

Major Suit Openers and Raises

Opening bids in a major suit require at least 13 HCP (count length) and at least a five-card or longer suit. With five cards in both major suits you should open with 1S and bid hearts the next time. As long as you have the necessary HCPs the quality of the major does not matter so much.

In order to raise partner's major suit opening bid you need to have at least three card support (to guarantee an eight-card fit). You should generally try to raise partner with support unless you have a very good suit of your own that you want to bid first and then support partner later. Once you determine that you have the length to support partner's suit, how high that you raise is determined by your HCPs.

- a) Simple raise(1H-2H) – 6-9 HCP
- b) Jump raise(1H-3H) – 10-12 HCP
- c) Double jump(1H-4H) – 13-15 HCP

With 16 HCP or more you should bid a new suit and then support partner later. When supporting partner, since you know you have at least an eight-card fit you may add for length and distribution.

What would you open the bidding with?

- a) K876 AKQ7 J87 98
- b) J7654 AK87 AK7 7
- c) 98763 AKJ65 A8 8
- d) 7 AKJT76 K87 876
- e) K8 AKQ7 KJ762 54

What would you respond if partner opens 1H?

- a) 9876 A98 Q876 98
- b) K8765 8 7654 874
- c) 76 654 AK876 987
- d) K7 Q87 AQ76 8762
- e) A7 Q876 8 A98762