

1 Level Opening Bids

The system taught is **Standard American with a Short Club**
 This system is orientated towards 5-card major suits

Value of the honour cards (HCP = High Card Points)

A = 4
 K = 3
 Q = 2
 J = 1

Each suit contains 10 HCP
 Each deal contains 40 HCP

Ranking of the suits

No Trumps NT

Spades ♠ } Spades and Hearts are known as
 Hearts ♥ } the **Major** suits

Diamonds ♦ } Diamonds and Clubs are known as
 Clubs ♣ } the **Minor** suits

Basic 1 level Opening Bid rules

- The **Dealer** is the first to call, they may either **Pass** or make a bid naming the level of bidding and a suit
- **To open the bidding at the 1 level you need between 12 and 20 HCP**
- Bid your longest suit
- Bid the higher ranking 5 card suit
- Opening the bidding at other levels will be covered in Lessons 4 and 5
- Finding an 8-card (or longer) major suit **fit** is a priority as major suit contracts are worth more than minor suit contracts. 4♥ and 4♠ need one less trick than 5♣ and 5♦. With no major suit fit, the next priority should be to play in a No Trump contract

Order of priority for Opener's first bid at the 1 level

1♠	12 – 20	At least 5 spades
1♥	12 – 20	At least 5 hearts
1NT	15 – 17	Every suit has at least two cards
1♦	12 – 20	At least 4 diamonds
1♣	12 – 20	May have only 2 clubs

Examples of Opening Bids

♠ 98742	♠ AK76	♠ K10854	♠ K86	♠ A9743
♥ K4	♥ KQ95	♥ AK1096	♥ KJ3	♥ QJ3
♦ AKQ4	♦ AK8	♦ 6	♦ AQ64	♦ Q9
♣ Q2	♣ 86	♣ K3	♣ K102	♣ Q1082

Bid 1♠ 1♣ 1♠ 1NT Pass

Levels of Bidding		
7 level 13 tricks	7 NT	Grand Slam 37+ pts
	7 ♠	
	7 ♥	
	7 ♦	
6 level 12 tricks	6 NT	Small Slam 33+ pts
	6 ♠	
	6 ♥	
	6 ♦	
5 level 11 tricks	5 NT	Game
	5 ♠	
	5 ♥	Game 29 + pts
	5 ♦	
4 level 10 tricks	4 NT	Game
	4 ♠	Game 25 + pts
	4 ♥	part score
	4 ♦	
3 level 9 tricks	3 NT	Game 25 + Pts
	3 ♠	part score
	3 ♥	
	3 ♦	
3 ♣		
2 level 8 tricks	2 NT	part score
	2 ♠	
	2 ♥	
	2 ♦	
1 level 7 tricks	2 ♣	part score
	1 NT	
	1 ♠	
	1 ♥	
	1 ♦	
	1 ♣	