



LESSON 6 - STUDENT NOTES

OPENER'S SUIT REBIDS WITH A STRONG HAND & RESPONDER'S SUIT PREFERENCE BIDS

WHEN OPENER RE-BIDS A NEW SUIT, IT SHOWS AN UNBALANCED HAND

Opener's rebid is used to show the **strength** and the **shape** of his hand.

When Opener rebids a second suit he promises:

5+ cards in first bid suit and
4+ cards in second suit bid.

OPENER REBIDS A NEW SUIT- WHAT IS OPENER'S POINT RANGE?

MINIMAL 11-15 HCP

OR

STRONG 16-19 HCP

OPENER HAS 3 OPTIONS FOR SHOWING A STRONG HAND 16-19 HCP:

In general, opener's **jump rebids** show **16-19** HCP.

1) A **jump rebid in opener's first bid suit** – shows a 6 card one suiter hand, and 16-19 HCP

Opener	Responder
1♥	2♣
3♥	shows 16-19 HCP. Opener has jumped a level to rebid his suit at the 3 level i.e. he has by passed the 2 level! It shows a one suiter hand with 6+ cards. After a 2 level bid by responder, opener's rebid in his own suit at the 3 level is forcing . Responder cannot Pass (Note: However, after a 1 level bid by responder a

jump bid in opener's first bid suit is **non forcing** and so responder can pass)

2) Also, when opener's **suit rebid** is in a **higher ranked suit** than his opening suit this is called a **Reverse** i.e. for responder to return opener to his first bid suit he must rebid at the 3 level! This also shows opener has **16-19** HCP.

Opener	Responder
1♥	2♣
2♠	shows 16-19 HCP. Opener has bid a higher ranking suit in his rebid than in his first bid suit. Opener has bid a ' Reverse ' This is a forcing rebid . Responder cannot Pass

3) A '**jump shift**' to a **new suit** shows a very strong hand **18-19** HCP with 5 + cards in the first suit and 4+ in the second

Opener	Responder
1♦	1♥
3♣	shows 18-19 HCP. Opener has jumped a level to rebid his second suit i.e. he could have rebid clubs at the 2 level! This is a forcing rebid . Responder cannot Pass

WHAT ABOUT THESE EXAMPLES OF OPENER'S REBIDS

e.g.1 Opener	Responder
1♥	2♣
2♦	Has opener made a jump rebid ? NO Has opener rebid a higher ranking suit than his opening bid? i.e. Is it a Reverse ? NO. Therefore, Opener's rebid shows 12-15 HCP

with 5+ cards in hearts and 4+ cards in diamonds – a minimal hand

Holding 12-15 HCP, Opener can ONLY bid a second suit at the TWO level if this suit is of LOWER RANK than his first bid suit

e.g.2	Opener	Responder
	1♠	2♣
	2♥	shows 12-15 points

Hearts are lower ranked than spades. Opener has 12-15 HCP with at least 5 cards in spades and 4 cards in hearts.

Another way to check this out is that if Responder can still rebid Opener's first bid suit at the 2 level, Opener has a minimum hand 12-15 HCP

BUT.... what about this one?

Opener	Responder
1♦	2♣
2♠	(Forcing for 1 round)

Has opener made a jump rebid?

NO

Has opener rebid a higher ranking suit than his opening suit? i.e. is it a Reverse?

YES

Therefore, Opener's rebid shows 16-19 HC.

– a stronger hand

An exception (There are always some in Bridge!):

Opener	Responder
1♣	1♥
1♠	(Forcing for 1 round)

Although spades are higher ranked than clubs, the bidding is still at the ONE level. In other words, **Responder can still rebid Opener's first bid suit at the 2 level.**

It does still show that Opener has at least 5 cards in clubs and 4 cards in spades – an unbalanced hand but opener has been able to keep the bidding at a low level to give responder 'more bidding space' to describe his hand.

Opener's HCP are unknown at this stage so remember opener can have anything between 11* - 19 HCP! Responder cannot Pass!

(* Meeting the Rule of 20)

OPENER REBIDS HIS OWN SUIT – SHOWS AN UNBALANCED HAND

Opener's rebid is used to show the **shape** and **strength** of his hand.

Opener	Responder
1♥	1♠

If Opener rebids:

- 2♥** shows 11*-15 HCP 5+ suit **(5+ cards in that suit and either unable to bid or doesn't have to a second suit)**
- 3♥** shows 16+ HCP 6+ suit - **NON Forcing** (a stronger, one suited hand)
- 4♥** shows 18-19 HCP 6+ suit **(As above – opener wants to play in a hearts so bids game!)**

REMINDER: OPENER'S DREADED 4,4,4,1 HAND!

♠ AK43

♥ 7

♦ JT76

♣ AQT6

There are always exceptions! Bridge is no different! With a hand of this shape, what do you open? What is your rebid? The guidelines here are:

1. Only open if you hold 13+ HCP *
2. Always open with a minor suit (with both, bid the higher)

Remember, your rebid must still obey the suit change bidding rules!

***Do not open this type of hand with 12 or fewer HCP**

SUMMARY OF OPENER'S REBIDS AFTER NEW SUIT BID BY RESPONDER

- When **opening**, you must always **have your rebid in mind**
- With a fit in partner's i.e. responder's major, support at the appropriate level (Do the maths!**)
- With **no fit** and an **unbalanced hand**:
 - bid your second suit (showing 5:4 minimum distribution) at the appropriate level**
 - or
 - rebid your 5+ card suit at the appropriate level**
- With no fit and a **balanced hand** (15+ HCP), bid NT at the appropriate level
 - i.e. 15-17 rebid 1NT
 - 18-19 rebid 2NT (but after a 2 level response 2NT = 15-19!)

**** See notes above re doing the maths to bid suits at the appropriate level**

MOVING ONTO RESPONDER'S REBID OPTIONS

Responder has to decide where the contract should be taking into account the shape and HCP shown by Opener's bidding as well as the shape and HCP in his own hand.

Responder may:

Pass

If Opener's rebid shows a minimum opening hand and Responder also holds a minimum hand, there is no prospect of Game and Responder should stop the bidding in the 'best' part score contract.

e.g. If Opener has rebid his first bid suit, or Responder has a better 'fit' with Opener's second suit bid (which shows a minimum hand), Pass can be the best option.

NB a **new suit bid** by Opener at the **3 level is forcing** for one round.

Whether to make a Suit or No Trumps Rebid?

- Give preference to one of Opener's suits – Major suit if possible
- Rebid NT with no fit **and** strength in the unbid suit(s) see example below.
- Rebid your own 6+ card suit.

Choice of level in a Suit Re-bid

After Opener's rebid, **Responder should know** Opener's point range (**12-15** or **16-19**) after a 1 level opener and suit rebid by Opener showing an unbalanced hand (at least 5:4 in the bid suits).

Responder can now do the maths for partnership points and judge whether part score or game is possible and in which suit or in NT.

Choice of level in a NT Re-bid

If Opener's Re-bid is NT. **Responder should know** Opener has a balanced hand and his point range (1NT = 15-17 HCP; 2NT = 18-19 HCP; but remember, a 2NT rebid after a 2-level response by Responder now must show 15-19 HCP).

Responder can now do the maths for partnership points and judge whether part score or game is possible and where; in a suit or NT.

LIMIT REBIDS BY RESPONDER

If Responder **Rebids 1NT**, or supports Opener at the 2-level after bidding another suit, then Responder **still shows 6-9 HCP**.

Examples

1)

W	N	E	S
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1♣	P	1♦	P
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West's opening bid shows **11-19** HCP: East can have **6-28** HCP

1♠	P	1NT	P
----	---	-----	---

West rebid still **11-19** HCP: East rebid now shows **6-9** HCP and no 8-card major suit fit.

2)

W	N	E	S
---	---	---	---

1♥	P	1♠	P
----	---	----	---

West opening bid shows **11-19** HCP: East can have **6-28** HCP

2♣	P	2♥	P
----	---	----	---

West's rebid now shows **11-15** HCP: East's rebid now shows **6-9** HCP and with 3 cards in Hearts, a Heart fit, so bids at the lowest level. If Opener's HCP are at the top end for his bid he can invite by rebidding 3♥.

3)

W	N	E	S
---	---	---	---

1♣	P	1♠	P
----	---	----	---

West's opening bid shows **11-19** HCP: East can have **6-28** HCP

2♥	P	2♠	P
----	---	----	---

West's rebid now shows **16+** HCP: East's rebid shows **6-9** HCP and a 6 card spade suit so rebids spades.

NB If Responder bids a new suit after partner's 1 of a suit opening bid, Responder shows 6-28 HCP i.e. an unlimited hand!

INVITATIONAL REBIDS BY RESPONDER

If Responder **rebids 2NT**, or shows support at the 3-level, after bidding another suit then Responder **still shows 10-12 HCP**

Examples

4)

W	N	E	S	
1♥	P	2♣	P	West's opening bid shows 11-19 HCP: East can have 10-28 HCP
2♦	P	2NT	P	West's rebid shows 12-15 HCP: East's rebid shows 10-12 HCP and no 8-card major suit fit

5)

W	N	E	S	
1♣	P	1♥	P	West's opening bid shows 11-19 HCP: East's can have 6-28 HCP
1♠	P	3♠	P	West's rebid still shows 11-19 HCP: East's rebid shows 10-12 HCP and a fit in spades

GAME REBIDS BY RESPONDER

If Responder bids game after having changed suit, Responder **now shows 13+ HCP**.

Examples

6)

W	N	E	S	
1♠	P	2♦	P	West's opening bid shows 11-19 HCP: East can have 10-28 HCP
2♠	P	4♠	P	Now West's rebid shows 12-15 HCP: East has 13+ HCP and a fit in spades so bids to game in spades i.e. partnership has 25+ HCP

7)

W	N	E	S
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1♥	P	1♠	P
----	---	----	---

West's opening bid shows **11-19** HCP: East can have **6-28** HCP

2♣	P	3NT	P
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Now West's rebid shows **12-15** HCP: East has **13+** HCP but no 8-card major suit fit in the partnership so bids to game i.e. the partnership has 25+ HCP so bids game in NT

8)

W	N	E	S
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1♥	P	1♠	P
----	---	----	---

West's opening bid shows **11-19** HCP: East can have **6-28** HCP

3♠	P	4♠	P
----	---	----	---

Now West's rebid shows **16+** HCP and a fit in spades: East has **13+** HCP, and a fit in spades so bids Game in spades

NB In example 8, Opener makes an invitational bid showing his fit with Responder's major.

SUMMARY OF POINT COUNTS NEEDED

Opener's Rebid showed

Responder's Rebid

11-15

6-9	Pass or 1NT or Suit Preference
10-12	Invitational
13+	Bid Game

16-17

6-7	Pass or Suit Preference
8	Invitational
9+	Bid Game

18- 19

6	Invite
7-13	Bid Game
14+	Consider slam (later in course)