

7: Bids and Rebids

We will assume Standard American bidding and will talk mostly about bidding after an opening bid of 1 of a suit. For pairs play, try to avoid playing in a minor suit contract – a makeable notrump contract usually earns more matchpoints. This applies to both part scores and game contracts. Exceptions: when opponents have shown strength in a suit and you have no stoppers; when your hands are highly distributional, with singletons/voids.

Plan ahead! This applies to opener and responder. Before you bid, ask yourself “Do I have a convenient next bid, whatever partner bids?” If the answer is no, you should rethink your bid.

Opening of 1 S/H/D/C usually shows 13-21 points (could be 12 pts and Rule of 20)

Response: 1-level shows 6+ pts; but if responder is passed hand, it is 6-12 pts. For a 2-level response, 11+ pts are needed.

- **Forcing bids** say “Partner, you **must** bid again, even if you don’t really want to.”
- **Invitational bids** say “Please bid (again) if you have something more than you have already shown.”
- **Sign-off bids** say “I have no more interest in bidding further.” Partner is not barred from bidding again, but does so at his/her own risk!

Reversing: A reverse occurs when opener makes a non-jump bid at the 2-level in a suit that ranks higher than his first suit. It usually shows at least 5-4 shape in those suits. In order to reverse, you must have much more than opening strength, typically a minimum of about 16 points. It is forcing for at least one round. A common error is to reverse “accidentally” – don’t do this! Plan ahead! Here are some examples where opener’s second bid is a reverse:

1C – 1S; 2H	If responder prefers clubs, he is forced to the 3-level
1D – 1NT; 2H	Same again. Unless opener has 16+ pts, the 3-level could be too high
1D – 2C – 2H	Opener is not showing extra strength, since responder has shown 11+ pts

Question: What is your opening bid with: ♠ 6 ♥ K83 ♦ QJ95 ♣ AQ872 ?

Opener’s rebid: Try to clarify your range: 13-16 is minimum; 17-18 is medium; 19-21 is maximum. Also, try to say more about your distribution.

You have opened the bidding with 1D. Partner bids 1S (forcing, of course).

What do you need bid 2D?	3D?	
What do you need to bid 2C?	3C?	2H?
What do you need to bid 2S?	3S?	4S?
What do you need to bid 1NT?	2NT?	3NT?

Which of the above bids are forcing?

After you open the bidding with the following hands, partner bids 1H. What was your opening bid and what is your rebid?

♠ 6	♥ K83	♦ QJ95	♣ AQ872
♠ 64	♥ K83	♦ QJ95	♣ AQ87
♠ K543	♥ 3	♦ QJ95	♣ AQ87
♠ 6	♥ K832	♦ QJ95	♣ AQ87
♠ 6	♥ K832	♦ AJ95	♣ AQ87
♠ A	♥ K83	♦ QJ95	♣ AQ872
♠ A	♥ K832	♦ KJ95	♣ AQ87

Open?

Rebid?

If partner had responded 1S to your opening bids above, what would your rebids have been?

In the following bidding sequences the opponents are silent. In each case, what are the allowable bids that could be made where the ? is shown at the end?

1NT – 2NT – ?

1NT – 4NT – ?

1NT – 2D(transfer) – 2H – ?

1NT – 2D(transfer) – 2H – 4H – ?

1NT – 2D(transfer) – 2H – 3H – ?

1NT – 2D(transfer) – 2H – 2NT – ?

1NT – 2D(transfer) – 2H – 3NT – ?

In the following bidding sequences you are the opener. What should your next bid be?

♠ AK9874 ♥ KQ83 ♦ 95 ♣ 7

1S – 1NT – ?(you)

♠ AKJT2 ♥ K82 ♦ 95 ♣ K87

1S – 1NT – ?(you)

In the following bidding sequences you are the responder. What should your next bid be?

♠ 742 ♥ KJ832 ♦ 95 ♣ K73

1D – 1H – 1NT – ?(you)

♠ AQ642 ♥ Q983 ♦ AJ3 ♣ 7

1C – 1S – 1NT – ?(you)

Your partner (p) opened the bidding, which has gone as shown. In each case, what do you know about partner's point count and distribution?

1H(p) – 1S(you) – 1NT(p)

1D(p) – 1H(you) – 2NT(p)

1H(p) – 1S(you) – 3H(p)

1H(p) – 1S(you) – 2H(p)

1D(p) – 1S(you) – 2H(p)

1D(p) – 1S(you) – 2C(p)