

## Responding To One-of-a-Suit

When our partner opens the bidding, the most common opening will be One-of-a-Suit. Remember that if they open One Heart or One Spade, they will be showing at least five cards in that suit. But if they open One Club or One Diamond, they may have as few as three.

### Responding to One Heart/One Spade

With a fit and more than five points, we can relax. We will raise our partner's opening bid by bidding the same suit. Since we have found a fit, we can now add in points for shortage and bid on Total Points rather than just High Card Points. Our responses will be:

With 6-10 TP's raise to Two      With 11-12 TP's raise to Three      With 13+ TP's raise directly to game

If we haven't found a fit we should bid a suit of our own. We should bid our **longest** suits first but we should follow the responder's golden rule:

Responding at the One level shows 6+ HCP, Responding at the Two level shows 11+ HCP.  
Thus we may need to respond One No Trump, showing 6-10 HCP, no fit and not necessarily balanced.

**New suits by responder are FORCING. So we never need to jump. Just bid a new suit at the cheapest level and the opener MUST bid again.**

### Responding to One Club/One Diamond

Here we may well raise with a fit, but we need to remember that our partner might only have three cards in the suit they've opened. That means we need FIVE in order to make a direct raise. Also, we shouldn't be quick to raise if we have a four card major. Remember that our partner could have a four card major as well (she opened but is only allowed to open a major with five cards in that suit).

Raising a minor immediately shows the same as raising a major except it promises five card support instead of three. As before, our responses will be:

With 6-10 TP's raise to Two      With 11-12 TP's raise to Three      With 13+ TP's raise directly to game

If we haven't found a fit we should bid a suit of our own. We should bid our **longest** suits first but we should follow the responder's golden rule:

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**Directly raising a minor denies a four card major. Holding four Hearts or four Spades, we should show those first, even if we have found a minor fit.**

Some sample hands

♠ K5	♠ T72	♠ 3	♠ AKQT
♥ T863	♥ 5	♥ K54	♥ 7
♦ Q6	♦ J42	♦ JT632	♦ QT7652
♣ KQT86	♣ AQT732	♣ KQ76	♣ K2
1C:1H	1D:1NT	1D:3D	1C:1D

### Responding Two No Trumps or Three No Trumps

If we respond directly in No Trumps it shows **no four card major** (even a bad one!) and:

One No Trump (6-10 HCP)      Two No Trump (11-12 HCP)      Three No Trump (13-15 HCP)