

REVISION EXERCISE 11

You are south and partner has opened:

DEALER

1♦

Pass

♠ Q 10 5
♣ 10 8 5 4 3
♣ A Q 9 4 3

What should you respond?

Pass 1♥ 1NT 2♣

Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 1♥

Pass

With 6+ HCPs (and no overcall) you will ALWAYS bid as responder. You have 8 HCPs here.

1♥

You have 4-card heart suit, a major, and should be at least considered.

1NT

1NT is bid with 6–9 HCPs but, if bid now, would deny having either 4 hearts or 4 spades. Clearly, this is not the case.

2♣

A 2-level bid of a new suit by responder promises 10+ TPs. Including length point in clubs, you only have 9 TPs.

Choice of response

Your choice is between bidding either hearts or clubs (at the lowest level). As your hand is not strong enough for a 2♣ bid, this leaves you with 1♥ as the correct bid.

It is very important not to bid 1NT just because the hearts are not particularly good. As your hand is unbalanced, you will prefer to play in hearts if partner also has four hearts.

After your 1♥ response, opener may bid 1♠ and then -- and only then -- is 1NT the correct bid.

Another important point, your response is forcing so opener must bid at least once more, after which you will be in a much better position to assess the likely final contract.

After opener's rebid

Opener has bid 1♦ and we have responded 1♥. Let's look at what we might do after some of opener's possible rebids.

Opener's Rebid	Our Rebid	
1♠	1NT	With no diamond or spade support, 1NT shows this and 6–9 HCPs (the dustbin bid).
1NT	Pass	Opener has shown 15–16 HCPs balanced so, with little chance of game, we pass.
2♣	3♣	We have a club fit so our 3 ruffing points can be counted allowing us to bid further in support of opener.
2♦	Pass	This is going nowhere, so we pass. Incidentally, opener must have six diamonds. Can you work out why?
2♥	3♥	We have found our fit, count the singleton and invite game. Opener bids game with 15–16 TPs.
3♥	4♥	With a fit, our 3 ruffing points in diamonds can be counted. Added to opener's 16+ TP shown by the jump bid, this is enough for game.

You are south and partner has opened:

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1♦

Pass

The declarer's hand is: ♠ Q, ♠ 10, ♠ 5, ♣ 10, ♣ 8, ♣ 5, ♣ 4, ♠ A, ♣ A, ♣ Q, ♣ 9, ♣ 4, ♣ 3.

What should you respond?



Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 2♣.



You have 4-card heart suit, a major, and should be at least considered.



1NT is bid with a hand of 6–9 HCPs and no other suitable option. This is clearly not the case.



A 2-level bid of a new suit by responder promised 10+ TPs. Including length point in clubs, you have 13 TPs.



This might show a balanced hand with 10–12 HCPs. This is not the case but see discussion below.

Choice of response

The club suit is longer than hearts and so would always be your preferred bid. Compared with the previous example with only 9 TPs, here you have 13 TPs and therefore a 2-level bid in a new suit is possible, so in this case 2♣ is the bid you make.

There is a very important point here. It is often said “don’t deny a 4-card major” but your strength is such that you can still bid hearts later. Already we know opener must bid again after your response in a new suit, so you will be given an opportunity to bid hearts on your rebid if you think that is appropriate.

Immediate response of 2NT

The question is: why would you jump immediately to 2NT? You must have a 4+ card suit so a 1- or 2-level non-jump bid is certainly available, so make the suit bid first. You can always bid 2NT later once opener has rebid. As a 2NT bid here is really not required, many skilled players assign it an artificial meaning, frequently a game forcing bid in opener’s major. But we are not going in that direction just yet!

After opener’s rebid

Opener has bid 1♦ and we have responded 2♣. Let’s look at what we might do after some of opener’s possible rebids.

Opener’s Rebid	Our Rebid	
2♦	2♥	Opener’s rebid of 2♦ does not deny having a 4-card heart suit. This is a bit technical but opener’s rebidding 2♥ would show 16+ TPs.
2♥	4♥	Easily enough for game in hearts.
2♠	3NT	Again the bid shows 16+ TPs from opener but with no fit and sufficient HCPs, 3NT looks best.
2NT	3NT	Opener shows 15–16 HCPs, balanced.

You are south and partner has opened:

DEALER

1♦

Pass

♠ Q 10 5 ♣ 10 8 5 4 ♠ A 3 ♣ A Q 9 3

What should you respond?



Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 1♥.

1♥

You have 4-card heart suit, a major, and should be considered.

1NT

1NT is bid with a hand of 6–9 HCPs and no other suitable option. This is clearly not the case.

2♣

A 2-level bid of a new suit by responder promised 10+ TPs, so should be considered.

2NT

2NT shows 10–12 HCPs balanced at the right time in the bidding. Here the priority is to find a major suit fit first (maybe hearts) so 2NT, if appropriate, must wait until after opener's rebid.

Choice of response

In the previous example, clubs were longer than hearts so the choice is much clearer. With two 4-card suits, they are bid 'up the line' starting from opener's bid suit (in this case diamonds). The order of bidding our 4-card suits would then be hearts, spades, clubs.

Using this order, 1♥ is the chosen bid, even though it is weaker than clubs.

After opener's rebid

Opener has bid 1♦ and we have responded 1♥. Let's look at what we might do after some of opener's possible rebids.

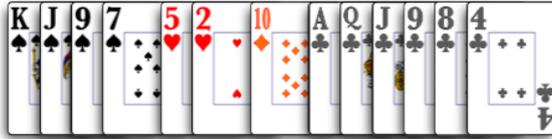
Opener's Rebid	Our Rebid	
1♠	2♣	This new suit bid by responder is forcing and allows opener to go for a no-trumps contract, or something else with a highly unbalanced hand. With stronger hearts, 2NT would be better than 2♣.
1NT	3NT	Opener has 15–16 HCPs, we have 12 HCPs.
2♣	4♣	If opener has a stronger hand, 6♣ may be on. The risk is ending up in 4♣ and bypassing a simple 3NT contract. We know from the bidding partner is short in both hearts and spades, so they will be attacked by the defence. This suggests that 3NT would be a higher risk than usual, so we stick with the minor.
2♦	2NT	Opener has 6 diamonds and fewer than 4 clubs. No bid is ideal but 2NT (10–12 HCPs balanced) is best.
2♥	4♥	Opener has a minimum hand but you have 13 TPs (diamond shortage), so bid game.
2NT	3NT	Opener has 15–16 HCPs balanced.

QUIZ

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1. Partner opens 1♦. What do you respond?



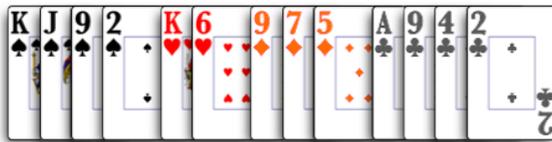
2. Partner opens 1♦. What do you respond?



3. Partner opens 1♦. What do you respond?



4. Partner opens 1♦. What do you respond?



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