

SIMILARITIES of REVERSES and JUMP SHIFTS

Similarities/differences	REVERSE	JUMP SHIFT REBID
1. Unbalanced hand	Yes	Yes
2. At least 5-4 in the bid suits	Yes	Yes
3. Forcing	1 Round	To Game
4. Strength	16-21 HCP	19-21 HCP

Unbalanced hand.

Reverses and jump shifts both promise unbalanced hands. If opener is balanced, he should start with 1 NT or 2 NT or rebid in no trump as follows:

With 12-14 HCP, open one of a suit and rebid 1 NT if no major suit is found

With 15-17 HCP, open 1 NT

With 18-19 HCP, open one of a suit and jump rebid 2 NT if no major-suit fit is found

With 20-21 HCP, open 2 NT

At least 5-4 in two suits.

An unbalanced opener should have at least 9 cards in two suits. It's standard practice to bid your longer suit first, so if you show an unbalanced hand by bidding another suit later in the auction, you are indicating at least 5-4 shape. Examples:

HAND A	HAND B	HAND C
A43	A43	AK3
KQ97	AKJ43	AKJ43
AKJ43	KQ97	KQ97
9	9	9

BIDDING: Hand A: Open 1 diamond and rebid 2 Hearts over partner's 1 Spade response

Hand B: Open 1 Heart and rebid 2 Diamonds over partner's 1 Spade response

Hand C: Open 1 Heart and rebid 3 Diamonds over partner's 1 Spade response

With all 3 example hands, you open your five-card suit and rebid your four-card suit. With Hand A, hearts are higher ranking than diamonds, so you have reversed (showing 17-21 HCP and forcing for 1 round). Hand B, you have not reversed, because your second bid is lower ranking than your first bid suit. Hand C, you have jump shifted to show a maximum hand (19-21 HCP) and created a game force.

Important note: A reverse always promises more cards in the first bid suit than in the second. A jump shift rebid might feature two five-card suits. A3 AKJ43 KQJ97 9 (1 heart-3 diamonds)

		AK643	DEALER – 1 Spade		
		K1053		3 Hearts	
		A5		Pass	
		KQ			
Q852				J10	PASS
AJ42	PASS			Q6	PASS
J1093	PASS			87642	PASS
4				J653	
		97			
		987	1 NT		
		KQ	3 NT		
		A109872			

J of diamonds lead, 3 Hearts by partner was a strong jump shift (forcing to game)
 How do you play this hand?

		A7	DEALER – 1 Diamond		
		AK65		2 Hearts (this is a REVERSE)	
		AKJ983		Your Bid???	
		9			
Q8				K1065	
974	2 Clubs			J102	Pass
Q7	Pass			1054	Pass
AQJ1086				743	
		J9432			
		Q83			
		62			
		K52			

2 Hearts is a reverse, diamonds are longer than hearts, North, what's your bid over 2 spades?

A reverse by the opener occurs when he bids his second suit in such a manner that his partner has to go past the two level to return to opener's first suit.

The term "reverse" describes just the relationship of the second bid to the first: it doesn't describe the meaning. However, the standard meaning – extra values- is not a convention or special agreement. It's basic bridge, and although you can agree that it promises nothing extra, this will make some hands impossible to describe and will propel the auction too high.

If you don't play reverses, then DON'T reverse. When you jump in a suit that you already bid, it's invitational. Examples:

- 1 Club, 1 Spade, 3 Clubs,
- 1 Spade, 1 NT, 3 Spades,
- 1 Club, 1 Diamond, 1NT, 3 D's