

Opening Bids

High Card Points- Ace is 4, King is 3, Queen is 2, and Jack is 1. In addition to high cards we add 1 extra point for each card in a suit of 5 or more. This gives us our total points for each hand. This is a simple method of counting for both high cards and for distribution. As you become more experienced, you will mentally adjust this system slightly. For example in this system jacks are overrated and aces are underrated. Also, an ace is better than two queens. We will reevaluate our hand due to the bidding. That means if we find a major suit fit we may also then add for shortness.

In each of the following hands how many total points do you have?

- a) KJ76 AQ76 J87 Q2
- b) 87654 AK62 AQ3 5
- c) Q7632 AKQ76 93 6
- d) KQJ765 AJ T76 2
- e) AQ73 98 AJT7 AT6
- f) AT K65 AQJ76 Q65
- g) QJ K765 QJ87 QJ7
- h) AK5432 5 A7654 8

Major Suit Opening Bids (1H/1S)

Requirements:

- a) At least 5 cards in the suit
- b) 13 or more total points (you may open with a good hand with 12 total points)

Responses:

- a) Raise partner to the 2 level with 6-9 total points and at least 3 card support
- b) Jump raise partner to the 3 level with 10-12 total points and at least 3 card support
- c) Bid a new suit at the 2 level with at least 10 total points
- d) Bid 1NT without 3 card support and 6-9 total points
- e) Bid 3NT without 3 card support and 13-15 total points
- f) Pass with 0-5 total points

This means that if partner opens with a major and you have at least 6 or more points you should respond with some bid and NOT pass.