

## Arizona Daily Star

## Bridge

Steve Becker King Features Syndicate | Posted: Friday, July 2, 2010 12:00 am

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CONTRACT BRIDGE -- BY STEVE BECKER FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2010

**Forcing or Nonforcing?**

Below are six unrelated bidding sequences. Where the question mark appears in each case, indicate whether you consider the last bid made in each sequence as forcing (compelling you to bid again) or nonforcing (permitting you to pass). If the last bid merely urges but does not compel you to bid again, treat it as nonforcing.

## 1. North South

1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♥	?

## 2. North South

1 ♣	1 ♥
2 ♣	2 ♦
?	

## 3. North South

1 ♦	1 ♥
3 ♥	?

## 4. North South

1 ♦	3 ♠
?	

## 5. North South

1 ♣	2 ♣
2 ♥	?

## 6. North South

1 ♣	1 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♦
?	
***	

1. Nonforcing. North might have a minimum opening bid and South might have a minimum response, so it would not make sense to treat one heart as forcing. If North wanted to assure another response, he would have to bid two hearts (a jump-shift) over one diamond.

2. Forcing. When the responder (as distinguished from the opening bidder) names a new suit, opener cannot pass. Thus, one heart was forcing, and two diamonds is equally forcing.

3. Nonforcing. A jump-raise by opener is merely invitational, allowing South to pass if he has a very weak hand.

4. Nonforcing. One spade would be forcing, and two spades (a jump-shift) would also be forcing, but three spades is a different kettle of fish. Unless you have a specific agreement to the contrary (such as that three spades in this sequence is a splinter bid, showing shortness in spades), three spades is a pre-emptive bid, pure and simple, and might consist of something like seven spades to the K-Q-J and nothing else. North may therefore pass if he feels game prospects are poor.

5. Forcing. When responder has raised opener's suit and opener then bids a new suit, responder must bid again. Here, North is probing for a game, possibly a slam, so South cannot pass.

6. Forcing. Once South bids over three clubs (which is invitational and not forcing), his side is committed to reaching game. South might have only a game in diamonds, clubs or no trump in mind, or he might be thinking of slam and be marking time to allow North to further define his hand. But whatever South's intentions are, North can't pass until at least a game is reached.

Tomorrow: Voyage of discovery. (c)2010 King Features Syndicate Inc.