

## One No Trump Response (6-10)

This is my favourite bid in bridge.

Most of the time, we will bid No Trumps with balanced hands and bid suits if we have unbalanced hands. Sometimes, we might settle for Three No Trumps with an unbalanced hand when it becomes clear that our partner has strength in our short suits and we have the points for game.

### The Exception -1NT Response doesn't have to be balanced!

When our partner opens the bidding at the one level, we *must* respond if we have six or more High Card Points. However, we do not want to venture up into the Two level unless we have found a fit or we are responding with Eleven or more High Card Points.

This creates a problem for us. What do we do if we don't have a fit, we have less than eleven points, but our long suit is lower ranked than opener's? It sounds like we will have to break one of our rules. The solution is the One No Trump response. It says:

"I don't have a fit or I would raise. I have six or more points, so I have to bid. But I can't bid my suit at the two level because I have less than Eleven points. Therefore, **I have 6-10 HCPs and a suit ranked below yours. I also probably don't have a four card major I can bid at the one level**"

The beauty of the One No Trump response is that it will put a dampener on the auction when it matters. Your partner may well have a great hand – learning that you don't have too many points and don't have a fit may well calm her down and keep her at a safe level.

One other advantage is that often in these hands, One No Trump is the last making contract. Although your hand may be unsuited for No Trumps, your partner has the bulk of your side's resources. She may well choose to pass and there will often be no better contract available.

### Some Example Hands

Partner Opens 1D

♠ T6  
♥ K93  
♦ 76  
♣ AT8742

Respond 1NT

Partner Opens 1H

♠ KQ3  
♥ T  
♦ KJT932  
♣ T65

Respond 1NT

Partner Opens 1D

♠ 9842  
♥ 3  
♦ K4  
♣ QJ9532

Respond 1S!

Partner Opens 1S

♠ void  
♥ QJT9752  
♦ K32  
♣ 954

Respond 1NT

Notice that quite often you are showing a suit (or at least narrowing down what it might be) without actually bidding it.

In the first hand, our partner knows we don't have Hearts or Spades (or we would respond One of those) so our 1NT response over One Diamond always shows Clubs, even though we haven't bid it.

In the second hand, opposite a One Heart Opening, our partner will know that we have a minor (but won't know from our bid which it is).

In the fourth hand, when partner opens One Spade, we are giving no information other than our weakness.

Note the third hand. Because we have such a terrible hand, I am really not going to bid very often. I could bid One No Trump to show my weakness, but if any good is going to come out of this hand it will be because we have a Spade fit. We should bid our four card major on the way through, just in case.