



Responding to an Opening Bid of 1 of a Suit

An opening bid of one of a suit tells partner that:

- you have between 12 and 19 HCP
- your hand is **unbalanced**
(or, if balanced, too strong to open 1NT.)
- the suit you have bid is your longest suit

Opening with 2 suits of the same length:

With two 5-card suits open the higher-ranking (except with Clubs & Spades when we open 1Club)

With two 4-card suits open: the major with one major and one minor: 1♥ with ♥+♣/♦; 1♠ with ♠+♣/♦
the lower of two suits of the same rank: 1♥ with ♥+♠; 1♣ with ♣+♦

Biddable suits

When you bid a suit you are suggesting it as a possible trump suit.

The only criterion is the length of the suit: it must have at least 4 cards

You cannot open or respond in a suit with 3 cards or less

Any suit of 4 cards or more is a **biddable suit**

Rules for responding to 1♣/1♦/1♥/1♠

1. Pass with 0-5 points: Respond with 6 or more points
2. With 4-card support for partner – always raise him
3. Without support for partner – bid a new suit or no-trump

Types of Response

Weak responses:	Single raise of partner's suit to the 2-level: 1NT	6-9HCP with support 6-9 without support
Game responses	Raise to game 3NT	13+HCP with support 13+HCP without support (balanced, with all other suits stopped)
Invitational responses	Double raise of partner's suit to the 3-level 2NT	10-12 with support 10-12 without support (balanced, with all other suits stopped)

Weak, invitational and game responses are all **limit** bids, showing a specific point range.

They are **not forcing** – opener can pass

Opener normally passes a weak response, but may bid on with a very strong hand or a very distributional one

Opener normally passes a game response

Opener passes an invitational response with a minimum opening bid of 12-14HCP. If stronger, bid game

Forcing responses: A response in a new suit is **unlimited** and may be very strong.
Opener cannot pass – he must bid