# Play Session 3 - One-Level Opening Bids

## The Auction

Each suit has a ranking order. When you make a bid during the auction, you must ensure that it is higher than the previous bid, just as you would in any auction. You are now trying to reach a contract at the best level for your side. The first person to make a bid (not pass) becomes the **OPENER**. Opener’s partner is called the **RESPONDER**.

## Ranking of Suits

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No Trumps | NT |  |
| Spades |  | Spades and Hearts are also called the  **MAJOR** suits |
| Hearts |  |
| Diamonds |  | Diamonds and Clubs are also called the **MINOR** suits |
| Clubs |  |

**The Levels of Bidding**

1**** 1**** 1**** 1**** 1NT 2**** 2**** 2**** 2**** 2NT ……. 7NT

You must make 6 tricks before you start to score in bridge – therefore: 1- level contracts must make 1+6 tricks = 7 tricks

2- level contracts must make 2+6 tricks = 8 tricks ... and so on

The lowest bid you can make is 1**** = 7 tricks The highest bid you can make is 7NT = 13 tricks

## Opener’s 1st Bid

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1**** | 12-19 | 4+ clubs |
| 1**** | 12-19 | 4+ diamonds |
| 1**** | 12-19 | 4+ hearts |
| 1**** | 12-19 | 4+ spades |
| **1NT** | **12-14** | **Balanced Hand** (special case, already covered) |

It is important to bid your suits in the correct order so you can describe your hand accurately to your partner.

Use the following rules:

## Basic Opening Bid Rules

The order in which you bid your suits is very important. Here are the rules:

* + Longest suit first
  + Lower ranking 4-card suit
  + Higher ranking 5-card suit

**Further Bidding**

Responder needs 6+ **HCP’S** to bid (half of what opener needs to open)

Try to find a fit if possible and remember Game needs **25** points between the two hands. If you do not have a **fit** – bid No Trumps.

You have 3 choices of level; minimum, close to Game and enough for Game.

Responder’s Limit Bids

# Responder has choices:

The opener’s partner, the responder, needs only 6 **HCP** to enter the auction. Responder has 3 choices:

* Support bids of partner’s suit – **limit** raise, not forcing
* No Trump bids – **limit** bids, not forcing - *covered in later sessions*
* Bid a new suit – unlimited, **forcing** for 1 round – *covered in later sessions*
* Limit bids are very useful as they are specific in strength and length.

# Responder’s Limit Raises

**Supporting Partner’s Suit Opening (4+ card support)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1♥ – 2♥ | 6-9 | 4+ support |
| 3♥ | 10-12 | 4+ support |
| 4♥ | 13 + | 4+ support |

**Opener’s Rebid after a Limit Raise**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| After 1♥ – 2♥ |  |
| Pass | 12-15 |
| 3♥ | 16-17 |
| 4♥ | 18-19 |
| After 1♥ – 3♥ |  |
| Pass | 12-13 |
| 4♥ | 14+ |