



Assess your hand

Count HCP – Can you open the bidding? You need ***11+ HCP**

Is your hand **balanced** or **unbalanced**?

Balanced hand?

No voids, no singleton, only 1 doubleton

E.g. ♠ A K x x
 ♥ x x x
 ♦ K x
 ♣ Q J x x

- **11 or fewer HCP** Pass
- **12-14 HCP** Open 1NT
- **15+ HCP** Bid your longest suit

Unbalanced hand?

9+ cards in two suits

E.g. ♠ A K x x x
 ♥ x
 ♦ x x x
 ♣ K Q J x

- **10 or fewer HCP** Pass
- ***11 -19 HCP** Open 1 of your longest suit;
 (* Add your HCP to the total number of cards in your
 2 longest suits. If this comes to 20+ open the bidding!)

When you are **Opener** look at the **shape** of your hand, then **count your HCP**