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*Bridge Bidding Made Simple · Standard American edition*



CHAPTER 6

# Opener's Rebids

*Showing your strength and shape: notrump, rebids, second suits and reverses*

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## 1. What your rebid has to say

Your opening told partner little. Your rebid shows **how strong** your hand is and **what shape** it is.

| Your points | Strength |
|---|---|
| 12–15 | minimum |
| 16–18 | medium |
| 19 or more | strong |

**The golden rule of rebids:** with a minimum, keep the bidding low. Jumps and reverses show extra strength.

## 2. Balanced hands

With 15–17 balanced you opened 1NT. Other balanced hands show their strength with the rebid:

| Points | After a one-level response |
|---|---|
| 12–14 | 1NT |
| 18–19 | 2NT (a jump) |

♠ Q 4
♥ K J 3
♦ A Q 7 5
♣ J 10 6 2

1♦ – 1♠ – ? 13 points, balanced: **1NT**.

♠ A Q 5
♥ K 6
♦ K J 4
♣ A J 10 5 3

1♣ – 1♥ – ? 18 points, balanced: jump to **2NT**.

## 3. Rebidding your own suit

Repeating a major usually shows **six** cards. The level shows the strength:

| Points | Rebid | After 1♥ – 1♠ |
|---|---|---|
| 12–15 | lowest level | 2♥ |
| 16–18 | jump | 3♥ |
| 19 or more | game | 4♥ |

♠ K 5
♥ A Q J 9 7 4
♦ K 8 3
♣ 7 2

1♥ – 1♠ – ? **2♥**.

♠ K 5
♥ A K Q 9 7 4
♦ K Q 3
♣ 7 2

1♥ – 1♠ – ? jump to **3♥**.

## 4. Showing a second suit

| Second suit | Example | Strength |
|---|---|---|
| New suit at the one level | 1♦ – 1♥ – 1♠ | 12–18 |
| Lower suit at the two level | 1♥ – 1♠ – 2♣ | 12–16, not forcing |
| Higher suit at the two level (reverse) | 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥ | 17+, forcing for one round |
| Jump in a new suit (jump shift) | 1♦ – 1♥ – 2♠ | 19+, forcing to game |

♠ K Q 8 4
♥ 5
♦ A J 9 6 3
♣ K 7 2

1♦ – 1♥ – ? **1♠**.

♠ 7
♥ A Q 10 6 3
♦ K 5
♣ K J 8 4 2

1♥ – 1♠ – ? **2♣**.

♠ 7
♥ A K J 4
♦ A Q 10 6 3
♣ K 8 2

1♦ – 1♠ – ? **2♥**, a reverse.

♠ A K J 5
♥ 6
♦ A K Q 8 4
♣ K 7 3

1♦ – 1♥ – ? jump to **2♠**.

**Why does a reverse need extra?** After 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♥, if partner prefers diamonds they must go to the three level. Most Standard American players want **17 or more** for a reverse. It is forcing for **one round**, not to game: with a weak hand, partner can stop in a part-score.

## 5. Raising partner

With four of partner's suit, raise: 2 with 12–15, 3 with 16–18, 4 with 19 or more (Chapter 5).

## 6. Summary

| Your hand | Rebid |
|---|---|
| Balanced 12–14 / 18–19 | 1NT / 2NT |
| Six-card suit | Repeat it, jump, or bid game |
| Second suit at the one level | Bid it |
| Lower second suit at the two level | Bid it (not forcing) |
| Higher second suit at the two level | Reverse: 17+ |
| Very strong with a second suit | Jump shift: 19+ |
| Four-card support for partner | Raise (2 / 3 / 4) |

## 7. Test yourself

What is your rebid?

**1.** ♠ K 3
♥ J 5 4
♦ K Q 8
♣ A J 10 7 3

**2.** ♠ A K J 10 6 4
♥ K 5
♦ Q 8 3
♣ 7 2

**3.** ♠ 5
♥ K Q 10 7 4
♦ A Q 6 3
♣ K 8 2

**4.** ♠ A Q 7 5
♥ 6
♦ K 4
♣ A J 9 8 5 3

**5.** ♠ 6
♥ A K Q 5
♦ K 7
♣ A Q 10 8 4 2

**6.** ♠ K 4
♥ A Q 5
♦ A K J 6 3
♣ Q 9 2

1. 1♣ – 1♥ – ? 2. 1♠ – 1NT – ? 3. 1♥ – 1♠ – ? 4. 1♣ – 1♥ – ? 5. 1♣ – 1♠ – ? 6. 1♦ – 1♠ – ?

### Answers

**1. 1NT.** 14 points, balanced.

**2. 2♠.** A minimum with six spades.

**3. 2♦.** Show your lower-ranking second suit.

**4. 1♠.** Show your spades at the one level.

**5. 2♥.** 18 points: enough to reverse.

**6. 2NT.** 19 points, balanced.

Next: Chapter 7, Responder's Rebids. Free lessons and challenge hands to play: **bridgescorer.com/learn**

**About this guide.** There are many versions of Standard American, and clubs, teachers and books do not all agree on every detail. This chapter describes one common, straightforward version for learners. We do not claim it is the only or the best way: if your teacher or club plays something different, follow them. What matters most is that you and your partner agree.

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