

The Reverse Bidding Convention

30 minute mini lesson

What is a Reverse

- In bridge, a reverse is a type of bid by opener that shows extra strength.
- It shows a moderately strong opening hand (17 to 19+ points) and an unbalanced hand.

North East South West

1  pass 1  pass

2 

What is a Reverse?

- In general, a reverse (with a couple of exceptions) strongly suggests that your first suit is longer than your second suit.

 4

 A K 3 2

 K 10 5

 A K 8 3 4

Rules for Reversing

- Your hand is unbalanced, so you cannot make a no trump rebid.
- You do not have 4-card support for partner's major suit.
- Your second suit is of higher rank than your first suit.
- Your second suit is shorter than your first suit.(with a couple of relatively rare exceptions).
- You have a strong hand worth 16+ (or 17+) points.

Two Exceptions to the Distribution Requirements





♠ 4
♥ A K 3 2
♦ K J 10 5
♣ A K 8 3

1-4-4-4 distribution is
a difficult hand to bid.

♠ 5 2
♥ A K J 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A K Q 3

2-4-3-4 or 3-4-2-4
Distribution.

Example 1

 4
 A K 3 2
 K Q J 10 5
 A 8 3

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1 	pass
2 			

Example 2

♠ K J 3

♥ 4

♦ A K J 3


♣ A Q 10 8 3

North East South West




1 ♣ pass 1 ♠ pass

2 ♦

Example 3

		North East South West			
					
	A K 8 4	1 	pass	1 	pass
	K Q 3	2 			
	A Q 10 8 5 3				





Example 4

		North	East	South	West
	K Q J 8				
	A K 10 5 3	1 	pass	2 	pass
	A 4 2	2 			
	3				




Responding to a Reverse

- A reverse is forcing for one round. Not necessarily forcing to game.
- However, a reverse shows a good hand, so responder must be aware.





Responding to a Reverse (1)

- With a weak hand (6-8 points), you might:
 - With 3 card support raise partner's first suit.
 - North East South West
 - 1  pass 1  pass
 - 2  pass 3 
- Shows a weak hand.
- Non-forcing, but partner may bid on.





Responding to a Reverse (2)

- With a weak hand (6-8 points), you might:
 - With a control in the unbid suit bid 2 no trump.
 - North East South West
 - 1  pass 1  pass
 - 2  pass 2nt
- Shows a control in diamonds.
- Non-forcing, but partner may bid on.

Responding to a Reverse (3)





- With a weak hand (6-8 points), you might:
 - With 4-card support make a simple raise of partner's second suit.
 - North East South West
 - 1  pass 1  pass
 - 2  pass 3 
- Shows 4-card support for diamonds.
- Non-forcing, but partner may bid on.

Responding to a Reverse (4)

- With a weak hand (6-8 points), you might:
 - With 5+ cards and neither of the first two options available, you can rebid your suit.
 - North East South West
 - 1  pass 1  pass
 - 2  pass 2 
- Shows at least 5 spades.
- Non-forcing, but partner may bid on.

Responding to a Reverse (5)




- With a strong hand (9+ points).
 - With 3+ card support, jump raise partner's first suit.

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1 	pass
2 	pass	4 	

- 4  here is forcing to game.

Responding to a Reverse (6)





- With a strong hand (9+ points).
 - With 9-12 points and a control in the 4th suit, bid 3nt.

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1 	pass
2 	pass	3nt	

- You intend to play 3 no trump, but partner might bid on to try for slam.

Responding to a Reverse (7)





- With a strong hand (9+ points).
 - With 4-card support, you might jump raise partner's second suit.


North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1 	pass
2 	pass	4 	

- 4  is to play, but partner might go on to look for a slam.

Responding to a Reverse (8)

- With a strong hand (9+ points).
- With 4 cards in the unbid suit, bid that suit.

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1 	pass
2 	pass	2 	

- 2  is forcing to game and shows 5 spades and 4 hearts. Partner will know your distribution and decide what to do.

Responding With 6-8 points

- **Non-forcing responses**
- Support partner's first suit.
- Support partner's second suit.
- Bid 2 no trump.
- Rebid your suit.

Responding With 9+ Points

- **Forcing to game responses.**
- Jump raise partner's first suit
- Jump raise partner's second suit.
- Bid 3 no trump.
- Bid the 4th suit.