

RESPONDING TO PARTNER'S OVERCALL AND TAKE-OUT DOUBLE

After Your Partner Overcalls

1. Responding to Partner's overcall is different from responding to a one-level opening bid. There is no requirement to answer with six or more points, and a new suit by the Responder is not even forcing.
2. With three or more cards in the Overcaller's suit, the highest priority is to raise it, especially if Partner's suit be one of the Majors. After a 1-level overcall, it takes 6-10 points to raise to the 2-level, and 11-12 points to raise to the 3-level. After a 2-level overcall, it takes 8-11 points to raise to the 3-level.
3. Without adequate support for the Overcaller's suit (fewer than three cards) the Responder has to proceed with caution. A new suit at the 1-level would promise eight or more points and a very good 5-card or longer suit. A new suit at the 2-level would promise 10 or more points. Responding with an overcall with a Major suit of one's own does not deny support for Partner's Minor suit overcall, but responding with a Minor suit, usually denies support for Partner's Major suit overcall. A 1-NT response would show a balanced hand with 8-10 high-card points and stoppers in the other suits, with particular emphasis on the suit bid by the Opponents.
4. An artificial bid of the Opponents bid suit shows trump support for Partner's overcalled suit, with a limited raise or better in support of Partner such that the partnership has game likelihood if overcaller has an opening bid.

Example: 1D 1H P "2D"

After Your Partner Doubles

1. A takeout double forces the Responder to bid, even with zero points.
2. Answer a takeout double by choosing an unbid suit, according to the size of the hand. With 0-8 high-card points select a suit at the lowest available level. With 9-11 high-card points skip a level of bidding. (e.g., 1D - X - P - 2H)
3. The criterion for picking a suit is length. Given a choice between long suits, however, preference is usually given to a Major suit rather than to a Minor suit.
4. A response of 1-NT promises 8-10 high-card points, a balanced hand with stoppers in the Opponent's suit, and no 4-card Major suit to bid.
5. A Cue-Bid in the Opponent's suit shows game values and asks the Doubler to choose the suit, and a Game-Level response also shows opening count.