

# Bridge Opening Bids

Only some Opening Bid Overcalls are included here.

Normal Opening			
You Have	Points	Open	Example/Comments
5+H or 5+S	12-18	1H or 1S	
5H AND 5S	12-18	1S	Bid <b>DOWN</b> the line. Partner will need 5+H to respond in Hearts at the 2 level but so will the opposition! If you Open 1H you are denying you have 5S. <b>Aside:</b> If Partner has opened 1C or 1D and you are responding having 4S AND 4H you bid <b>UP</b> the line ie 4H. Partner had denied 5S so they can then bid 1S with 4.
4+D	12-18	1D	You are denying having 5H or 5S
<b>Less than 4D, 5H &amp; 5S</b> If Opposition opened 1C	12-18	1C	You are denying having 4D, 5H or 5S
5+H but opposition opened 1S	12-18	<b>Double!</b>	
4H but opposition opened 1S	12-18	2H	
4H but opposition opened 1S	12-18	Double!	If Partner has 4H and good points they can take a chance & bid 2H. (You could have just 12+ points!)
Above and Partner has Passed	11-18	Open	Partner has 0-11 points so if you are at the low end you are likely aiming for a 2 level contract.

Strong Opening			
You Have	Points	Open	Example/Comments
A Balanced Hand with 5 card Major (5H/5S)	15-18	1H or 1S	Test for a fit you can come back to NT on future bid. <b>A Balanced Hand:</b> No void, no singleton, no or one doubleton.
A Balanced Hand	15-18	1NT	You are denying a 5 card Major (5H or 5S) Agree with Partner to use <b>Stayman</b> and <b>Transfers</b> - don't waste this many points!
A Balanced Hand	22-24	2NT	Agree with Partner to use <b>Stayman</b> and <b>Transfers</b>
A Balanced Hand	25+	3NT	Partner should consider Slam.
A Great Hand! (It may be balanced)	19+	2C	<b>You must be opening &amp; it cannot be an overcall!</b> Agree a response with Partner - don't waste this many points! This is <b>Forcing</b> Partner <b>MUST</b> bid.

Weak Opening			
You Have	Points	Open	Example/Comments
6D, 6H or 6S with 2+ honours	6 to 10	2D, 2H or 2S	Object is to interfere with Opposition bidding. 2C is missing! See Strong Opening above.
7C, 7D, 7H or 7S with 2+ honours	6 to 10	3C, 3D, 3H or 3S	