

Responding to Partner's Opening 1H/1S

Anytime partner opens the bidding and your RHO passes you should respond with 6 or more HCP. You want to keep the bidding open for at least one round in case partner has a hand worth 20 or so HCP that might produce a game. With support for partner's suit you may want to raise, although you do not have to do so. What are some other choices that will keep the bidding open. You may want to bid a new suit. A change of suits by the **responder** is forcing. This means that the opener **must** bid again. Any new suit bid may be made on a four-card suit and if it can be made at the one level (1H-P-1S) you only need the minimum 6 HCP to respond. If the suit must be bid at the two level (1H-P-2D) you need to have at least 10 HCP because you are increasing the level. The other choice with enough to respond but not enough to bid at the 2 level and no support for partner's suit is to bid 1NT. That bid shows about 6-9 HCP without support for partner's suit. You may want to describe your hand by changing suits first, even though you have some support for partner. For example: With 987 K7 AKJ762 87 and partner opened 1S, you could respond 2D and then raise Spades later.

What should you respond if partner opens 1H?

- a) K876 87 K8762 87
- b) K87 65 J876 QJ87
- c) K82 9 9876 AK654
- d) A87632 9 9876 98

e) KJ6 76 AK87 QJ65

f) AK87 K765 543 76