



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 ♥			



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 ♥			



Exercise E4858 Jump raise with 4 trumps and 8 HCP.



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Suit shift

- Level 1 : forcing, trying to find a major fit or a NT contract. These shifts require at least 8 HCP, and a well constructed hand.
- Level 2 : non forcing, denying a support in the overcalled suit. They require a strong suit , most of the time a 6 carder.
- Jump shift : prospecting, showing a 4 (or more) card support and a nice 5 carder in the named suit.

S	W	N	E
	1 ♣	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠			



Exercise E5583 1 ♠ 4 ♠ cards, 10 decent HCP : level 1 forcing shift, in case there is a 4-4 ♠ fit.



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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 ♣			



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 ♥.