

Wasted Values



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Simply put, “**wasted values**” are usually **subordinate honors** opposite a **singleton** or **void**. This situation is most often revealed when partner Splinters or Mini Splinters or when showing shortness in a Jacoby 2NT auction.

Wasted values are subordinate honors which are highly **unlikely** to **EVER** take a trick. Honors that you may need to ruff.

Some examples of wasted values are illustrated in the following suit holdings. Your partner has shown a singleton or void during the bidding and you **know** it. If you don’t know it, this concept does not apply. You cannot decide that you have wasted values after the Dummy hits the table and then adjust your bidding.

When you know from the bidding that you have potentially wasted values you should **downgrade** your hand. You should subtract the value of subordinate Jacks and Queens and subtract 1 working point for the value of **unprotected** Kings opposite shortness.

KQx---x This is an example of wasted values. Partner had one loser in this suit before seeing your hand and your 5 HCP left them still having one loser. The King or the Queen will likely fall to the Ace. This liability should encourage caution in giving full value to the King and the Queen in this suit.

Kxx---x It is entirely possible that this King may never take a trick. It may fall to the Ace. The value may well be wasted.

AJx---x This may not seem like wasted values, but it is. We covered partner’s loser in that suit with our Ace, but it is highly likely that you will need to trump the Jack. This makes the value of the Jack a wasted value. You should not count the Jack as 1 High Card Point. It is a wasted value.

QJxx---x Again, since you are missing the A, K, it highly unlikely that you will ever get a trick in this suit. The value of the QJ are wasted. Subtracting these values will give you a more realistic value of your hand.

We downgrade these honors because it is far better to have our High Card Points in suits that are opposite partner's length and values. This situation creates a better opportunity for maximizing our trick taking potential.

Queens and Jacks are highly **unlikely** to take tricks opposite partner's **shortness**. Queens and Jacks are more valuable in our own long suits or opposite partner's long suits. Aces and Kings are suspicious when they are opposite partner's short suits, but they do not lose all of their value. They still have a reasonable chance of taking a trick. Do not devalue them.

Queens and Jacks are more useful opposite **balanced** hands where partner rates to have some length in all of the suits. For this reason, Queens and Jacks are thought of as useful when playing No Trump opposite a balanced hand.

The bottom line: **Wasted Values** are usually **subordinate honors** opposite extreme **shortness** which are likely to **NEVER** take a trick. ♣