



## 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

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