

SIMPLE RESPONSES – PART ONE – Lesson 4 October 7, 2020

You are a responder if your partner has made an opening bid or an overcall. If your partner has made an opening bid, he has between 13-21 points (a combination of HCP and distribution points). If he has made an overcall, he has around opening points, and at least 5 cards in the suit in which he overcalled. Use that information to determine what your response should be.

TO ANSWER YOUR PARTNER (IN OTHER WORDS, TO RESPOND), YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 6 POINTS. WITH LESS THAN THAT, YOU NEED TO PASS.

If your partner has opened in a minor suit: Remember, an opening bid in a minor suit does not promise that the minor suit is partner's best suit. He could have 4 cards in a major (hearts or spades), but not be able to bid it, since we play 5 card major. Therefore, if you have a 4 card major, and at least 6 points, you need to bid your major suit. If partner also has 4 cards in that suit, he will know you have a fit! If you have 4 hearts and 4 spades, bid the hearts first.

Ex: Partner has opened 1 diamond.

Your cards:

Spades – A, 8, 4, 3

What's your bid? _____

Hearts – K, 10, 6, 2

What if partner's next bid is in spades? What

Diamonds – Q, 4, 3

do you think you would do?

Clubs – 6, 5

NOTE: Very important... When you respond to your partner like this, all he knows is that you have 6 points or more. You could have up to 16 points (with more, there's another bid, which we will talk about another time). Since opener doesn't know if you have just 6 points, or a lot more, he cannot pass. Remember, the goal is to bid to a complete game (26 combined points), and he is not going to pass until he knows more about what you've got.

If your partner has opened in a major suit: Remember, partner's opening bid in a major suit promises at least 13 points, and at least 5 in that suit. If you can support his suit (if there is a total of 8 between you and your partner), and if you have at least 6 points, you will bid his suit to show that you have a fit. The level at which you bid his suit will depend on how many points you have.

Ex: Partner opens 1 heart. You have 3 hearts.

With 6-10 points: Bid 2 hearts (Supporting at the cheapest level). This is called a *simple raise*.

With 11-12 points: Bid 3 hearts (Skipping one level.). This is called a *limit raise*. If opener has only 13 points, he may then pass, because he knows you don't have a total of 26 points. However, if he has 14 or 15 points, he will bid 4 hearts, because he will add his points to your points, and know there is enough for game level.

With 13 or more points: You know that you should be at game level (4 hearts). How do you know? You have a total of 26 points. Remember, game level, bid and made, gives hundreds of extra points in the scoring. Therefore, the simplest thing to do would be to bid right to game. Bid 4 hearts.

Exercise:

Partner opens 1 heart. What is your bid in each of the following examples?:

Spades- A, K, 8, 7, 6, 5

Spades – A, K, Q

Hearts: 10, 9

Hearts – 10, 9, 8 6

Diamonds: J, 10

Diamonds – A, 8, 6, 4

Clubs: J, 10, 9

Clubs – 6. 4

Spades – X

Spades – A, 10, 7

Hearts – 6, 4, 3

Hearts – A, Q, J, 8

Diamonds : 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5

Diamonds – 5, 4, 3

Clubs: 6, 5, 4, 3

Clubs – 5. 3, 2

SAMPLE HAND # 4- LESSON # 4- CONTRACT 4 Spades – DEALER: SOUTH
Date: October 7, 2020

NORTH

Spades- A K Q 10 9
Hearts- A 3
Diamonds- K 3 2
Clubs- A 9 7

WEST

Spades- 4 3
Hearts- 10 8 7 4
Diamonds- 10 5 4
Clubs- K 10 4 3

EAST

Spades- 6 2
Hearts- Q J 9 6
Diamonds- A J 6
Clubs- Q 8 6 5

SOUTH

Spades- J 8 7 5
Hearts- K 5 2
Diamonds- Q 9 8 7
Clubs- J 2

1. Name the first bid by South, West, North and East

2. Is the final contract correct? Why or why not?

3. Who is the declarer? _____ Who makes the opening lead _____ What might be a good card to lead? _____