



## The 'rule of 9'

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- Zia does not recommend the use of 'automatic rules' : A little thinking most of the time enables you to reach the appropriate solution.
- When does the rule of 9 apply ? When you hesitate about responding a suit at level 1 because you find your hand particularly weak....
- The rule says : Add your HCP count and the number of cards in the suit you are thinking of bidding :
  - If the total reaches 9, bid the suit
  - If the total is less than 9: pass !

Example :

You are in South ; North, your partner, opens 1 ♦ . Will you bid 1 ♥ ?

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#### Exercise 4961

You have 4HCP, the suit you are considering bidding has 4 cards -  $4+4=8$   
8 is smaller than 9, you must pass....

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