

Responding to Partners Double or Overcall

After partners **double** you can do 1 of 4 things;

1. Pass but only if there has been an intermediate bid or you are SURE that you can take the opponents off in their suit. You need at least 6 good cards in their suit and a couple of aces.
EG

Eg	Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1	1♥	X	P	PASS	You have AQJ853 in hearts
2	1♥	X	1NT	PASS	You have less than 10 pts. There is no danger of playing in 1♥*.

2. You can bid your longest suit at the minimum level. (this promises 0-9 TPs and may only be 4 cards in length.) If your 4 card suit is the oppositions suit and you are balanced you can bid NT.

Eg	Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1	1♥	X	P	2♣	You must bid here even with 0 pts. P will pass unless he has 16 Tps. You may only have 4 clubs
2	1♥	X	P	1NT	Your best suit is Hearts

3. You can make a jump bid in your best suit. (This may still only have 4 cards in length but will have 10-11 Tps.).

Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1♥	X	P	2♠	Here you have 4 spades or better and about 10-11 TPs. You must have at least a 7 card fit because partner has to have at least 3 cards in every suit except oppositions

4. You can bid the oppositions suit. This is artificial because you do not have that suit. It shows an opening hand and is forcing to game.

Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1♥	X	P	2♥	You have an opening hand as well as partner. You are going to game. Use the rest of the bidding space to determine the best contract

After partners **Overcall** you can do 1 of 4 things;

1. Pass. Terrible hand cant even compete. Probably less than eight points and no fit for partner.

Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1♣	1♦	P	P	
			♠ 542	Not enough pts to bid at 2 level and terrible suit anyway.
			♥ A43	Cant support partner.
			♦ 74	YUK
			♣ Q8743	

2. Bid your own suit. You need at least 5 cards in your suit and 8 pts if you can bid it at the 1 level but if you have to go to the 2 level you need 10+.

Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1♥	1♠	P	2♣	
			♠ 54	A good 6 card suit. Even if you do not win the contract partner will know what to lead.
			♥ A43	
			♦ 74	
			♣ AQJ874	

3. Raise partners suit. Usually 6-10TPs. With 4 card support bid to the 3 level.

Eg	Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1.	1♣	1♥	1♠	3♥	
				♠ 54	4 card support for partner, good side suit but don't forget partner may only have 8 pts. Opp looks to have spade fit. Make them guess
				♥ A863	
				♦ AJ86	
				♣ 742	
2.	1♣	1♥	2♣	2♥	
				♠ 954	Only have 3 card support so be content with 2 ♥.
				♥ A86	
				♦ AJ86	
				♣ 874	

4. Bid the oppositions suit. Very constructive bid and asks partner how strong the overcall is. It requires 10+TPs if you have a fit with partner and 12 pts if no fit (looking for NT).

Eg	Opp	Partner	Opp	You	Notes
1.	1♣	1♥	P	2♣	
				♠ T54	This asks partner if he has an opening hand. Remember his range is 8-15 pts. If he has <12pts he will repeat hearts at lowest level. >12 he will bid something else to show a feature of his hand. You have a fit and want to know whether to bid 4 hearts or not
				♥ AQ3	
				♦ AJ86	
				♣ 974	
	1♣	1♥	1♠	2♣	
				♠ QJ54	This asks partner if he has an opening hand. You are looking for NT.
				♥ 8	
				♦ AJ86	
				♣ KJ74	