

# 1-Level Opening Bids

## Lesson Content

Auction, Ranking of suits

Opening at the 1-level – **suits only** – what do you need? Opening Bid Rules

Responder needs 6+ and is free to do what they want – with emphasis on a **FIT**

## Main Points to Emphasise

Strength necessary to open – 12-19

Rules of choosing the correct suit to open - longest suit, lowest of 4 card suits, etc

Best contract at best level – partscore, game or slam – notion of bonus for game

Strength necessary to respond – 6+ (half of the opener's requirements)

## Lesson Progression

Revise finding a fit – stress the majors

Revise best contract at correct level – partscore, game.

We need to combine our resources of points and suits to find the best contract.

How do we find out? **We have an auction.**

## Describe the auction

Starts with the dealer, (printed on the board)

Opener - first to make a bid, (may not be the dealer) - opener's partner is the Responder

Opener needs between 12-19 HCP (high card points) to make the first bid.

As with any auction, you have to start at a sensible level.

## Where to start?

Opener needs between 12-19 HCP

1<sup>st</sup> bid is at the 1-level, but this actually means you have to make **7** tricks. **7** is more than half. You always need to **add six to the nominated bid**. You may need to take time here as this is a difficult concept for many students to grasp.

## Demonstrate this by bidding Hand 1 – who opens & with what?

Ask North why they made that particular bid – talk with the class about what makes a good suit – length before strength etc.

## Which suit to open – there are rules

- Longest
- Lower ranking 4-card suit
- Higher ranking 5-card suit

## Responder

Responder needs a minimum of 6+ **HCP** - half of the opener's minimum HCP

What can the responder do? Find a fit, choose partscore or game. *Otherwise improvise!*

Play hands 1-4

Supper time

**Tip 1: Play of the Hand: Drawing Trumps**

Get the room to revisit board 2 ± allow the auction to take place and then stop.  
Suggest they play the diamond suit first before playing hearts (trumps).  
And then ask "would it have been better to have played trumps first?"  
Go through the 3 points of the tip involving how to play trumps

Play the rest of the hands

**Keep your talking to a minimum**