

LIMIT BIDS

In order to understand bidding, it's important to know which bids are limited and which are not. A limited bid has a specific range of high-card strength. The moment either the opener or responder makes a limit bid, the partner becomes the captain. Following quiz, decide limit or not, playing a match points using a standard system.

| | Opener | Responder | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1. | 1 Heart | 1 Spade | Neither hand is limited, yet, Opener has 11-plus HCP, And responder has 6-plus HCP. |
| 2. | 1 Diamond 1 Spade | 1 Heart 2 Clubs | Both hands are unlimited, Opener's 1 Spade rebid goes up to a bad 18, responder's use of the 4 th suit is unlimited |
| 3. | 1 Heart 2 clubs | 1 Spade 3 clubs | Opener is unlimited by bidding 2 suits, Responder, having made a raise is limited |
| 4. | 1 Spade 3 clubs | 2 Spades | Responder is limited, but opener is not. Opener can be making a game try or might even have slam on the brain |
| 5. | 1 Club 1 Hearts | 1 Diamond 3 NT | Opener is unlimited (bidding 2 suits) and responder is limited to 13-15 HCP, Note: Most NT bids are limit bids |
| 6. | 1 Diamond 2 Hearts | 1 Heart 2 Spades | Opener is limited (most raises are limit bids), but responder is not |
| 7. | 1 Spade 2 NT | 1 NT | Both hands are limited, Opener has 17-18 and responder 6-10. Yes, it's more than a 3-point range, it's an exception |
| 8. | 1 Spade 2 Hearts | 2 Diamonds 2 NT | Opener is unlimited, having bid 2 suits, but responder is limited. This assumes you're playing a system where 2 diamonds isn't a game force, so responder should be in the 11-12 range. Playing 2/1, both hands are Unlimited until game has been reached. |

An opening bid of 1 heart, however, is considered unlimited because the range is so great. Once can open 1 heart with as few as 11 HCP and up to as many as 20 HCP in some cases.

A limited bid has a specific range of high-card strength, usually a 3 point range. For example, an opening bid of 1 NT can show 15-17 HCP.

Suggest reading Bridge Bulletin article, April 2023, page 54, "Don't Freeze", and we'll discuss it.