Lesson 7 Examples

Minimum Responses to an opening bid of one of a suit

♠ A8	N	♠ 9652
♥ AQ975	W E	♥ K1043
♦ A43	S	♦ 82
♣ AJ4		♣ K76

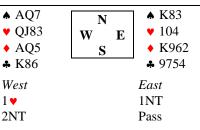| West	East
1♥	2♥
4♥	Pass

West is <u>balanced</u>, but too strong for 1NT, so opens his longest suit, 1♥.

East's 2♥ bid shows 6-9 points (a minimum responding hand) and at least <u>4-card support</u> for hearts.

West has 19 points, so knows of a minimum of <u>25 points</u> and <u>9 hearts</u> between the hands, so he bids game. 4♥ becomes the final contract.

♠ 7	N	♠ 9652
♥ AQJ83	W E	♥ K1042
♦ KQ5	S	♦ 82
♣ J963		♣ K75

West	East
1♥	2♥
Pass	

This time West is <u>unbalanced</u>. With 13 points he has enough to open, and bids 1♥, his longest suit.

East has the same 2♥ raise as before, showing 6-9 points and support.

West has only 13 points, so knows there is a maximum of 22 points between the hands, not enough for game. The partnership has at least 9 hearts, so a part score in hearts will play well. West passes, and 2♥ becomes the final contract

♠ Q743	N	♠ K82
♥ AQ975	W E	♥ 104
♦ K3	S	♦ Q754
♣ A8		♣ J1054

West	East
1♥	1NT
Pass	

West opens his longest suit.

East has <u>6-9 points</u>, a minimum responding hand, and neither support for hearts, nor 4 spades, a suit he could bid at the one-level. He makes the weak response of <u>1NT</u>, showing 6-9 points.

West knows the partnership has a maximum of 24 points, not enough for game. He is fairly balanced, with no reason to think there is a better part score. He passes.

1NT becomes the final contract

♠ AQ7	N	♠ K83
♥ QJ83	W E	♥ 104
♦ AQ5	S	♦ K962
♣ K86		♣ 9754

West	East
1♥	1NT
2NT	Pass

With 18 points **West** is too strong for 1NT, so he opens 1♥ in spite of his <u>balanced</u> distribution,

East has the same <u>1NT response</u>, showing 6-9 points with neither support for hearts nor 4 spades.

West knows the partnership has between 24 and 27 points. If East is *minimum* there are not enough points for game. If East is *maximum* there are enough points for game. With a balanced hand he believes no-trump is the best denomination. He bids 2NT, *inviting* East to bid game if he is maximum, and to pass if he is minimum.

With 6 points **East** is *minimum*, so he passes.

2NT becomes the final contract