

Responding to partner's overcall without support

With a poor hand PASS!!!

Don't bid just because your partner has bid or you don't like partner's suit.

Do not try to rescue partner even if you have a void in their suit.

Partner	You
QT3	K74
KQJT73	-
3	Q98764
AQ8	9742

(1C) 1S (P) ?

Pass. Here 1H is a much better contract than 2D, even with a 6 card suit. It is also worth noting that 2D here is forcing so bidding with this poor hand will get your side into lots of trouble!

With less than 8 HCP and no support for partner you should pass.

With some values (8+HCP) bid your own 5-card suit (remember partner could still have as much as 16/17 for their overcall so game maybe possible).

Bidding a new suit

A change of suit by advancer is FORCING for one round (unless advancer is a passed hand).

(1D) 1H (P) 1S *Shows 8+HCP and 5 spades*

You might have a hand that looks like this:

KJ9764
8
A87
Q92

How does the auction continue?

With a minimum hand, overcaller rebids their suit, raises advancer's suit at the cheapest level or bids NT with a stopper in opener's suit.

Overcaller rebidding their suit or a single raise of partner's suit shows a weak hand.

A rebid by overcaller of their suit does NOT promise extra length .

Partner	You
T8	KJ976
KQJT72	8
J3	A874
K83	Q92

(1D) 1H (P) 1S

(P) 2H All pass

Partner	You
T83	KJ976
KQJT7	8
K3	A874
J83	Q92

(1D) 1H (P) 1S

(P) 2S All pass

Bidding no trumps

NT at the cheapest level by advancer shows a stopper in opener's suit, a balanced/semi-balanced hand and 8-11HCP, while a jump to 2NT by advancer shows 12-14HCP.

You MUST have at least one stopper in the opponent's suit.

Note the HCP range for a 1NT or a 2NT response here is stronger than it would be if partner had opened the bidding. This is because partner's hand may be weaker for an overcall than to open the bidding.

Where the overcaller has bid a major, a no trump bid denies 3 card support.

You might have a hand that looks like this:

84
KQ75
QJ86
KT3

What if partner has overcalled at the two level?

An overcall at the two level shows a reasonable hand – at least 12+HCP so 2NT by advancer would show about 8 – 11HCP, a balanced or semi-balanced hand, deny 3 card support for partner's suit and at least one stopper (preferably two) in the opponent's suit.

What if advancer is a passed hand?

If advancer is a passed hand, a change of suit shows some values (8 – 11HCP) but is not forcing.

What if RHO bids?

At the one level, you can just bid your suit or NT as you would have if responder had passed.

Need to be careful bidding a new suit at the three level with a weak hand, particularly if vulnerable.

You may be about to use a **responsive double** where you have the two unbid suits and a weakish hand.

(1D) 1H (2D) x *Shows values and spades and clubs*

You might have a hand like this:

Q2
KJ84
94
KT764

(1D) 1S (2D) ?