

Overcalls

Once an opponent has opened the bidding with a suit or no trump bid at whatever level, your side can no longer also open the bidding. You may want to and have enough HCPs and a good enough suit to do so, but once the other side has bid you cannot also open the bidding. The bidding has already been opened. You may still bid, but the requirements are different. Why would you want to bid once an opponent has already shown a hand of at least 13+ HCP?

- a) your side may have a majority of the points and you may want to get the bid
- b) you may want to describe your hand so that partner may be able to know what to do as a defender, such as what suit to lead
- c) you may want to make it harder for the opponents to bid to their best contract
- d) you may want to push them to a contract that they cannot make
- e) you may want to sacrifice

Requirements for making an Overcall

- a) a good quality suit of at least five or more cards
- b) at the 1 level at least 8 or more HCP and at the 2 level at least 10 or more HCP
- c) an overcall of 1NT shows 15-17 HCP with some high cards in the opponent's bid suit

What would you do with the following after RHO opens 1D?

- a) J7652 AK7 8762 8
- b) AKJ76 987 8765 8
- c) QJT65 A87 A65 87
- d) A54 76 A32 KQT65
- e) K8 Q76 AK87 KJ87

Responses when partner Overcalls

- a) Raise partner with 3 card or more support
- b) Bid a new suit with a good 5 card or longer suit
- c) Bid NT with no support and stoppers in the opponent's suit and 8-10 HCP or jump in NT with 11-13 HCP

When partner overcalls do not worry so much about your HCPs. If you can support partner's suit, try to raise. Just keep in mind that partner does not have to have the strength for an opening one bid to overcall.

What would you do after 1C-1H-P-? with the following?

- a) 87 K76 A765 9876
- b) KQ765 8 A654 876
- c) K76 65 QJ76 KJ76