



Bidding Basics

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Responder's rebid after opener's jump

In the previous installment, we responded on the one level to partner's opening bid. Our partner then reversed. Tough topic. This month, we again will respond on the one level, and opener will show a strong hand, but not by reversing (thank goodness). He will be jumping instead. We will examine what we, as responder, do after seeing that jump by opener.

Opener jumpshifts

Let's start with opener's jumpshift into a suit, which shows 19 or more high-card points. This is the granddaddy (strongest) of all rebids. It would be any of these auctions:

- 1♣-1♦; 2♥/2♠
- 1♣-1♥; 2♠
- 1♦-1♥; 2♠/3♣
- 1♦-1♠; 3♣
- 1♦-1NT; 3♣
- 1♥-1♠; 3♣/3♦
- 1♥-1NT; 3♣/3♦
- 1♠-1NT; 3♣/3♦/3♥

In each case, opener has jumped (skipped a level) and changed suit. (Note that opener should never jump and reverse: 1♣-1♥; 3♦ or 1♣-1♠; 3♥ are unnecessary bids.) After opener's jumpshift into a suit (natural, but unbalanced), responder cannot pass. If he does, it could end the partnership. Not only must responder keep the bidding alive, but the partnership is forced to game!

Any of responder's bids are now natural (and, of course, game forcing). Here are some examples.

After 1♦-1♥; 2♠, bid 2NT with:
♠K x ♥K J x x ♦x x ♣J 10 x x x.

You must have the fourth suit stopped to bid notrump. Bid 3♦ with:
♠x x x ♥A x x x ♦Q x x x ♣x x.

Bid 3♥ with:
♠x x ♥K J 10 x x x ♦x x ♣A x x.

Repeating your suit should show six or more cards. Bid 3♠ with:
♠A x x x ♥K Q x x ♦x x x ♣Q x.

Jump to 4♠ (weaker than 3♠) with:
♠K x x x ♥K x x x ♦x x ♣x x x.

It is beyond the scope of this series to differentiate between 2NT or 3NT (this is for regular expert partnerships to discuss). Furthermore, a bid in the fourth-suit would be rare, subject to partnership agreement (some play it as natural, but simpler might be artificial, looking for a stopper).

If, after a one-level response, opener rebids 2NT, he shows a balanced 18-19. Responder can pass with a dead minimum or bid any game to play there. Anything else is forcing (the convention called new-minor forcing can be used here).

Opener jump-rebids his suit

If, after a one-level response, opener repeats his suit but does so by jumping to the three level, it is invitational (six-plus cards). Responder can pass with a minimum, raise to game or bid 3NT. If responder does anything else (like repeating his suit), it is forcing. A new suit on the four level would be a control-bid raise. For example, after

1♥-1♠; 3♥, pass with:
♠A x x x ♥x ♦Q x x x ♣x x x x.

Bid 3♠ (forcing) with:
♠A Q J 10 x x ♥— ♦A x x x ♣x x x.

Bid 3NT (to play) with:
♠K 10 9 x ♥Q x ♦K J 10 ♣Q 10 9 x.

Bid 4♣ (slam interest, heart support, club control) with:
♠Q x x x x ♥K J ♦x x ♣A K J x.

Raise to 4♥ with:
♠J x x x ♥K x ♦A Q x x x ♦x x.

Bid 4NT (Blackwood) with:
♠A K x x ♥Q x x ♦A Q x ♣K x x.

Opener jump-raises responder's suit

If opener jump-raises responder's suit to the three level, it shows an invitational hand with four-card support. A jump-raise to game shows even more. After the three-level jump, responder can pass with a minimum, bid game, or try for slam by control-bidding. For example, after 1♦-1♠; 3♠, pass with:

♠K x x x ♥x x ♦x x x ♣Q J x x.

Bid 3NT with:
♠J x x x ♥K Q x ♦K x ♣Q J x x.

Control-bid 4♣ with:
♠A Q x x x ♥x x x ♦A x x ♣K x.

Bid a spade game with:
♠K Q x x ♥x x ♦x x ♣K x x x x.

4NT would be RKCB in spades (or plain Blackwood if not using RKCB). Opener's jump-raise to four (1♦-1♠; 4♠, for example) is not a "closeout" ➤

bid. Quite the opposite. It shows enough to be in game opposite a dead-minimum (like a 6-count), so shows roughly 19–20 in support. A follow-up of 4NT would be Blackwood.

BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

What is responder's rebid after

1 ♦ -1 ♠; 3 ♣ with:

1. ♠ K Q 7 6 2 ♥ 6 5 ♦ J 6 5 ♣ 8 5 2
2. ♠ A K 9 2 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ K 9 2

What is responder's rebid after

1 ♦ -1 ♥; 3 ♦ with:

3. ♠ K J 8 3 ♥ Q 9 6 5 ♦ 2 ♣ 10 9 6 2
4. ♠ K Q J 2 ♥ A Q 7 5 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 8 3

What is responder's rebid after

1 ♣ -1 ♠; 3 ♠ with:

5. ♠ A Q J 4 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ A K 6 2 ♣ 9 2
6. ♠ K Q 5 2 ♥ A J 6 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 9 5 2

What is responder's rebid after

1 ♦ -1 ♥; 4 ♥ with:

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

Answers

1. 3 ♦. If opener has any spade support, he will show it now. Don't repeat a so-so five-card suit here. And certainly, don't pass a forcing bid!
2. 3 ♦. Fooled you? Same answer as No. 1. 3 ♦ is forcing. You are interested in slam here and will be heard from later. For now, set the trump suit. (Partner's hand is unbalanced with at least five diamonds.)
3. Pass. High enough. Don't make a bad contract worse by trying 3NT.
4. 3 ♠. Natural, forcing. Partner can bid 3NT with clubs stopped.
5. 4 ♦. A control-bid looking for slam.
6. 4 ♠. Not enough to consider a slam investigation.
7. Pass. Not enough to go further.
8. 4NT. Blackwood, likely leading to seven if opener has the right stuff.