

Responding to One No Trump

When your partner opens One No Trump you are in an excellent position to judge whether or not you can make game. With 10+ HCP you should definitely bid game. With 9 you should invite and with 8 or less you should aim to play in a partscore.

Generally, you should probably play in No Trumps *unless you have a major suit fit*. Our bidding systems are designed to find Major fits as follows.

With at least One Four Card Major

With a four card major, what we care about is whether our partner also has four cards in the suit. We should use the stayman convention and bid Two Clubs.

♠ 92	♠ AK98	♠ AT54	♠ KJ52
♥ KQT3	♥ 2	♥ A976	♥ KJ72
♦ 876	♦ KQ865	♦ 98	♦ T8
♣ AT76	♣ 742	♣ JT8	♣ 542
Invitational 2C then 2N/3H	Game forcing 2C then 3N/4S	Invitational 2C then 2N/3M	Game is unlikely Pass

If you find a fit, raising to the three level is invitational and shows 9 Total Points. (With more than that you should raise the suit to game). With no fit you should bid Two No Trumps with an invitational hand or Three No Trumps with ten or more HCPs.

With a Five Card Major

Holding five or more cards in a major, you can show this by *transferring* to your suit. You do this by bidding the suit below your suit. Partner will then complete the transfer and you can show how strong you are by passing with zero to eight, bidding Two No Trumps or Three of your Major with Nine points and bidding Three no Trumps or Four of your major with ten or more points.

♠ AKJ98	♠ K5	♠ KQJ643	♠ A
♥ 32	♥ QJT94	♥ 3	♥ AQJ642
♦ 987	♦ K43	♦ T94	♦ 985
♣ 643	♣ Q87	♣ 765	♣ 642
2H then pass	2D then 3N	2H then 3S	2D then 4H

Transferring and then bidding no trumps shows a five card suit (giving your partner a choice of contract). Transferring and then raising your own suit shows six or more. We definitely have a fit in a major and so should play there.

With no Four or Five Card Major

- With no major suit and zero to eight HCPs, you should pass. It may not be the best contract but it is hard to find anything better.
- With no major suit and nine HCPs, you should raise One No Trumps to Two No Trumps. Partner will then bid game with a maximum (seventeen) and pass with a minimum (fifteen).
- With no major suit and ten or more HCPs, you should raise One No Trump to Three No Trumps.

Rarely, you may be in a position to bid slam. Regardless, remember that *responder* is in charge when opener bids One No Trump. You have all the information you will need to determine what is likely to be the best contract.