

BIDDING 11

RESPONDING WITH A 6-9(10) POINT MISFIT

1H 1S
2C ?

Opener has shown 5+ hearts, 4+ clubs and 12-18 points. If opener had 19+ points, they would have jumped to 3C (a “jump shift”).

How should you respond with these hands?

1. S K10984 H 86 D Q6 C K987

Pass! The 8+ card club fit looks like the right place to play. Most of the time opener is 12-15 and with your 8 points there is not enough for game. You do occasionally miss game when opener is 16-18 but trying to cater for this often gets you too high. Do not bid 2S – when responder rebids their suit it usually shows 6+ cards.

2. S K10984 H 86 D Q65 C K98

2H! This is the one most people get wrong. Partner knows you don't have 3 card heart support or better as you would have raised him/her immediately in hearts.

Do not bid 2NT: this is an invite to game in 3NT. You need 11-12 points to do this.

A 2NT BID IS **NEVER** A RESCUE.

Do not bid 2S: this shows a 6+ spade suit

Do not pass: The 5-2 heart fit plays better than the 4-3 club fit and is worth more points.

3. S KQ9874 H 8 D 765 C K98

2S – you can repeat you spades now you have 6 or more.

4. S K1098 H 86 D Q654 C K98

2H again.

Do not try 2D – this is a special bid (4th suit forcing) which forces to game. You do not have enough points to do this.

Do not try 2NT – it is still an invite to game with 11-12.

5. S K10987 H 8 D KQ654 C 98

This is a problem hand that basic bidding can't solve. Try to find the most sensible spot without resorting to 2NT (11-12 invite to 3NT) or 2D (4th suit forcing to game).