



American Contract Bridge League

[acbl.org/join](http://acbl.org/join)

# Rules of Thumb

## What should I open?

Major Suit  
1♠ 1♥

12-21 points



Minor Suit  
1♦ 1♣

12-21 points



Notrump

1NT

15-17 pts balanced

2NT

20-21 pts balanced

3NT

25-27 pts balanced



## Responding to the Opening Bid

When partner opens 1 of any suit:

- ♠ You must have at least **6 High-Card Points (HCP)**.
- ♥ If you have **6 HCP** you must bid.
- ♣ If responder bids a different suit than the one opened by his partner, **opener must bid one more time.**
- ♦ A new suit bid by responder at the two level promises at least **10 points** and usually a **five-card suit.**



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