

SAME SUIT RESPONSES TO 1 OF A SUIT

INTRODUCTION

This handout is a brief overview of supporting when partner opens 1 of a suit. For full information see the [course on responding](#).

When we are responding to an opening bid of 1 of a suit our priorities are to find out if we have an 8 card major suit fit and whether we have enough for game.

After an opening of 1 of a suit, with 0-5 points we generally pass but with 6 or more points we must bid something. Opener may be very strong up to 19 points (sometimes more) and we could miss game if we don't respond.

SUPPORTING OPENER'S 1 OF A MAJOR

If opener starts with 1 of a major suit and we have 4+ cards in that suit our top priority is to support opener's suit.

Bid	Points	Example
Raise one level	6-9	1♥ 2♥
Jump to three level	10-12	1♥ 3♥
Jump to game	13-15	1♥ 4♥

When **supporting** opener's suit we can include shortage points as follows:

5 for a void
3 for a singleton
1 for a doubleton.

It takes some experience at card play to take full advantage of the shortages so beginners may prefer to start by using the values shown on the right:

3 for a void
2 for a singleton
1 for a doubleton.

SUPPORTING OPENER'S 1 OF A MINOR

Since minor suit contracts score only 20 points per trick we need 11 tricks for game. We should first investigate to see if a better contract is possible e.g. No Trumps.

We only support partner's minor suit opening as a first response when we have **no other suit to bid** at either the 1 or 2 level.

The point ranges for supporting opener's minor suit are same as for supporting a major suit but with 13 or more points we should try and play in 3NT unless our hand is totally unsuitable e.g. very unbalanced, in that case we bid 5 of the minor.