



American Contract
Bridge League
acbl.org/join

Rules of Thumb

What should I open?

Major Suit		Minor Suit	
1♠	1♥	1♦	1♣
12-21 points		12-21 points	
Notrump			
1NT	2NT	3NT	
15-17 pts balanced	20-21 pts balanced	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**.



American Contract
Bridge League
acbl.org/join

Rules of Thumb

What should I open?

Major Suit		Minor Suit	
1♠	1♥	1♦	1♣
12-21 points		12-21 points	
Notrump			
1NT	2NT	3NT	
15-17 pts balanced	20-21 pts balanced	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**.



American Contract
Bridge League
acbl.org/join

Rules of Thumb

What should I open?

Major Suit		Minor Suit	
1♠	1♥	1♦	1♣
12-21 points		12-21 points	
Notrump			
1NT	2NT	3NT	
15-17 pts balanced	20-21 pts balanced	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**.