

## Simple Overcalls: Big Hands

Sometimes you have a big hand (17+ HCPs) but the opponents open the bidding. Here is how to communicate these larger hands to your partner.

### Suited Hands – Hands with 6+ card suits and 17+ HCPs

- 17-21 HCP - Double and then bid your suit. Partner will assume the initial double is takeout (12-15 HCP, 0-2 cards in the opened suit, typically 4 card support for the other suits). When you bid your suit partner will recognize you have a big one-suit hand instead. If partner bids your suit count support points and look to bid game or possibly explore slam.
- 22+ HCP – Double, then cue bid the opponent's suit, then bid your suit to show this very strong hand. Partner should push for game somewhere on all but the weakest hands.

### Example Hand #1: Right Hand Opponent opens 1♥ and you have:

♠KQJ873 ♥A4 ♦A6 ♣K54

You have 17 HCP and a great 6 card spade suit. Double and rebid spades later to show this hand.

### Balanced Hands – 15-22 HCP

- 15-18 HCP – Overcall 1NT in the direct seat or 2NT over an opponent's weak two. Systems On (Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, etc) as if you had opened.
- 19-22 HCP
  - Over a 1 level Suit Bid - Double, then bid NT later. If your NT rebid is short of game (1NT, 2NT) discuss with partner if conventions are on.
  - Over a 2 or 3 Level Preempt - Bid 3NT over a preemptive 2 or 3 bid with opponent's suit stopped. Good chance partner will have enough for game.

### Example Hand #2: Right Hand Opponent opens 2♠ and you have:

♠AQ7 ♥A104 ♦AK104 ♣K84

You have 20 HCP and the opener's suit stopped. Overcall 3NT to play. Partner is bound to have the 5-7 HCP you need to make game.

## Simple Overcalls – Big Hands

What is your bid (and rebid where appropriate) with the following hands if the right hand opponent opens 1♦?

**Hand #1:** ♠AK7 ♥AKJ1054 ♦64 ♣A4                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hand #2:** ♠AK10873 ♥K104 ♦J4 ♣K4                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hand #3:** ♠A7 ♥AKQJ42 ♦A4 ♣KQ3                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

What is your bid with the following hands if the right hand opponent opens 2♥?

**Hand #4:** ♠A7 ♥KJ10 ♦AQ64 ♣K943                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hand #5:** ♠KQ87 ♥AK4 ♦KQJ8 ♣A2                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

What is your bid with the following hands if the right hand opponent opens 1♣?

**Hand #6:** ♠AQ6 ♥K104 ♦AK64 ♣KQ3                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hand #7:** ♠K52 ♥K1064 ♦QJ4 ♣K42                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hand #8:** ♠KQ7 ♥AQ4 ♦1042 ♣KQ64                      **Bid** \_\_\_\_\_

### Answers

Hand #1: You have 19 HCP and 6 good hearts. Double and look to rebid hearts to show this big hand.

Hand #2: You have 14 HCP and 6 good spades. 1♠ is the correct bid. You do not have enough HCP to double and bid.

Hand #3: You have 23 HCP and 6 good hearts. Double, cue bid diamonds (opener's suit) and then bid hearts to show this monster hand.

Hand #4: 2NT, you have 17 HCP and hearts stopped.

Hand #5: Bid 3NT. With 22 HCP you do not need much from partner to make game.

Hand #6: You have 21 HCP and clubs stopped. Double and look to rebid NT to show this big hand.

Hand #7: With only 12 HCP and no suit to overcall the best bid is Pass.

Hand #8: 1NT, you do not need stoppers in all suits. The only stopper you must have is in the opened suit.