

Good bidding is the result of clear partnership agreements, and bidding according to your agreements. Trust your partner and listen to them.

# THE BONES OF BIDDING

## Opening the Bidding

1. With 12 HCP or more, open the bidding.  
With less than 12 HCP, pass.

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| AK987 Q93 K4 873 | Open 1 spade |
| AK987 QJ3 J4 873 | Pass         |

AN EXCEPTION: The Rule of Twenty

Add your HCP's to the number of cards you hold in your two longest suits. If the result is 20 or higher, you have an opening hand.

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| AK987 KJ84 4 873 | Open 1 spade |
| 7 K9873 AK984 73 | Open 1 heart |

2. **WHAT** should you open?

FIRST CHOICE: Open 1 of a major with a 5 card or longer suit.

SECOND CHOICE: Open 1 NT with 15-17 HCP and a balanced hand.

THIRD CHOICE: Open 1 of your longer minor.

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 873 AK987 Q93 K4 | Open 1 heart |
| AK987 QJ3 84 AQ4 | Open 1 spade |
| A987 QJ3 K8 AJ42 | Open 1 NT    |
| A986 QJ98 AK 432 | Open 1 club  |

3. If you have two 5 card majors, open 1 spade. Plan to rebid your hearts twice, unless partner raises your spades.

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 98732 AKQ93 K4 8 | Open 1 spade |
|------------------|--------------|

4. If you are opening a minor suit always open the longer, but if you have only 3 cards in both suits, then open 1 club.

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| AK98 Q93 K43 873 | Open 1 club |
| KQ87 QJ3 AJ4 873 | Open 1 club |

5. If you are opening a minor suit and you have 4 cards in both suits, then open 1 diamond. Likewise, if you have 5 cards in both suits, open 1 diamond.

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 87 Q93 KJ74 AK87 | Open 1 diamond |
| 7 93 KJ842 AQ873 | Open 1 diamond |