

Recap : Opening and responding to level 1 bids.

Opening bids at the one level

If you have at least 12 points you can open at the one level.

Open 1NT with 12-14pts and a balanced hand ---- you do not have to bid again unless your partner responds with a forcing bid (Stayman 2C) or an invitational bid (2NT)

Open 1 of a 4 card (or longer) suit intending to rebid in NT with a balanced hand or bidding your suit again if you have 5 cards or more in that suit.

Partner will respond with 6pts (or more).

Then you can make your rebid:-

With a balanced hand and 15-16pts rebid 1NT, 17-18pts rebid 2NT, 19pts rebid 3NT.

With an unbalanced hand rebid your long suit or bid another suit (must have 4 cards !!)

Responding to opener's one level bid

If you have at least 6pts you can respond to openers one level bid.

When opener has bid 1NT – if you have a balanced hand, pass with 6 to 10pts, bid 2NT with 11 or 12pts, bid 3NT with 13pts.

When opener has bid 1NT and you have a weak hand (less than 8pts) and a 5 card suit (or longer) bid your suit (this is the weak take out).

When opener has bid 1NT and you want to find out if they have a major suit – bid 2C (Stayman).

When opener has bid 1 of a suit respond as follows:-

with at least 4 cards in partner's suit, raise partner's suit to the 2 or 3 or 4 level depending on how good your hand is (losing trick count will help).

with at least a 4 card suit and 6pts or more bid 1 of your own suit if you can.

with 6 or 7 pts and no support for partner's suit and if you cannot bid your own suit at the 1 level--- bid 1NT.

with 8pts or more bid 2C or 2D with at least a 4 card suit.

with 8pts or more bid 2H with at least 5 hearts.