond shortness and four clubs and 12+ HCP that his original opening showed. To make a slam try in a game forcing auction, a player goes to game slowly.