

## Your Bidding Style:

Even though most bridge players use the same rules for bidding, 12-points to open, 15-17 for 1NT, there are a lot of variations in Bidding Style.

Some players are very aggressive in the bidding, overcalling or pre-empting often, getting in the way, sacrificing, and taking chances. These **Adventurous** players are usually optimistic about the outcome, and not risk-averse or worried about the consequences.

Other players are a little more **Cautious**, passing hands that others bid with. Only bidding what they think they can make, only going for game when they are reasonably confident.

**Down the Middle Players** are somewhere in between.

### Identifying how aggressive you & your partner are:

If your team generally Declares more hands than they defend, then you are more aggressive than most of your peers. *Pianola keeps track of these stats.*

If you often play hands that are mostly played by the other direction, then you are more aggressive than most pairs.

If you think that your team gets worse cards than average, it is probably a sign that you aren't bidding enough, and you are more Cautious than most pairs. *Everyone gets the same cards, it's what you do with them that matters.*

### Most Importantly, no matter what your style is, try to be Consistent

If you overcall with 1♥ with 8 points and a mediocre suit sometimes (**Adventurous**, although these players consider this to be 'Normal'), and other times you pass with 9 or 10 points and a similar suit, then partner won't know what to expect.

If you are consistently Adventurous or Cautious, then partner can judge their actions better.

If you sometimes bid wildly, and other times bid safely, then your partner will never know what to do!

## Bidding Style Quiz:

Your Opponent opens 1♣.

No-one is Vulnerable. **Your Call:**

1	♠ KJ764	7	♠ AQT654
	♥ 4		♥ T4
	♦ KQ72		♦ T7
	♣ J64		♣ K82
2	♠ JT842	8	♠ 83
	♥ T95		♥ QT9752
	♦ AK932		♦ T7
	♣ -		♣ AK2
3	♠ Q8643	9	♠ QT72
	♥ Q942		♥ QJ98752
	♦ 3		♦ -
	♣ KJ5		♣ A9
4	♠ 9	10	♠ KJ
	♥ QT965		♥ KQJ853
	♦ 862		♦ 5
	♣ AT92		♣ JT87
5	♠ J2	11	♠ QJ7
	♥ AK542		♥ QJ98654
	♦ QT92		♦ 6
	♣ J5		♣ Q4
6	♠ AQJ64	12	♠ J96542
	♥ 976		♥ A8
	♦ 86		♦ Q652
	♣ Q87		♣ 5

Results of Bidding Style Quiz: Hands 1 – 6: If you overcalled on 5 hands, you are Adventurous. If you overcalled on all 6 hands, then you are one of the most Adventurous Bridge Players! If you overcalled on only 2 or 3 then you are Cautious. If you only overcalled on one hand, then you need your pulse checked! Bidding 2♥/2♠ on 7&8 are normal. As an overcaller, 4♥ on Hand 9 is pushy, although bidding 1♥ and competing up to 3♥ or 4♥ is fine (2♥ is very cautious, 3♥ is down the middle). Bidding 2♥ on Hand 10 is very Cautious, the hand is too good, bid 1♥. Hand 11, 3♥ is pushy, 2♥ is Down the Middle, and Passing is very Cautious. Many players would pass Hand 12, but Adventurous Players would bid 1♠ or 2♠.

### How to play best if **YOUR PARTNER** is Adventurous

If you think a game is 'pushy', and partner is an overcaller or pre-emptor, then you should play conservatively.

If the auction sounds like there are 'too many points' at the table, then assume your partner is the player who is pushing it.

Be careful Doubling for Penalties assuming partner will have much for you.

Invite partner to game very conservatively, especially if they have overcalled. Invite with 12 or 13 points if partner is an overcaller, don't bid straight to game unless you have around 16 points.

If partner pre-empts, don't look for game unless you have around 17 points, or a great fit.

Don't balance. Don't compete too high. Don't sacrifice unless your hand is very suitable.

If your partner has overcalled, and the opponents confidently bid to 3NT, don't feel obligated to lead her suit if you have a better option (her suit might be Q7653 or worse!).

*You might need to get used to partner's style, since they probably won't change!*

### How to play best if **YOUR PARTNER** is Down the Middle

Follow the rules, partner will have what she is showing.

Try to play your normal game.

Trust your partner, raise her bids, lead her suit.

### How to play best if **YOUR PARTNER** is very Cautious or Conservative.

If partner does make an overcall or pre-empt, then trust that their suit and hand will be quite 'good' in the context.

If it is a close decision about bidding to game, then usually go for it, since your partner will often have a few extra points.

If the auction is going to stop at a low level, consider Balancing with a Double or an overcall. Your partner might have a better hand than you expect.

Raise partner more, be prepared to compete to the three-level, bid close games.

*It might be hard to convince her to bid more, so be prepared to defend more hands (discuss signals and defence).*

### Tips if **YOU** are an Adventurous bidder.

Be Consistent. Don't pre-empt with great hands, since partner will have low expectations of you.

Experiment with pre-empting a little higher than you think when Not Vulnerable, especially with a more shapely hand (eg. With a 6/4 shaped hand, consider opening at the three-level).

If you have a four-card suit with 3 of the top 4 honours, consider a one-level overcall (for example, ♠AKJ8).

Open in third seat with 9 or 10+ points if you have a good quality suit, to suggest the lead.

Rare, but good fun (Not Vul): If your team has bid and found a fit, and your opponents bid 4NT looking for slam, consider bidding 5-of-your-suit over them to ruin their Keycard Responses.

If you are an Adventurous bidder, and you are in the middle of bidding, and you can't think of what to bid (your hand must be pretty bad), there is a fantastic call that you might not use very often: PASS!



### Tips if **YOU** are a Down the Middle bidder

Be Consistent.

Consider overcalling and pre-empting a little bit more when you are Not Vulnerable.

If your Opponents are better players than you, bid a little more to give you a chance of winning the bidding, or push them around. *Left to their own, good players will get good results, maybe not when you interfere.*

If your Opponents are not very strong players, then just play your normal game, and wait for them to make a mistake.



### Tips if **YOU** are a Cautious or Conservative bidder.

Be Consistent, but consider overcalling more, especially at the one-level.

If you make an overcall with 13 or 14 points, be prepared to bid again if you have a six-card suit or a second suit.

Try not to pass out the opposition at the two-level, which will be too easy for them.

If your partner bids, consider raising with a fit, even if you think your hand is not good enough.

