

♠10743
 ♥KJ7
 ♦K532
 ♣87

This puzzle is intended to sharpen your competitive bidding judgment. Assume you hold the hand shown above. For each of the following auctions, discuss what bid you would choose and why you chose it.

Auction 1

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1S	2H	2S	3H
P	P	?	

Auction 2

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1H	1S	2H	2S
P	P	?	

Auction 3

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1S	2C	2S	3C
P	P	?	

Auction 4

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1H	2C	2H	3C
P	P	?	

Auction 5

<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>
1C	1H	Dbl	2H
2S	3H	?	

There are not necessarily right or wrong answers. The important thing is to develop some principles that help you judge whether or not to bid, and apply those principles consistently.

Send your answers to me: billpuzzles@bridgesights.com

The Answer

I define a competitive auction as one in which each side has at least one 8 card fit and the points are relatively even (17-23 HCP for each side). I use the following guidelines for competitive auctions:

1. Do not let the opponents play at the 2 level.
2. If the opponents are already at the 3 level, only compete to the 3 level if you have a nine card fit or a singleton in the opponent's suit.
3. If the decision is close, I tend to discount high cards in the opponent's suit and value high cards in

our suit or suits.

Keeping those guidelines in mind, here is how I would bid on each of the example auctions.

Auction 1 – This is close. We have a 9 card fit, but I have values in hearts. If playing IMPs, I would pass; if playing match points, I would bid 3S.

Auction 2 – I would bid 3H, since I would like to push the opponents to the 3 level.

Auction 3 – Unlike Auction 1, I think 3S is clear. We have a 9 card fit, and all my values are outside clubs, the opponent's suit.

Auction 4 – unlike Auction 3, we only have an 8 card fit. Therefore, since the opponents are already at the 3 level, I pass. We do not have a 9 card fit, and I do not have a singleton club.

Auction 5 – this is similar to Auction 4. We only have an 8 card fit, and the opponents are already at the 3 level. Additionally, I have heart values. I feel pass is clear.