Simple Overcalls: Advancer Responses

Responding to your partners overcall can be tricky. Here are some simple guidelines for advancer responses.

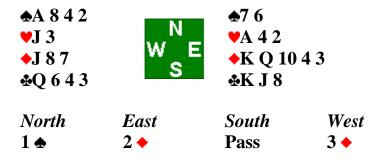
Supporting Partners Suit – If you have 3+ card support for your partner's overcall:

- **Simple Raise** You can raise partner with 6 to 9 support points (HCP plus distribution).
- Cue Bid with 10+ Support Points With a limit raise or better you can start with a cue bid of the opponent's opening suit. Partner will return to their suit at the lowest level with a minimum hand. Partner can jump raise or bid a second suit with stronger hands looking for game.
- **Preemptive Jump Raises** With 5-9 support points and extra trump (4+ but never 4-3-3-3 distribution) you can make a preemptive jump raise of partners suit. 9 trump can play on the 3-level, 10 on the 4-level, etc. modified by the vulnerability. If you are vulnerable versus non-vulnerable opponents, bid one level lower than usual.

Bidding New Suits

- 1-Level: 5+ card majors at the 1-level with 8+ HCP.
- 2-Level: 5+ card suit and 12+ HCP
- **1NT:** 8-11 HCP. Partner could be on 8 HCP so without trump you need a little more than the 6-9 HCP you would need opposite a known opening hand.
- **2NT:** 12-14 HCP.

Example Hand #1:



East with a solid diamond suit can overcall 2. West raises with three trumps and 8 HCP similar to if East opened.

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For the bidding shown, evaluate your hand and decide what you should overcall.

Hand #1



SouthWestNorthEast (You)1 ♣1 ♦Pass?

Hand #2



South West North East (You) $1 \spadesuit$ Pass ?

Hand #3



SouthWestNorthEast (You)1 ♣1 ♥Pass?

Hand #4



SouthWestNorthEast (You)1♣1♠Pass?

Answers

Hand #1: 1♠, you can show your 5 card spade suit at the 1-level. If partner does not have Spades you can support diamonds later.

Hand #2: 2♥, with 13 HCP and 5 good hearts you can afford to bid a new suit at the 2-level.

Hand #3: 2♣ showing a limit raise or better for partner's suit (Hearts).

Hand #4: 3♠, preemptive raise with 4 trump.