

# RESPONDING WHEN PARTNER OPENS 1 OF A SUIT AND YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT SUIT

## Partner opened the bidding with 1♥

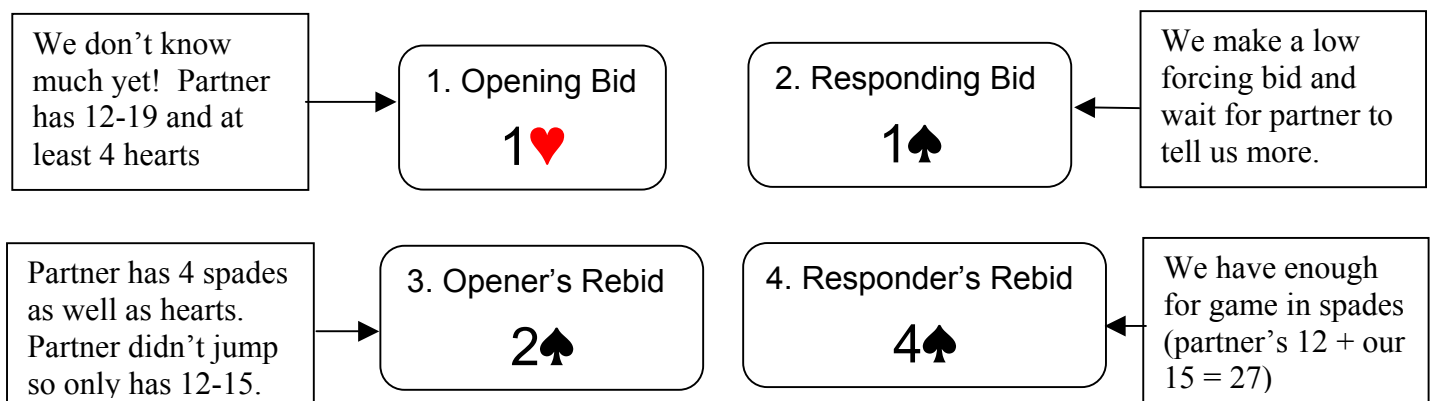
What do we respond with this hand? We have 15 points and partner has at least 12 points so we know there are enough points for 'game', but which contract?

♠	Q J 8 7
♥	K J 5
♦	3 2
♣	A K J 9

We don't know much about partner's hand yet. All we know is that partner has 12-19 points and at least 4 hearts. We need to make a *forcing* bid and listen to partner's rebid which will tell us more:

- what kind of hand partner has - balanced, one suited or two suited
- the strength of partners hand , 12-15 or 16-19.

Our responding bid is going to be 1♠ showing 4 or more cards in spades and at least 6 points. Remember that the first few bids are just exchanging information about the hands. It is often not until the 4<sup>th</sup> bid that we can decide on the final contract.



## TIPS FOR RESPONDING

- When you bid a new suit, keep the bidding as low a possible even if you have strong points. Your bid is forcing so partner **must** bid again.
- Normally bid your longest suit but bid a **four card major** (hearts or spades) at the 1 level if you can, even if you have a longer minor suit (clubs or diamonds)
- A change of suit at the 1 level promises 6+ points (up to 15 or even more!)
- A change of suit at the 2 level (NOT a jump) promises 9+ points (up to 15 or even more!). But don't bid at the 2 level if you can bid at the 1 level – be careful not to jump. A jump change of suit promises 16+ points!
- When you have only 6-9 points and there is nothing you can bid at the 1 level (for example your partner opened 1♠), bid 1NT.