

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

Partner opened the bidding with 1♥

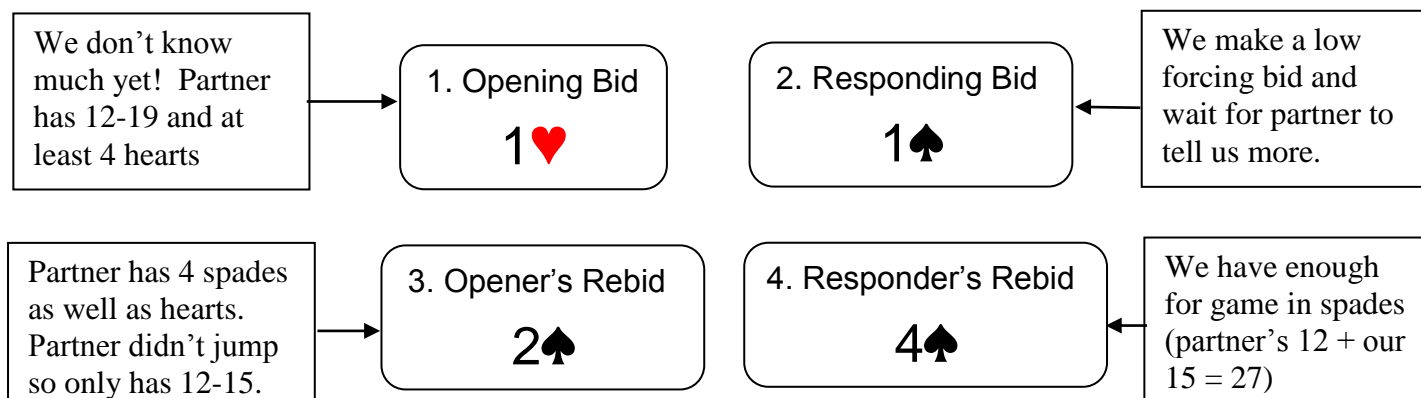
♠	Q J 8 7
♥	K J 5
♦	3 2
♣	A K J 9

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?

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 4th 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 rather than bidding a longer minor suit (clubs or diamonds) at the two level.
- 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.