

A "reverse" bid is a rebid by opener that shows a stronger than normal hand. Consider the following situation.

- You hold S Axxx H xx D xxx C Qxxx
- Partner opens 1C
- You respond 1S
- Partner rebids 2H (This is the "reverse" bid)
- With this very weak hand, your only reasonable action is to give preference to partner's first suit, clubs.
- So you must bid **THREE** clubs.
- How many points to make a 3-level suit contract? About 23.
- Thus, if you may have as few as 6 pts, what should partner have to force you to the 3-level?
- Since  $23-6=17$ , the answer is 17 points.

Here are the two definitions of a reverse

- 1) A reverse is a rebid that forces partner to make a preference of opener's first suit at the 3-level. Consider the auction ....

1C – 1S

2H – 3C

Responder had to go back to clubs (promising nothing extra) at the 3-level.

- 2) A reverse is a rebid at the 2-level that is higher in rank than the first suit bid.

A reverse also shows a "shape" hand vs a balanced hand, and guarantees 5+ cards in the first suit, and 4+ (usually exactly 4) in the second. Note that with a 4-4 holding in your two suits, you would open or rebid NT. A reverse bid is a one-round forcing bid, meaning responder has to take one more bid (not a game force, however)

Here are some reverse sequences

1. 1C – 1S

2D

2. 1D – 1S

2H

You open 1D and partner responds 1S. What is your rebid? (Answers below)

1. S Qx H KQJx D AKQxx C xx \_\_\_\_\_

2. S Ax H AQxx D KJxx C xxx \_\_\_\_\_

3. S xx H AQxx D KQJxxx C x \_\_\_\_\_

4. S Kxx H KQxx D ATxxx C x \_\_\_\_\_

5. S xx H AQTx D AKJTx C xx \_\_\_\_\_

6. S x H Ax D AQTxx C AKJxx \_\_\_\_\_

## Responding to a reverse rebid by opener

With a good 8-12ish points, make a bid that is at game level or is a jump, or a new suit; all are forcing to game.

1. Bid 4 of opener's first suit (4C)
2. Bid 3 of your suit with 6 cards (3S)
3. Bid 3N {Play Hand 1}
4. Bid the 4th suit (3D), better bid than 3NT if you have 5 cards in your first bid major (allows partner to show 3 of your first suit (3S) )
5. Jump-raise partner's 2nd suit (4H)

You hold S QJxx H Kxx D xxx C Axx

- Partner opens 1D, you respond 1S
- Partner reverses with 2H, showing \_\_\_\_\_
- You should now bid \_\_\_\_\_, since  $17+10 = 27$  and you have a stopper in the unbid suit

Typically, one needs to make a minimum response with 6 to 8 ish points. This bid could end the auction. Do so by .... (Consider above auction 1C - 1S 2H - ? )

1. Bid 3 of opener's first suit (3C from above) {Play Hand 2 & 3}
2. Rebid your suit (2S), which you may have to do with 5 Spades
3. Bid 2NT (should show a stopper in the 4th (unbid) suit)
4. Raise partner's 2nd suit one level (3H) {Play Hand 4}

Also of concern is what you do when you cannot reverse since you don't have enough points. Typically you will rebid 1NT or rebid your first suit, which may have to be only 5 cards in length

Bidding has gone 1D – 1S and you have

- 1) S AJx H KQxx D KJxxx C x Bid \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) S xxx H AQTx D AKxxx C x Bid \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) S xx H KQJx D AQ9xx C Kx Bid \_\_\_\_\_

{Play Hand 5}

Answers: 1. 2H 2. 1NT 3. 2D 4. 2S 5. 2D 6. 3C