

Responding to your partner's bid

When your Partner bids 1♥ (or 1♠) he is telling you that he hold 5 cards in the bid suit, 10+ HCP for a major suit and at least 2 ½ quick tricks. Assume you hold 5♥ (or 5♠) in your hand (respectively). Calculate your response based on the "Ranges" chart in Lesson 1.

Opener's Hand		HCP
♠	K32	3
♥	AKJ54	8
♦	Q32	2
♣	T98	0
Total HCP ->		13

Your Hand		HCP	DIST	SUPP
♠	JT865	1	1	0
♥	T9762	0	0	2
♦	K **	3	0	0
♣	K9	3	1	0
Evaluated Pts ->		7	2	2

Because you held 3+ cards in the bid suit, you can re-evaluate your hand. In additions to the high card points (HCP) you count distributional points (DIST), extra length in outside suits (support points). Refer to the "Support & Distribution Points" in Lesson 1.

When you add HCP, distributional points and support points, you are trying to get to 25 points in your combined hands. This is enough to bid 4♥ or 4♠ which is "game" in a major suit and earns bonus points. Scoring is discussed in future lessons.

Exercise 2-1: What would you bid with the following hands if your partner bid 1♠? (If you don't have an 8 card fit with your partner, but have 6-9 HCP, you will respond 1NT (*no trump*)).

#1	Answer
♠ Q32	
♥ K9542	
♦ A2	
♣ JT9	

#2	Answer
♠ 9543	
♥ (void)	
♦ KQ2	
♣ QJ7452	

#3	Answer
♠ A3	
♥ KJT3	
♦ 8732	
♣ T72	

#4	Answer
♠ K52	
♥ Q982	
♦ 963	
♣ T98	

#5	Answer
♠ KQ54	
♥ T2	
♦ 873	
♣ 7542	

#6	Answer
♠ AQ2	
♥ QT5	
♦ 9853	
♣ KJ3	

Things to bear in mind:

- Do not count distribution points in no-trump auctions.
- Do not count distribution or support point unless you have an 8 card fit with partner.
- Singleton NON-ACE honors should be counted for HCP but not shortness.