

LESSON 5: STUDENT NOTES

Responder's Limited Bids and Opener's Rebids

Responder has choices:

After a suit opening bid, responder needs only 6 HCP to enter the auction. Some of responder's available bids are limited i.e. they describe her/his HCP strength reasonably accurately, while others are unlimited i.e. they require opener to bid again, on the way to finding the most appropriate contract. Broadly speaking, responder has 3 choices:

- Support partner's major suit – a raise to the 2-, 3- or 4-level (limited)
- Bid some number of notrump – these bids deny 3+ support for opener's major suit (limited)
- Bid a new suit – these bids always promise 4+ cards (or 5+ in some auctions) and are **forcing** for one further round of bidding (unlimited)

Limited bids (also called limit bids) are useful after an opening of 1♥ or 1♠, because they are relatively specific in terms of strength and number of cards in partner's major suit.

Responder with 3+ card support for opener's major suit should re-assess his/her hand based on shortage in other suits. With exactly 3-card support, add 1 point for a doubleton, 2 for a singleton (but not a singleton honour) and 3 for a void; with 4+ support, add 1 point for a doubleton, 3 for a singleton and 5 for a void. These shortages make it possible to ruff losers in responder's hand and the adjusted count is referred to as "total points" (TP as distinct from HCP). With a fit and a shortage, responder uses TP rather than HCP to determine how high to bid.

Responder's Limit Raises

1♥ – 2♥	6-10 TP	3+ card support
3♥	(10)11-12 TP	3+ card support
4♥	up to 12 TP	5+ support

Note the 1♥ – 4♥ raise. It does *not* show extra values but instead shows a limited hand which has extra playing strength because of extra trumps. Hands with 13+ TP and 3+ card support for opener's major are bid differently to at least reach game – see below.

Opener's Rebid after a Limit Raise

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

These HCP ranges are an over-simplification and do not take account of opener's playing strength based on extra length in the suit opened, a second suit or a singleton/void.

How does responder get to game with support and a strong hand? Typically by first making an unlimited bid of a new suit, then either jumping to game (with say 13-15 TP) or making another forcing bid with a very strong hand.

Responder's Limit NT Bids

1♥ – 1NT	6-10 HCP	denies 3+ support
2NT	11-12 HCP	denies 3+ support
3NT	13-15 HCP	denies 3+ support

Opener's Rebid after a NT Limit Response

After 1♥ – 1NT		
Pass/rebid suit at min level	12-15 HCP	2♥ shows a 6+ suit
New suit	12-17 HCP	Shows 5(+) hearts and a 4+ new suit
2NT/3♥	16-17 HCP	3♥ shows a 6+ suit
3NT/4♥	18-19 HCP	4♥ shows a 6+ suit
After 1♥ – 2NT		
Pass/rebid suit at min level	12-13 HCP	3♥ shows a 6+ suit
New suit	14+ HCP	Shows 5(+) hearts and a 4+ new suit
3NT/4♥	14+ HCP	4♥ shows a 6+ suit

Once again, these ranges are just a guide as there will be hands with extra playing strength that can make game with fewer HCP.

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