Responding to level 1 overcalls

Your partner has overcalled a suit at level 1

He may have 8 to 17 HCP (with 18 HCP or above, he would have doubled).
You must pay attention to :

- his strength. He may have less HCP than if he had opened
- the opener's position, right after you...this downgrades your honors that might be captured !
- the forcing/ non forcing rules...very different when you respond to the overcaller.

1) Principles :

- Raise bid is preemptive
- Raise bid is non forcing
- With 11 HCP and above, a cue-bid is asking for more information
- Level 1 shift bid is forcing
- Level 2 shift bid shows a rather weak hand with a nice suit. It is not forcing.

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2) Applications

Less than 7-8HCP : PASS
With a support, follow the law of total tricks

- With 8 nice HCP and 3 trump cards : raise at the lowest level
- With more than 8 and 4 trump cards :preempt with a jump raise
- With 11 HCP and 4 or 5 trump cards : game

With 11-12 and above: cue bid the opener's suit

S	W	N	E
	1♣	1♥	Pass
2♥			

| J♠ | 9♠ | 3♠ | 2♠ | A♥ | J♥ | 8♥ | 3♣ | 2♣ | K♦ | 7♦ | 6♦ | 5♦ |

Exercise E5587 Law of total tricks : at least 8 trumps in your line, you can go for 8 tricks.

S	W	N	E
	1♣	1♥	1♠
3♥			

| Q♠ | J♠ | 5♠ | 2♠ | 10♥ | 9♥ | 4♥ | 2♥ | 8♣ | K♦ | Q♦ | 8♦ | 6♦ |

Exercise E4858 Jump raise with 4 trumps and more than 8 HCP.

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Cue-bids

- Forcing : they tend to find a major fit or a NT contract.
- With a jump : Splinter, showing a shortage in the opening suit and a nice partner support.

S	W	N	E
	1♣	1♦	1♥
2♣			

A♠ J♠ 8♠ 7♥ 6♥ 5♥ A♣ 10♣ 6♣ 2♣ K♦ 10♦ 8♦

Exercise E5301 2 ♣ Cue-bid : investigation bid. That is the only possible bid to show your strength. You are too strong for a ♦ support, and you can't bid NT because of your ♥.

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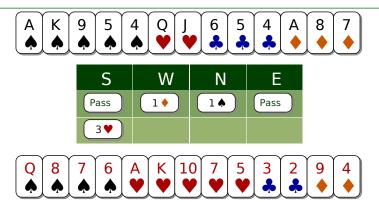# Responding to level 1 overcalls

The jump fit response to overcalls

The jump shift by the overcaller's Partner shows:

- a four-card fit
- five cards in the named suit
- ten or so HCP.

The well-informed overcaller can now decide to go to game, part game or pass.

S	W	N	E
	1♣	1♦	Pass
2♠			

A♠ Q♠ J♠ 9♠ 5♠ 7♥ 5♥ 6♣ 3♣ Q♦ J♦ 8♦ 6♦

Problem 20757 2♠ In response to an overcall, the jump shift shows a four-card fit, a strong five-card suit and ten or so HCP.

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

S	W	N	E
Pass	1♦	1♠	Pass
3♥			

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

Problem E4954 3♥ In response to an overcall, the jump shift shows a four-card fit, a strong five-card suit and ten or so HCP. The well-informed overcaller can now decide what to do next.

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